



## Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

**Allotment:** Negrito/Yeguas

**Permittee:** Canadian River Cattle Company

**Permit Number:** 61288

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

Authorized	From	To	Allotment
138 cow/calf	3/1/08	2/28/09	Negrito/Yeguas
10 horse	3/1/08	2/28/09	Negrito/Yeguas

### 1. Management:

Negrito/Yeguas 2008 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Winter Unit (Perry Mesa, Telephone, and Middle Pastures)	3/1-5/31 (all cattle)
Rainy Holding Pasture	6/1-6/20 (all cattle)
Summer Unit 1 (Olla, Chimney, and Burro Pastures)	6/21-8/31 (all cattle)
Summer Unit 2 (Sign camp Bull Basin Pasture)	9/1-10/31 (all cattle)
Rainy (pass through to Airstrip)	10/15-10/31 (all cattle)
Airstrip	11/1-11/20 (all cattle)
Rainy Holding (pass through to Winter Unit)	11/21-12/31
Winter Unit (Perry Mesa, Telephone, and Middle Pastures)	1/1-2/28



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.

**2. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

In order to maintain plant vigor and residual herbaceous cover in uplands forage utilization will be limited to 35% utilization, except for in areas with impaired and unstable soils, in these areas utilization will be 25%. In each key area except for C3 (Chimney) and U1 through U14, allowable use is 35% utilization for forage plants. Forage utilization guideline in key areas on impaired/unstable soils (C3 (Chimney), U1, U2, U3, U4, U5, U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, and U14) is 25%. Key areas and restricted areas (PAC's) will be visited to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. If utilization/seasonal utilization levels are approaching allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be removed to areas within the pasture that are not approaching allowable use levels and/or management changes will be made to the rotation schedule the following year. In the event that areas not approaching allowable use levels are not available, livestock will be removed from the allotment. In the event of over utilization, changes will be made to the following year's AOI to prevent recurring instances of over utilization.

As per the 6/8/06 Decision Notice, all livestock will be excluded from the Mainstem Negrito Creek and South Fork Negrito Creek within the Negrito/Yeguas Allotments and only incidental use will be allowed. Livestock will also be excluded from perennial reaches within North Fork Negrito Creek. Please use salt/supplement, herding and any other means to ensure that livestock are excluded from these riparian areas. Additionally, greater than half (>1/2) of the area of the 4 tanks known to be occupied by Chiricahua leopard frogs (Cullum, Long Mesa, Cienega, and Sheep Basin) have been fenced off and are inaccessible to livestock use. Please ensure that your livestock do not access the excluded portions of these tanks.

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.

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Monitoring date</b>
South Fork Negrito Creek	04/03/08
Perry Mesa	04/17/08
Telephone/Middle	04/22/08
Mainstem Negrito Creek	05/06/08
Rainy Holding/Airstrip	06/18/08
Mainstem Negrito Creek	07/15/08
Olla, Chimney, Burro	08/13/08
Bull Basin/Sign Camp	10/14/08

Rainy	10/20/08
Rainy Holding, Airstrip, South Fork Negrito Creek	12/3/08

**3. Provide supplement for livestock as follows:**

- Locate supplement sites ¼ mile or more from waters and riparian areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
- Locate supplement sites on feed, where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- Limit supplement types to salt, mineral, and protein blocks.

**4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2008, 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 Negrito/Yeguas allotments include Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center's (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.

**6. Range Improvements:**

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

In addition, specific maintenance includes:

**Fences:**

1). Canadian River Cattle Company (CRCC) will complete fence #624002 in South Fork of Negrito Creek that was not completed in 2006.

2). CRCC proposes to reconstruct approximately 2 miles of fence #3033OA (Frisco Plaza/Negrito Fence).

3). CRCC proposes to reconstruct/repair approximately 1 ½ miles of fence #3020 (Russ Pasture Fence)

4). CRCC also plans to input wildlife improvements (thinning projects). Please provide the District with a written proposal so that we can begin environmental planning on these projects.

Advance planning is needed for authorizing tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled during the summer months. Please contact the district if you are proposing any of this type

of work. If the pipelines and troughs are beyond reasonable repair, we are willing to work with you to replace them. 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.

In accordance with the Goodding's Onion Conservation Strategy, no new livestock structures, no placement of salt, no active trailing of livestock through occupied sites will be allowed. The occupied sites in Yeguas Allotment are in Sections 18 and 19 of Township 9S, Range 17W in the drainage running north and south approximately 1 mile southeast of Old Cabin Spring.

- 7. The Annual Operating Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. They also comply with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Negrito/Yeguas allotments. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This AOI is in accordance with the 6/8/06 Decision Notice for the Negrito Yeguas 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*

ROGERS M. STEED  
District Ranger

*12/19/2007*

Date