

Sanchez
Quemado Ranger District
2016 Annual Operating Instructions
(01/06/2016)

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	From	To	Number	Allowable Use
South	03/01/16	05/31/16	42 Cow/Calf	40%
North	06/01/16	10/31/16	42 Cow/Calf	35%
South	11/01/16	02/28/17	42 Cow/Calf	40%

As in 2015 8 head will be approved above the permitted numbers for the 2016 grazing year. This increase is in accordance with the NEPA decision dated 12/13/99. It allows for the option of permitting additional numbers up to 42 cattle (cow/calf) yearlong if additional capacity has been demonstrated. With the increase in numbers during the 2015 grazing season, monitoring results showed no signs of overuse; therefore the increased numbers will remain effective for the 2016 grazing season. Monitoring will be conducted at both the midpoint and end of the scheduled use period. In order to continue to graze the additional 8 head in future years, it is imperative that utilization monitoring does not exceed the allowable use and livestock are kept in appropriate pastures.

Grazing Restriction:

There are currently no grazing restrictions that apply to this allotment. However, if utilization standards become a concern or cattle are consistently in pastures they are not authorized in, then numbers will be dropped back to the low end of permitted numbers (34).

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 dated 12/13/99 established guidelines for forage utilization within key areas at 35% allowable use during growing season and 40% allowable use during dormant season. Within riparian areas that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area.

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 are typically set according to the previous year’s monitoring results. However, due to the increase in authorized numbers, monitoring will be conducted at both the midpoint and end of the scheduled use period. In order to continue to graze the additional 8 head in future years, it is imperative that utilization monitoring does not exceed the allowable use and cattle are in the appropriate pastures. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the Sanchez Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2016 Monitoring Dates:

Pasture	Monitoring Dates
South	04/15/16 & 06/02/16
North	07/15/16 & 09/12/16 & 11/02/16
South	12/16/16 & 01/30/17 & 02/22/17

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plants 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 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 the Annual Operating Instructions, please call Wayne Witty at (575) 773-4678.

 /S/Emily Irwin
Emily Irwin
District Ranger

 02/23/16
Date