

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/18/03)

Allotment Name: Alamocita

Permittee: Ken and Lorraine Pearson

Ranch Manager: Marvin Cromwell
811 Fruta
Rio Ranch, NM 87124

Permit Number: 06-606

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 50 Cattle Cow/Calf 3/1 – 2/28

2004 Annual Validation: 47 Cattle Cow/Calf 3/1 - 2/28

Grazing System:

Yearlong, three pasture, deferred grazing rotation. The North and Canyon pastures are only suitable during the spring, summer and fall seasons, March 16 to November 15. The South Pasture is suitable for dormant season use, November 16 to March 15. The North and Canyon Pastures are utilized alternately each year during the spring and summer.

Pasture Rotation 2004:

Pasture	Period of use	Livestock #'s	Allowable Use by species
North	3/16/04 – 06/15/04	All cattle	Blue Grama 40%
Canyon	6/15/04 – 11/01/04	All cattle	Blue Grama 40%
South	11/02/04 – 03/15/05	All cattle	Blue Grama 40%

Grazing Restriction: The following grazing restriction will apply as it did in 2003.

No salt, mineral or supplement feed may be placed within Alamocita and Spike canyon within Township 3 south, Range 14 west sections 29 and portions of sections 24, 28 and 36, from February 1 to August 31. No concentration of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed. Stock tank cleaning must be approved in advance prior to any activities.

The purpose of these restrictions is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

The 1995 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the allowable utilization by grazing animals.

Standard:

Forage utilization by grazing animals will be maintained at a level which will promote satisfactory range/watershed condition/trend and assures recovery and continued existence of threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species of plants and animals.

Guideline:

Key forage utilization monitoring areas are the locations identified on the allotment map. Forage utilization guidelines for each key forage area is 40%.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

South Pasture	C-3	24% use
North Pasture	P-3	28% use
North Pasture	P-4	26% use
Canyon Pasture	C-1	43% use
Canyon Pasture	C-2	20% use
Canyon Pasture	C-4	60% use
Canyon Pasture	C-5	62% use
Canyon Pasture	P-2	18% use

Monitoring results indicated overuse in the Canyon Pasture. Although you are meeting the allowable use guidelines within most key areas, the District has observed heavy use within the Canyon Pasture at C-4 and C-5. In order to achieve compliance with the allowable use guidelines, you need to recognize this heavy use and distribute livestock use to the available forage within the uplands of this pasture. During the 2004 grazing season, the Forest Service will try to commit one day each two week period to monitor forage use, when livestock are moved into the North Pasture. The permittee will be informed of the utilization on a two week interval. This will be accomplished to provide you with the necessary information so you can move livestock prior to exceeding the allowable use guidelines.

Actual Use:

The actual use for 2003 was 496 AM's. Your 10 year use is 422 AM's.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2004 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option

Range developments:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

The following improvement maintenance was identified for 2004 grazing season:

1. Cross fences need to be made into 4-wire fences.
2. Alamocito spring will be redeveloped by the permittee.

3. Spike Canyon Seep protection fence will be constructed by permittee.

Other Information:

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Pierson for
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger