

El Caso
Quemado Ranger District
2016 Annual Operating Instructions
(01/22/16)

Below is your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions, including a Pasture Rotation Schedule, Allowable Use Guidelines and Monitoring Dates. We appreciate your efforts in the management of your livestock throughout the grazing year.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permitted	From	To	Permit
393 Cattle	03/1	02/28	Term

2016 Annual Authorization:

Authorized	From	To	Permit
359 Cattle	05/01/15	10/31/15	Term

2015 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Start Date	End Date	Number	Allowable Use
Baca/Pine Lake	05/01/16	08/08/16	209	40%
Calico/Wildhorse Mesa	05/01/16	08/08/16	150	40%
El Caso	08/09/16	10/31/16	284	40%
Largo Mesa	08/09/16	10/31/16	75	40%

Grazing Restriction:

Grazing restrictions apply to portions of Porcupine, West Armijo, and Leslie-Sawmill pastures. A map displaying these areas was provided to you with your permit; if you need a new map please contact the District office. The restrictions are as follows:

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area 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 permitted. The purpose of these restrictions is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Furthermore, cattle are not allowed in the Quemado Lake Campgrounds and spill way area. This recreation area is fenced to exclude cattle from campgrounds where forest visitors are camping and fishing. If cattle are observed within campgrounds in the recreation area, you will be notified to promptly remove them.

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 09/01/95 set guidelines for allowable use levels of key forage species at 40%.

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 El Caso Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2016 Monitoring Dates:

Pasture	Monitoring Date
Baca/Pine Lake	06/29/16, 08/11/16
Calico/Wildhorse Mesa	06/27/16, 08/02/16
El Caso	09/20/16, 10/27/16
Largo Mesa	09/27/16, 10/21/16

If utilization levels are approaching allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be moved to areas within the pasture that are not approaching allowable use levels. In the event, areas within the pasture are not available livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture. If allowable use standards are met in the remainder of the pastures it may be necessary to remove livestock from the allotment until conditions are adequate.

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. Pasture fences in the scheduled rotation will be spot checked by District personnel prior to cattle entering pastures. All other improvements are also subject to be inspected.

Follow up Items from AOI Meeting:

Dirt Tanks – We will add Baca Pit tank to the list of projects that need clearances performed. Pine Lake and Gabadon tanks are already on the list. We will inform you when we have completed the clearances.

Locoweed – The District will look into possible treatment techniques and options.

Well Upgrade – The District will add this to the list of projects that need clearances. We will also need to meet with the NRCS to discuss design features. Wayne will contact you to set up a field day to look at the proposed sites.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call Wayne Witty at (575) 773-4678.

/S/Emily Irwin
Emily Irwin
District Ranger

02/23/16
Date