



Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotments: Alexander
Permittee: John and Ellen Snow
Permit Number: 61293

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2008:

Authorized	From	To	Allotment
220 cow/calf	3/1/08	2/28/09	Alexander

2. **Management:**

Alexander 2008 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Sand Canyon	3/01-5/31 (all cattle)
Tularosa/Cold Spring	6/1- 9/30 (all cattle)
Sand Canyon	10/16-2/28 (all cattle)
5 Spring	Rest

No Livestock are allowed within the riparian area of the Tularosa River. 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.

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 level set for the Alexander Allotment is **40%**; in addition stubble heights should not be less than an average of 2.0 inches on blue and hairy grama and 4 inches on side oats grama. Use of browse is not to exceed the **50%** level. 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.

Pasture	Monitoring date
Sand Canyon	5/7/2008
Tularosa	9/4/2008

4. Grazing Restriction:

The Alexander Allotment includes 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. 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: The permittee proposes to finish Cold Springs holding pasture fence #6175 and work on Five Springs-cold springs division fence #6168. Please contact Jerry Turner to inquire about the availability of materials and for a permit modification.

Waters: The permittee proposes to clean Huey Tank #6341. 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.

7. 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 Alexander allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This AOI is in accordance with the 12/13/1999 Decision Notice for the Alexander allotment.

A notice of appeal must be filed with Richard E. Markley, 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 Jerry Turner or myself at (575) 533-6231 if you have any questions or problems concerning this document.

/s/ Rogers M. Steed

12/19/2007

ROGERS M. STEED
District Ranger

Date