

**East Sand Flat**  
 Quemado Ranger District  
 2016 Annual Operating Instructions  
 (12/09/2015)

As per your Annual meeting held with Emily Irwin and Wayne Witty, please see the following instructions. Please utilize these instructions 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	START DATE	END DATE	NUMBER	ALLOWABLE USE
Winter (Indio/Tularosa)	03/01/16	06/15/16	295	35 %
Campground/Lost Cabin	06/16/16	08/31/16	295	35 %
Lost Cabin/Twin Springs	09/01/16	11/15/16	295	35 %
Indio	11/16/16	01/15/17	295	35 %
Tularosa	01/16/17	02/28/17	245	35 %
Little Bull	11/15/16	2/28/17	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.			
5 Horses are authorized to be on the allotment throughout the grazing season.				

**Grazing Restriction:**

The following grazing restrictions will apply as they did in 2015 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 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 Sand Flat Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

**2016 Monitoring Dates:**

Pasture	Monitoring Date
Winter (Indio/Tularosa)	04/04/16, 05/02/16, 06/03/16
Campground	09/01/16
Twin Spring	11/15/16
Lost Cabin	09/01/16, 11/15/16
Indio	01/17/17
Tularosa	02/17/17

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 2016 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.

**Follow up Items from AOI Meeting:**

Pasture Division Fence – District will research possible Categorical Exclusions to divide the pasture in response to wolf presence.

Section 12 Pipeline – District will research possible Categorical Exclusions to place a pipeline extension from the Section 12 pipeline north to section 2.

Fence 009001 – District will add this project to the list of projects that need to have clearances performed.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these 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