

El Caso Allotment Annual Operating Instructions
Quemado Ranger District
2008 Annual Operating Instructions
(3/07/2008)

Permittee: El Caso Ranches Inc. c/o Buzz and Beverly Easterling

Permit Number: 61263

Term permitted Livestock Number:

Permitted	From	To	Type
393 cattle	4/15	10/15	Modified Term

2008 Annual Validation:

Authorized	From	To	Type
393 cattle	4/15/08	10/15/08	Modified Term

Pasture Rotation: 2008

PASTURE	START DATE	END DATE	NUMBER	Allowable Use
West Armijo	4/15/08	6/01/08	393 head	40%
Castle Rock 1&2	6/01/08	7/01/08	393 head	40%
Calico	7/01/08	8/15/08	393 head	40%
Wild Horse Mesa	8/15/08	9/15/08	393 head	40%
Largo Mesa	9/15/08	10/15/08	393 head	40%

Grazing Restriction:

Grazing restriction will occur in portions of the Porcupine, West Armijo, and Leslie-Sawmill pastures. If you need a copy of the map of the restricted areas please call and we will send you a copy. The grazing restrictions for these areas are:

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in these areas until August 31 and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps, or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is permitted.

The purpose of these restrictions is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Cattle are not allowed in the Quemado Lake Campgrounds and spill way area. This recreation area is fenced to exclude cattle from campgrounds where forest visitors are camping and fishing. If cattle are observed within campgrounds in the recreation area, you will be notified to promptly remove cattle.

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 1995 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the maximum allowable utilization by grazing animals

Utilization Monitoring of Key Area

Forage utilization monitoring will be continued on identified key areas. Forest Service personnel will conduct monitoring within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. You are encouraged to attend and participate in all monitoring on your allotment. The approximate dates that we plan to monitor on your allotment are as follows:

Pasture	Monitoring date
West Armijo	5/28/08
Castle Rock 1&2	6/24/08
Calico	8/06/08
Wild Horse Mesa	9/15/08
Largo Mesa	10/03/08

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

Monitoring results 2007:

Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use	Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use
El Caso	6/07/07	C-3	11%	Pine Lake	10/01/07	C-5	7%
El Caso	6/07/07	C-4	14%	Pine Lake	10/01/07	PW	<10%
Baca	8/02/07	PW	10%				

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2008 grazing season, 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.

Actual Use:

For your records, actual use recorded for 2007 grazing season was 2358 AMs.

Other Information:

A map concerning travel management will be supplied to you for comments. If you have any questions regarding the travel management rule please contact the District office.

I encourage you to notify the District upon discovery of any livestock carcasses. If a carcass is within an area that is occupied by gray wolves, carcass removal or treatment may assist in mitigation of livestock/wolf interaction, and wolf habituation to livestock as a food source.

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

/s/ Janice S. Stevenson
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

4-18-08
Date