ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016 Grazing Season

(3/01/2016-2/28/2017)

Reserve Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Negrito Yeguas Allotment

Agreed To By: Nate Romero Date: 12/23/2015

Canadian River Cattle Company, *Permittees*

Approved By: John D. Pierson Date: 1/14/2016

John D. Pierson, *District Ranger*

2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Negrito Yeguas
Permittee: Canadian River Cattle Company
Permit Number: 61463

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Canadian River Cattle Company	320 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Canadian River Cattle Company	10 Horses	Term	3/01-2/28

Authorization: Authorized to graze the following in 2016:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Canadian River Cattle Company	320 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Canadian River Cattle Company	10 Horses	Term	3/01-2/28

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

a. All cattle six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in "**writing**" and "**in advance**" by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Reserve Ranger District Office. **Note**: Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is $100.00 or more and District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

Bovine Trichinosis: Virgin bulls not exposed to breeding are exempt from testing if under 12 months of age. As of 2/26/10, bulls 12 months of age and older are required to have a negative trich test within 30 days prior to entry. **A signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable.** Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls must be tested negative prior to import into New Mexico. Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls sold within

the state of New Mexico must be tested negative within 30 days prior to change of ownership. Please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more details.

1. **Management**: Negrito/Yeguas 2016 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	**Time Frame**
Winter Unit (Perry Mesa, Telephone, Russ, Twin and Middle Pastures)	3/01-4/28
Rainy Mesa Holding	5/01-5/30
Rainy & South Bull Basin	6/01-7/15
Sign Camp	7/16-8/15
Chimney, Olla and Burro	8/16-10/15
Airstrip & Rainy Mesa Holding	10/16-11/15
Winter Unit (Perry Mesa, Telephone and Middle Pastures)	11/16-2/28 (All Cattle)
Russ, Bull & Horse	4/15-5/31 (Bulls)
Twin	3/01-2/28 Intermittent horse use

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off of the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

2. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**
   In accordance with the Decision Notice signed on 6/08/2006, the allowable use standard for the Negrito Yeguas will be **35%** except for in areas with impaired and unstable soils. In these areas utilization will be **25%**. In each key area except for C3 (Chimney) and U1 through U14, allowable use is **35%** utilization for forage plants. Forage utilization guideline in key areas on impaired/unstable soils C3 (Chimney), U1, U2, U3, U4, U5, U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, and U14) is **25%**. Key areas and restricted areas (PAC's) will be monitored to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. Monitoring will be conducted within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture. If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Personnel. Cattle will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations.

   As per the 6/8/06 Decision Notice, all livestock will be excluded from the Mainstem Negrito Creek and South Fork Negrito Creek within the Negrito/Yeguas Allotments and only

incidental use will be allowed. Livestock will also be excluded from perennial reaches within North Fork Negrito Creek. Please use salt/supplement, herding and any other means to ensure that livestock are excluded from these riparian areas. Additionally, greater than half (>1/2) of the area of the 4 tanks known to be occupied by Chiricahua leopard frogs (Cullum, Long Mesa, Cienega, and Sheep Basin) have been fenced off and are inaccessible to livestock use. Please ensure that your livestock do not access the excluded portions of these tanks.

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District personnel and/or on your own.

Pasture	Monitoring date
Winter Unit (Perry Mesa, Telephone, Russ, Twin and Middle Pastures)	5/05
Rainy Mesa Holding	6/15
Rainy & South Bull Basin	7/19
Sign Camp	8/16
Chimney, Olla and Burro	10/18
Airstrip & Rainy Mesa Holding	11/16

3. **Salt and Supplement Policy:**
Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:
   - Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
   - Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
   - Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
   - Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
   - Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands.

4. **Forage Growth and Water Availability:**
Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, 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.

5. **Grazing Restriction:**
The Negrito Yeguas allotments include Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center's (PAC). In these PAC's the following activities are restricted during the breeding season of (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting; routine maintenance is allowed.

6. **Range Improvements:**
All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District in advance if you are proposing this type of work.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations

The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season pending funding:

Fences:

1. Regular fence maintenance.

Water:

1. Turkey Tank #3034 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
2. Snow Tank #6379 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
3. Park Spring #3292 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
4. Potato Spring #3310 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
5. Crossing Tank #6422 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
6. Cougar Tank #6399 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
7. Grey Back Tank #6423 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
8. Six Shooter Tank #3010 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
9. Lilly Tank #3273 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
10. Bull Basin Tank #3011 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
11. Long Mesa Tank #3291 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
12. Naranjo Tank #3250 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
13. Oak Spring #3124 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
14. Old Cabin Spring #3122 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.
15. High Spring #3257 was affected by the 2012 Whitewater Baldy Complex.

In accordance with the Goodding's Onion Conservation Strategy, no new livestock structures, placement of salt, or active trailing of livestock through occupied sites will be allowed in the following areas. The occupied sites on Negrito Yeguas Allotment are in Sections 18 and 19 of Township 9S, Range 17W in the drainage running north and south approximately 1 mile southeast of Old Cabin Spring.

7. **The Negrito Yeguas Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the 6/08/2006 Negrito Yeguas Decision Notice and in the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Negrito/Yeguas allotments. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.