

**East Apache Creek**  
 Quemado Ranger District  
 2016 Annual Operating Instructions  
 (01/15/16)

As per your Annual meeting held with Emily Irwin and Wayne Witty, please see the following instructions and utilize these as direction for management on your grazing allotment during the 2016 Grazing Season. We appreciate your cooperation in the management of your livestock throughout the grazing year.

**2016 Pasture Rotation:**

Pasture	From	To	Livestock	Allowable Use
Southeast	03/01/16	03/30/16	91	40%
Middle	04/01/16	06/30/16	91	30%
North	07/01/16	09/15/16	91	30%
Middle	09/16/16	11/30/16	91	40%
Southeast	12/01/16	02/28/17	91	40%
Southwest	Pasture will not be used without written approval.			

**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.

Consultation in 2001 dictated 40% allowable use during the dormant season, (Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>) and 30% allowable use during the growing season, (Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> – Oct 15<sup>th</sup>) annually. In addition, allowable use levels were established for riparian woody species with no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within riparian areas. These riparian areas include Whiskey Creek, Red Steer Canyon, Apache Creek, Banta Spring, Owl Spring Canyon, and the Tularosa (Chaddick) trap.

**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 2015 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 Apache Creek Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels when possible.

**2015 Monitoring Dates:**

Pasture	From
Southeast	03/23/16, 1/10/17, 02/10/17
Middle	05/24/16, 06/20/16, 11/17/16
North	08/03/16, 09/22/16

Monitoring will be conducted more frequently in the Whiskey Creek portion of the North Pasture when it is scheduled for the grazing rotation. If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or 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/or water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2016, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment will be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

**Range Improvements:**

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

**Follow up Items from AOI Meeting:**

Fence #4304 Reconstruction – The District will add this to the list of projects needing clearances performed.

Maintenance Responsibility – The District will research the history of the maintenance responsibilities on the allotment and send you a response outlining our findings.

Illegal Firewood Gathering – We will pass this information along to our LEO.

Signs – We will look into possible signs that state it is illegal to destroy government property.

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

/S/Emily Irwin  
Emily Irwin  
District Ranger

02/23/16  
Date