



Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Dark Canyon

Permittees: Josie Aragon, Pedro G. Rael, Edward and Christie Cope

Permit Numbers: 61295, 61168, 61161

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2007:

Permittee	Authorized	From	To	Allotment
Aragon	14 cow/calf	5/1	10/31	Dark Canyon
Rael	14 cow/calf	5/1	10/31	Dark Canyon
Cope	0 cow/calf			Non-use

2. **Management:**

Dark Canyon 2007 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
South	5/1-10/31 (all cattle)
North	Rest

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. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

In the past you have been granted extensions authorizing you to graze the allotment past the authorized date. If you are going to request an extension, please make the request at least three weeks prior to the date your livestock are scheduled to be removed from the allotment so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

The maximum allowable use level set for the Dark Canyon allotment is 30-40%. Monitoring will be conducted at the approximate midpoint of the scheduled use period and within two weeks before to two weeks after the date cattle are scheduled to leave. If utilization levels are approaching allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be moved to areas within the pasture or other pastures that are not approaching allowable use levels. In the event that areas not approaching the allowable use are not available, livestock will be removed from the allotment when allowable use rates are met. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring instances of over utilization. The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the



allotment. You are highly encouraged to participate in monitoring with district personnel and/or on your own.

Pasture	Monitoring date
South	7/26/07
South	10/23/07

4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2007, total or partial livestock removal from the allotments may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option.

5. Grazing Restriction:

The Dark Canyon Allotment includes a Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PAC). In this PAC the following activities are restricted during the breeding season of the Owl (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting; routine maintenance is allowed.

6. Salt and Supplement Policy

Provide for supplemental feeding of livestock (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
- c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

7. Range Improvements:

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

Advanced planning is needed for authorizing tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled during the summer months. 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.

8. **The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Dark Canyon 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 Rogers M. Steed, District Ranger, Reserve Ranger District, at P.O. Box 170, Reserve, NM 87830.

Feel free to contact Collin Ewing or myself at (505) 533-6231 if you have any questions or problems concerning this document.

ROGERS M. STEED
District Ranger

Date