

East Sand Flat
 Quemado Ranger District
 2015 Annual Operating Instructions
 (11/14/14)

As per your Annual meeting held with Ralph Fink and Wayne Witty, please see the following instructions. Please utilize these instructions as direction for management on your grazing allotment during the 2015 Grazing Season. We appreciate your cooperation in the management of your livestock throughout the grazing year.

2015 Pasture Rotation:

| PASTURE | START DATE | END DATE | NUMBER | ALLOWABLE USE |
|-------------------------|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| Winter (Indio/Tularosa) | 03/01/15 | 06/15/15 | 300 | 35 % |
| Lost Cabin/Twin Springs | 06/16/15 | 08/31/15 | 300 | 35 % |
| Campground/Lost Cabin | 09/01/15 | 11/15/15 | 300 | 35 % |
| Indio | 11/16/15 | 01/15/16 | 300 | 35 % |
| Tularosa | 01/16/16 | 02/28/16 | 280 | 35 % |
| Big Bull | 01/16/16 | 2/28/16 | 20 (bulls) | 35 % |
| Earl Well | Earl Well will be used as a temporary holding trap throughout the year | | | |
| Dell Buey Trap | Will be used for holding over replacement heifers. | | | |

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply as they did in 2014 for portions within the Lost Cabin, Campground and Twin Spring pastures. A map displaying these areas was provided to you with your permit; if you need a new map please contact the District office.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in these areas from February 1 to 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 allowed. The purpose of this restriction is to mitigate wildlife issues.

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 Decision Notice dated 09/27/05 set guidelines for allowable use rates on riparian species located in Indio Canyon at 25%. Allowable use levels for key forage species in all other areas, including browse, is 35%.

Utilization Monitoring:

Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use and determine utilization percentage at that time. Monitoring dates will be set according to the previous year's monitoring results. If pastures were approaching allowable use during the 2014 grazing season they will be monitored at the mid-point of the pasture use period to determine if it is necessary for livestock to be moved to the next pasture in the rotation. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the East Sand Flat Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2015 Monitoring Dates:

| Pasture | Monitoring Date |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Winter (Indio/Tularosa) | 04/02/15, 05/01/15, 06/03/15 |
| Campground | 10/07/15 |
| Twin Spring | 08/07/15 |
| Lost Cabin | 06/23/15, 11/09/15 |
| Indio | 01/06/15 |
| Tularosa | 02/17/15 |

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, 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.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2015 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.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to contact Wayne Witty at (575) 773-4678.



 Emily Irwin
 District Ranger

2/20/2015
 Date