



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Glenwood
Ranger District
505-539-2481

P.O. Box 8
Glenwood, NM 88049-9301
FAX: 505-539-2485

File Code: 2210

Date: January 23, 2003

Loyd Alan Rasmussen
Shelley Wicks

Dear Shelley Wicks,

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

Allotment: Pueblo Creek Allotment

Permittee: Loyd Alan Rasmussen

Permittee Numbers:

247 Cattle (cow/calf) 3/1-2/28

1. **Grazing System: Pasture rotation**

2. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2003:

Number and class	Dates Authorized
247 Cattle (cow/calf)	3/1/03 to 2/28/04

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

Management is based on using the Northern portion of the allotment in the summer and the southern portion during the dormant season. Livestock will be moved through Cottonwood and Home Pastures twice a year for handling and shipping.

Protein, mineral and salt will be placed on corral locations in various pastures to allow permittee to attract and move livestock into correct pastures. These locations will be checked regularly and livestock will be moved as found.



Pasture	# of Livestock	Time Frame	Comment
Black Bull Johnson Hinkle Park	247	June, July, August	Gathering and staging into this pasture
Cottonwood Home Pasture	247	September – October	Moving into these pastures in preparation for shipping
Bear Canyon & Indian Hill	247	November, December, January	Dormant season use
Chimney Rock	247	January, February	Dormant season use

The 2003 grazing year will be an opportunity to implement the above management strategy and ascertain its effectiveness for long-term management of the Pueblo Creek Allotment. Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off of the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. This management system may be changed by the decision made on the NEPA Range Analysis that we are conducting for your term grazing permit.

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) A draft Biological Opinion is being finalized with the Fish and Wildlife Service. The terms and conditions of the final Biological Opinion will be amended in the Annual Operating Plan/Instructions. A separate consultation is in progress for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog.
- c) Salt or mineral blocks should not be placed within a quarter mile of water and ideally no closer than one-half mile or on any watering locations, unless authorized. 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 or modifications made in this Annual Operating Plan/Instructions 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.
- e) As you gather livestock and ascertain numbers, continue to report your numbers to the District. Total numbers must be acquired as soon as possible.

5. 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 Harve Gulch Allotment. The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers are indicated in Section I of these Annual Operating Plan/Instructions. 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 Harve Gulch 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

Area	Important Plant Species	Comments/Descriptions
Bear Canyon Pasture C2, C3, C4; P2, P3, P5, P6, P8	Blue & Hairy Gramma	Per allotment map
Black Bull Pasture P9 & P10	Blue Gramma	Per allotment map
Chimney Rock Pasture C4, C6, P2	Blue Gramma	Per allotment map
Cottonwood Pasture C7, P1, P8, P12	Blue Gramma	Per allotment map
Hinkle Park Pasture – P4	Bottlebrush	Per allotment map
Indian Hill Pasture C1, P4, P7	Bottlebrush	Per allotment map
Johnson Canyon Pasture C1, P11	Bottlebrush, Muhly	Per allotment map
Pueblo Park Corral area – P3	Blue Gramma	Per allotment map

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
1-02	Reconstruct 1.25 miles of fence #5015	November 1, 2003	

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.

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
None			

c) Other improvements

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
**	Pueblo Park Corral		

** Pueblo Park Corral #5157 needs to be rebuilt. The District is investigating options for materials.

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

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]

