



File Code: 2210

Date: February 19, 2003

Walter and Dorothy Conner

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Conner,

This letter serves as your March 1, 2003 to February 28, 2004 Annual Operating Plan and Instructions.

**Allotment:** Harden Cienega  
**Permittee:** Walter and Dorothy Conner  
**Managers:** Jeannie and Richard Billett

**Permitted Numbers:**

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>716 Cattle (cow/calf)</b>   | <b>3/1-2/28</b>  |
| <b>85 Cattle (cow/calf)</b>    | <b>3/1-10/31</b> |
| <b>(85) Cattle (yearlings)</b> | <b>1/1-2/28</b>  |
| <b>10 Horses (saddle)</b>      | <b>3/1-2/28</b>  |

- 1. Grazing System:** Pasture Rotation
- 2. Authorization:** (From Bill for Collection)

| Permittee                 | Number and class      | Dates Authorized |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Walter and Dorothy Conner | 196 Cattle (cow/calf) | 3/1/03-2/28/04   |
|                           | 10 Horses (saddle)    | 3/1/03-2/28/04   |

- 3. Management System:** Cattle are scheduled to graze the following in 2003:

2003 objectives: Proper livestock distribution and management within pastures is going to be very important to not exceed utilization levels. All efforts need to be made not to allow livestock in areas where utilization levels have been met. Livestock in areas already used will indicate management efforts are not working and the livestock will have to be moved to the next scheduled pasture. Over use by livestock was documented during the 2002 grazing season in the New Mexico and SI pastures. Permittees have reduced their livestock numbers and recovery is taking place in the New Mexico and SI Pastures. These pastures will not be grazed until summer growth has reinitiated.

| Pasture | Time Frame | Comments |
|---------|------------|----------|
|---------|------------|----------|



|                          |                                |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| New Mexico & SI          | Mid July 2003 to February 2004 | 196 cattle   |
| Prospect and Baldy       | March 1, 2003-Early July 2003  | 196 cattle   |
| Arizona Holding Pastures | As needed                      | Used only if necessary in holding, working shipping etc. |

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

**4. Special Instructions:**

- a) Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat and archeological concerns before maintenance cleaning is authorized. We should plan ahead for these surveys.
- b) Ongoing grazing consultation for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog is in progress.
- c) Salt or mineral blocks should not be placed within a quarter mile of water and ideally no closer than one-half mile. Salting is not authorized on any watering locations. Place blocks in lightly used areas until allowable forage use is achieved and then move them to the next least utilized area. Blocks should not be placed in meadow bottoms or near roads. Do not place block in the same area used in previous years and finally, put them on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.
- d) Any changes made in this plan because of any of the above will be made in cooperation with the District Range Staff and approved prior to the change by the District Ranger. The permittee will give the District at least Five-day notice of an anticipated change.

**5. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

Allowable use is the percentage of use that will be allowed on key grass and browse species. This use will be measured in the key monitoring areas shown below for the Harden Cienega Allotment. Adherence to utilization levels *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 allowable use standards are met. Livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when these forage utilization standards 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 maximum allowable use levels set for the Harden Cienega Allotment will be **35%** (2.5 inch average stubble height on Blue grama grass) during the growing season from May 1 through Sept 30. The maximum allowable use levels during the dormant season from October 1 through April 30 will be **40%** (2 inch average stubble height on Blue grama grass). Use of browse is not to exceed the **50%** level. Use levels will be monitored in the following areas:

**Key Monitoring Areas**

| Area                      | Important Plant Species | Comments/Descriptions                |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>New Mexico Pasture</b> |                         |                                      |
| P6                        | Blue grama              | Near Corner Tank Trap                |
| C3                        | Blue grama              | Near Perlite Tank                    |
| C1 and C2                 | Blue grama              | South of the pipeline                |
| P5                        | Blue grama              | East of Ditch Tank                   |
| P1                        | Blue grama              | Between Pine and School Canyon Tanks |
| <b>SI Pasture</b>         |                         |                                      |
| C1                        | Blue grama              | Northwest of Rock Tank               |
| C2                        | Blue grama              | North of Minor Well and S.I. Corral  |
| C3                        | Blue grama              | On S.I. Flat                         |
| <b>Prospect Pasture</b>   |                         |                                      |
| C6                        | Blue grama              | North of 2 O'Clock Tank              |
| C7                        | Blue grama              | East of Prospect Tank and Corral     |
| C8                        | Blue grama              | West of Chimney Rock Tank            |
| <b>Baldy Pasture</b>      |                         |                                      |
| C11                       | Blue grama              | West of Grassy Tank                  |
| C10                       | Blue grama              | North of Sour Dock Tank #379         |
| Ph1 or P7                 | Blue grama              | Near Lone Pine Tank                  |

## 6. Range Improvements:

**a) Fences:** Proper maintenance of fences will help ensure they will hold livestock in a pasture and will extend their useful life. Fences in need of reconstruction will be inventoried and prioritized by the District for reconstruction. Please let us know if any other fences than the above described are beyond reasonable repair and are in need of reconstruction.

| Permit-Modification | Unit | Completed by date: | Status |
|---------------------|------|--------------------|--------|
| None                |      |                    |        |

Future budget needs to include fence materials to reconstruct approximately 2.5 miles of fence #362 along the Harden Cienega and Tennessee Allotment boundaries.

**b) Water:** Stock water is important for proper livestock distribution. If natural water is not available to achieve good distribution, it may be necessary to haul water. In addition, maintenance of pipelines, troughs, spring boxes, and dirt tanks will help provide water throughout the year. If any of these improvements need repair work, you are authorized to do so, unless it requires ground disturbance, such as dirt tank cleaning. Advance planning is needed for authorizing tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled during the summer months. If the pipelines and troughs are beyond reasonable repair, we are willing to work with you to replace them. Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas where water is available are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.



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]