

**Quemado Ranger District**  
**2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions**  
(12/11/03)

**Allotment Name:** Escondido

**Permittee:** Tommy and Joy D. Padilla and  
Southern Cross Ranch LLC

**Permit Number:** 06-1136

**Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:** 150 cow/calf 05/01 – 10/31

**2004 Annual Validation:** 150 cow/calf 05/01 – 10/31

**Grazing System:** The grazing system being utilized is a 3-pasture summer season deferred rotation system for 150 head of cattle.

**Pasture Rotation:**

**2004:**

East Pasture	5/1 – 8/1	All Cattle	Blue Grama 40%
Middle Pasture	8/2 – 10/31	All Cattle	Blue Grama 40%
West Pasture	Rest unless needed.		Blue Grama 40%

**2005:**

Middle Pasture	5/1- 6/30	All Cattle	Blue Grama 40%
East Pasture	7/1- 8/31	All Cattle	Blue Grama 40%
West Pasture	9/1 -10/31	All Cattle	Blue Grama 40%

**Grazing Restriction:**

None apply to this allotment.

**Allowable Use:**

The 1994 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the maximum allowable utilization by grazing animals.

**Standard:**

Forage use by grazing animals will be maintained at a level which will promote satisfactory range/watershed conditions and assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals.

**Guideline:**

Allowable use is 40% for the Key areas identified on the attached map.

**Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:** Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. Within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture, those key areas will

be visited by the Forest Service to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. These areas are the existing cluster/pace transect sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period to determine actual grazing use. I urge you to participate in these key area utilization surveys. Estimated forage use determinations will be consistent with the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook. Methods to be used will be ocular estimates, grazed plant method, clip/weigh or Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

**Utilization Monitoring Results:**

During 2003 the following transects were read:

East Pasture	P-1	9/10/03	10% use
		11/03/03	24% use
East Pasture	C-4	9/10/03	3% use
		11/03/03	57% use

57% use at C-4 was caused by elk after the livestock were moved off the allotment on 9/06/03. C-4 was monitored twice this past year. Livestock use recorded was below the allowable use when livestock left the pasture. The key areas were re-measured again two months later and substantial elk use was evident with a 57% utilization recorded.

**Actual Use:**

Actual use for the Escondido Allotment was 140 A.M.'s for 2003.

For your reference the 10-year average is 467 AM's.

**Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2004, 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.

**Maintenance of range improvements:**

1. Repair Turkey Springs by burying pipeline to existing water trough during summer of 2004.
2. Permittee plans to repair (stretch wires and drive a few steel posts) the northeast one half of fence #4049 (located in the southeast corner of the allotment). FS will provide materials for reconstruction. This will be accomplished during summer of 2004.

**Other information:**

1. The permittee would like to propose a well located at T.1S.; R.15 W.; SE1/4, SE1/4 of Sec. 16. in the East Pasture. A water trough could be located in the middle of section 15. The proposed well and trough would provide water in the east pasture and would aid in the distribution of livestock.
2. Thinning of Pinion/Juniper is needed in sections 12, 13 and 14 of the Middle Pasture.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, don't hesitate to call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

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

cc: so