



Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotments: Eagle Peak and Cox Canyon

Permittee: Flying W Ranch

Permit Number: 61173

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

Authorized	From	To	Allotment
140 cow/calf	3/1/07	2/28/08	Eagle Peak and Cox Canyon
4 horses	5/15/07	11/15/07	Eagle Peak and Cox Canyon

Resource Protection nonuse for remainder of permitted livestock.

2. **Management:**

2007 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame	Comment
Juniper/Wilson/Tularosa	3/01-5/15 (all cattle)	
Cox Canyon East 1/2	5/16-8/15 (all livestock)	Please distribute livestock away from the meadows in Cox Canyon
Cox Canyon West 1/2	8/16-11/15 (all livestock)	
Juniper/Wilson/Tularosa	11/16-2/28	
Largo	11/1-2/28	Hospital/heifer pasture

The purpose of the deferred rotation grazing system in Cox Canyon is to allow adequate recovery periods for forage species during the growing season.

No Livestock are allowed within the riparian area of the Tularosa River on National Forest System Lands. Please maintain all fences and water gaps necessary to keep your cattle out of the Tularosa River on NFS lands. Utilization is limited to 15% use in Negrito Creek. Please monitor and distribute livestock so as not to exceed the allowable use in Negrito Creek.

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.



3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:** The maximum allowable use levels set for the Cox Canyon allotment will be conservative use (30-40%). The allowable use level for eagle Peak will be 35%; in addition stubble heights should not be less than an average 3 inches on blue and hairy grama. Stubble heights not be less than 5 inches on sideoats grama, and no less than 6 inches on mountain muhly. Utilization is limited to 15% use in Negrito Creek. Use of browse is not to exceed the **50%** level. Use levels will be monitored in key areas. Key area utilization monitoring will continue. Monitoring will be conducted at the approximate midpoint of the scheduled use period and/or within two weeks before to two weeks after the date cattle are scheduled to leave a pasture. Key areas and restricted areas will be visited to determine actual grazing use/seasonal use by livestock/wildlife.

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.

Allotment	Pasture	Monitoring date
Eagle Peak	Juniper/Tularosa	4/24/2007
Eagle Peak	Wilson	4/25/2007
Eagle Peak	Negrito Creek	5/15/2007
Cox Canyon	East ½ & West 1/2	7/25/2007

4. **Grazing Restriction:** The Eagle Peak and Cox Canyon Allotments include Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PAC). In these PAC's 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.
5. **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.
6. **Salt and Supplement Policy**

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (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 (no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands).

7. **Range Improvements:** All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permits must be maintained to a functional status.

In addition, specific maintenance discussed included:

Fences:

1. The Deep Canyon/Eagle Peak fence needs to be rebuilt.

Please contact Collin Ewing or Jerry Turner to inquire about the availability of materials and for a permit modification.

Water:

1. Dutchman spring and Davis spring need work.
2. The permittee plans to drill Antelope well. The district is currently in the planning process for this project and has applied for a drilling permit. We will inform you when the planning is complete.

Please contact Collin Ewing or Jerry Turner to inquire about the availability of materials and for a permit modification.

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 Eagle Peak and Cox 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.

/s/ Rogers M Steed

ROGERS M. STEED
District Ranger

1/18/07

Date