

Annual Operating Instructions
Hermosa and Animas Allotments
Black Range Ranger District, Gila National Forest
2007 grazing season

Your nonuse agreement with the Forest Service will expire on December 31, 2008. We will discuss the future management of the allotment at that time.

1. PASTURE USE SCHEDULE

NONUSE, No pasture schedule.

2. UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Currently, there is no authorized livestock use on the Hermosa and Animas Allotments, therefore, no utilization standards.

3. KEY AREA MONITORING

Although there are no cattle authorized to graze the Hermosa and Animas Allotments during the 2007 season, this office will conduct monitoring of the allotment as schedules allow. The purpose of these monitoring inspections will be to determine compliance with the non-use MOU, detect trespass livestock from adjacent areas, and to assess general resource conditions of the allotment.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology.

4. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that existing range improvements remain functional. This includes boundary fences and interior pasture fences. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance, however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

No new range improvements are planned for the Hermosa and Animas Allotments for the 2007 grazing season. If at any point during the year you determine a need for additional range improvements, or materials to maintain/reconstruct existing improvements please contact Shane Shannon, Range Technician, to coordinate the project.

5. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

No special management instructions.

6. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

The permittee must obtain permission from the District Ranger, before conducting earth-disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc.

Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the Forest without written clearance from this office.

The Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Pat 3, Section 8. These instructions comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. They also comply with the Endangered Species Act found in the Biological Assessment for the Hermosa and Animas Allotments. 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 Mike Frazier, Acting Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, at 3005 E. Camino Del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry Cosper, District Ranger, Black Range Ranger District at 1804 Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 89701.

We appreciate your cooperation in the management of the Hermosa and Animas Allotments. If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact Kameron Sam, Rangeland Management Specialist (505)894-6677. Thank you.

Approved by:

 /s/ Larry D. Cosper
Larry D. Cosper, District Ranger

 05-07-2007
Date