

Agua Fria Allotment Annual Operating Instructions

Quemado Ranger District

2006 Annual Operating Instructions

(11/12/05)

Permittee: Williams Ranch

Permit Number: 06-1259

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permitted	From	To	Type
230 adult cattle	3/1	4/1	Term
230 adult cattle	6/16	2/28	Term

2006 Annual Validation:

AUTHORIZED	FROM	TO	PERMIT
Upto 215 adult cattle	5/1/06	2/28/07	Term

2006 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Use Period	Number of Head	Allowable Use
*East	5/1/06 to 7/15/06	Upto 215 head	40%
Private Lands	7/16/06 to 10/15/06	215 head	N/A
West	10/16/06 to 12/31/06	Upto 215 head	40%
Middle	1/1/07 to 2/28/07	Upto 215 head	N/A

For the past 9 years, private lands have incurred use during the cool season allowing recovery of cool season species on the allotment. Since 1999 private lands have been combined with the allotment and managed as one single ranch unit. Livestock use has resulted in less time and lower stocking rates both on private lands and the allotment, however cool season use has primarily occurred on private lands. Monitoring results indicate that this grazing system is maintaining resource conditions with stable to upward trends on all lands. To continue this trend the rotation system was adjusted to incorporate recovery of cool season species on private lands.

** Grazing rotation will be revisited in June 2006 to assess conditions and amend pasture rotations if needed. The winter rotation will be reviewed in October 2006 and amended if needed.

Grazing Restriction:

No restrictions apply.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for

maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

The Decision dated 9/1/95 set guidelines for forage utilization in key areas of 40% allowable use during growing season. Within riparian areas that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area heavily hedged.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

Utilization monitoring will continue on key areas. In order to insure allowable use levels are not exceeded, monitoring will be conducted during the midpoint of the scheduled use periods for each pasture. It is necessary that utilization is in compliance with the established allowable use levels. You are responsible for recognizing utilization levels and complying with established allowable use levels. At a minimum, forest personnel will monitor key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. The percentage of grazing utilization will be determined at that time. The following dates have been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

Pasture	Dates	Date
East	5/1/06	5/31/06
West	11/15/06	12/10/06
Middle	1/15/07	2/28/07

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. In the event all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be moved to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Utilization Monitoring Results for 2004:

Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use	Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use
East	5/13/05	C1	0%	Middle	09/1/05	C4	35%
	6/8/05	C1	10%		09/1/05	P9	35%
	6/8/05	P1	5%		9/1/05	P10	10%
	6/8/05	P13	22%		09/3/05	P11	10%
	6/8/05	P12	25%	Middle	09/3/05	P2	40%
West	11/12/05	C7	0%	West	2/08/06	C7	15%
	11/12/05	C5	0%			C5	16%
	11/12/05	C6	0%			P8	12%

In addition to utilization monitoring, John Pierson (Range Staff), Kirk Gadzia (Range Consultant) and Jim Williams (Permittee) met in November 2005 to review/monitor pasture conditions and rotation schedules. Observations made during these visits indicated improvement in vegetation and soil conditions generally within all pastures. This was indicated by new forage and browse species becoming established within bare spaces. It was also noted recovery periods after livestock use is allowing for plant species to recover and maintain plant health, while providing litter to be incorporated into the soil surface.

I appreciate your efforts in complying with the allowable use guidelines this past grazing season. Please continue to observe and distribute livestock to comply with allowable use levels on key areas. If allowable use is exceeded livestock will be moved to available forage within the pasture or to the next scheduled pasture.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and/or water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2006 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

Range Developments:

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

Actual Use:

The actual use provided for 2005 grazing season was 836 AM's. For your information the 10 year average is 972 AM's.

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

/s/ Felix Quesada (for)
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

2/08/06
Date