



File Code: 2210

Date: January 29, 2003

W.C. (Con) Allred

Dear Con,

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Plan/Instructions for the 2002 grazing year.

1. Authorization

Number and class of livestock	Dates Authorized
41 Cattle	1/20/03 – 2/18/03

2. Pasture Management:

2002 objectives: This year grazing was delayed until February based upon the preference on the operator. This is still dormant season use and within the environmental effect analyzed in the 1995 NEPA decision . The Wildlife Biologist also concurred with the delay through February 28 as within the wildlife effects analyzed.

Pasture	Time Frame*	Comments
Name: Bighorn	1/20/03 – 2/18/03	41 cattle:

**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 Big Horn 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 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 Big Horn Allotment will be **1.5 inches** on Curly Mesquite grasses, **2.0 inches** on Blue grama grasses, and **6 inches** on Sideoates 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). The minimum stubble heights will be maintained upon each Key Species in the following key monitoring area:

Key Monitoring Areas

Pasture	Area	Important Plant Species	Comments/Descriptions
Big Horn	C1	Curly Mesquite	1.5 inches
Big Horn	C1	Blue grama	2.0 inches
Big Horn	C1	Sideoates grama	6 inches
Big Horn	#2	Curly Mesquite	1.5 inches
Big Horn	#2	Blue grama	2 inches
Big Horn	#2	Sideoates grama	6 inches

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

4. Special instructions:

- a) Livestock are not authorized to be grazed on National Forest land on the San Francisco River.
- b) When Forest Service personnel are monitoring, permitte requests involvement.

5. Range Improvements:

- a) **Water:** As funding and priorities allow, the district will be looking at options for water development on the Big Horn Allotment.

The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions are a part of the Temporary Grazing Permit as provided in Part 3. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment and/or on-going grazing consultation for the Big Horn 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

Permittee

Date

36 CFR 251 REGULATIONS

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]