



File Code: 2210

Date: February 24, 2003

Sewell & Lois Goodwin

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Goodwin,

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Plan/Instructions for the 2003 grazing year.

1. Authorization

Number and class of livestock	Dates Authorized
110 Cattle	3/1/03 –2/28/04
5 Horses	3/1/03 –2/28/04

Based upon your intention of grazing an additional 30 head each year as range conditions permit; the district has initiated consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a new proposed action to graze up to 170 head yearlong. We anticipate doing NEPA in 2004 and the subsequent consultation on the selected alternative would supersede any existing consultation with the Fish and Wildlife.

The permittee has requested an extension for partial non-use for the 2003 grazing year on the allotment for the restoration of grasses lost due to the lack of rain during the growing seasons. Additionally, it was agreed upon that non-use would be implemented starting March 1st for Grazing Year (GY) 2001 and into GY 2002 (3/1/02 through 2/28/03), with an option to extend the non-use if conditions warrant. District Ranger Raley authorized non-use of 215 head of cattle, and authorized grazing up to 80 head of cattle and 5 horses for a two-year period. District Ranger Raley is at this time extending this partial non-use by authorizing non-use of 185 head of cattle and will authorize up to 110 head of cattle and 5 horses for the 2003 grazing year.

2. Pasture Management:

2003 objectives: Distribution of livestock in meeting assigned utilization standards are important to achieve range, watershed, and wildlife resource objectives.

Pasture	Time Frame*	Comments
Barlow Basin	3/1/03-5/1/03	Split herd
Cradle Mesa	3/1/03-5/1/03	Split herd
Farm pasture/Burns/Twinsisters	11/1/03-2/28/04	Bulls
Round Mountain	5/1/03-11/15/03	All cattle
Round Mountain/Barlow Basin	11/15/03-2/28/04	Split Herd
Deep Creek Holding Pastures	3/1/03-2/28/04	Horses rotated each year between pastures



**Time frames are estimates, utilization standards being met should supersede dates when use standards are met for a given pasture.*

Pasture moves will depend upon precipitation amounts, water availability and adequate forage.

3. Minimum Stubble Height Requirements and Monitoring:

Minimum stubble height requirements are based upon the concept that specific plants in specific areas can tolerate a given amount of herbage removal. To meet the ecological objectives of the allotment, grazing pressure should be removed when minimal stubble-height requirements are reached (Krueger1998). Stubble height will be measured in the key monitoring areas shown below for the Alma Allotment. Adherence to minimum stubble height requirements *is mandatory and should be the limiting factor* in adjusting grazing management. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if minimum stubble height requirements are met. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when minimum stubble height requirements are met. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

The minimum stubble height requirements set for the Alma Allotment will be **2.5 inches on Blue grama** grasses during the growing season (May 1 through Sept 30) and **2.0 inches on Blue grama** grasses during the dormant season (October 1 through April 30). Holechek and Galt’s Grazing Intensity Guidelines can be used to draw correlations between qualitative utilization categories, forage use by weight and average stubble height measurements (Holechek and Galt 2000). A minimum stubble height of 2 - 2.5 inches on Blue grama correlates to 31 – 40% utilization. The minimum stubble heights will be monitored in the following key monitoring areas:

Key Monitoring Areas

Pasture	Area	Important Plant Species	Comments/Descriptions
Cradle Mesa	T1, T2, T4 and Pace 2	Blue grama	
Round Mt.	T7 and T3	Blue grama	
Barlow Basin	T5 and T6	Blue grama	

Fifty percent allowable use is the percentage of use that will be allowed on key browse species through out the allotment.

4. Range Improvements:

- a) Water:** The District will be conducting cultural and biological clearances for 3 water lots on the Alma Allotment. Once the decision has been signed for the construction of these water lots you will be authorized to build them.

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
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1-03	3 water lots.	September 1, 2003	Need cultural and biological clearances.
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The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment and/or on-going grazing consultation for the Alma Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia R. Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061-7863, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry D. Raley, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P. O. Box 8, Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039-9704.

Sincerely,

LARRY D. RALEY
District Ranger

Signed by Sewell Goodwin on 2/26/03
Permittee

Date

TITLE 36 - - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER II - - FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 251 - - LAND USES - - Table of Contents

Subpart C - - Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System Lands

Sec. 251.90 Content of notice of appeal.

- (a) It is the responsibility of an appellant to provide a Reviewing Officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a decision by a lower level officer should be reversed or changed.
- (b) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:
 - (1) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;
 - (2) The title or type of written instrument involved, the date of application for or issuance of the written instrument, and the name of the responsible Forest Service Officer;
 - (3) A brief description and the date of the written decision being appealed;
 - (4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;
 - (5) A statement of the facts of the dispute and the issue(s) raised by the appeal;
 - (6) Specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to be violated and the reason for such an allegation.
 - (7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve the issue(s) being appealed with the Deciding Officer, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and
 - (8) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.
- (c) An appellant may also include one or more of the following in a notice of appeal: a request for oral presentation (Sec. 251.97); a request for stay of implementation of the decision pending decision on the appeal (Sec. 251.91); or, in those States with a Department of Agriculture certified mediation program, a request for mediation of grazing permit cancellation or suspensions pursuant to Sec. 251.103.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989; 54 FR 13807, Apr. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989;

64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]