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**2014 Annual Operating Instructions
Cabresto Allotment # 320**

Dear Permittee,

This letter details your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Cabresto grazing allotment as discussed in your annual operating meeting.

A. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS & SEASON OF USE

The following numbers and classes of livestock will be permitted to graze the Cabresto allotment this year. The authorized number includes the three head from the private land permit.

Table 1. Livestock numbers and season of use.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permitted #'s</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Authorized #'s</u>
Cabresto	87	Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/31	58

B. GRAZING SYSTEM Grazing Schedule and Pasture Sequence:

Table 2. Grazing schedule and pasture sequence.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Season</u>
Lower Cabresto	06/01 – 07/10
Upper Cabresto	07/11 – 08/21
Laguna Seca	08/22 – 09/30
La Fragua & Lopez	10/01 – 10/31

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Cabresto allotment which means that season of use, numbers grazed, and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions. Distribute cattle to the extent water and forage availability will allow. To attain the prescribed minimum average leaf lengths at the end of the season, it will be necessary to maintain good livestock distribution throughout the grazing season.



C. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Continue with routine maintenance on existing improvements as assigned in your permit. A copy of the range improvement map from the permit is enclosed. The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Ensure that any pieces of old plastic pipe, old fence wire, or any discarded materials involved in range improvement maintenance is cleaned up and removed from Forest lands.

An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate. Permittees failing to fulfill maintenance responsibilities will result in cattle not being authorized to enter the allotment.

Any range improvement maintenance that involves physical ground disturbance must have prior approval from the District Ranger. Please contact the Range Staff Sean Kelly with any questions you may have regarding this issue.

D. SALTING AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

Salt and supplemental feed will be used as a range management tool to draw livestock into areas of little or no use. This normally does not include areas adjacent to water or canyon bottoms. Salt should be checked and moved periodically to avoid potential overuse.

E. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land, and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent wildfires, and reporting promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of extreme fire danger, branding fires will be prohibited or else be allowed by permit only. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only with prior approval of the District Ranger.

F. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Monitoring

Grazing intensity is a critical factor in managing the Cabresto allotment. Forest Service personnel will be using a variety of accepted methods to monitor key grazing areas. Permittees are invited and encouraged to participate in monitoring visits.

Key forage species have been identified for the Cabresto allotment. A maximum forage use level of 30% has been set for the Cabresto allotment. Maintenance of the appropriate minimum average leaf lengths on key species will result in conservative use levels.

Table 3. Monitoring location, key species, and stubble height.

LOCATION	KEY SPECIES	STUBBLE HT.
All Key Areas	Western Wheat	4 - 5 in.
	Blue Grama	2 – 2.5 in.
	Galleta	3 - 4 in.
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 5.5 in.

G. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Due to drought conditions experienced in past years and the possibility of drought conditions in the future, management during and after a drought should be devoted to overall health and as needed, recovery of rangeland vegetation. Please ensure that you have a contingency plan for management of your livestock if drought conditions return this summer. If conditions warrant, we will need to work closely together to amend your annual operating instructions in order to meet rangeland resource objectives.

Our mutual goal should be to protect the long-term productivity of the range resource while considering the needs of your livestock operation. I strongly encourage you to closely monitor forage use levels using the guidelines in the Special Management Concerns described above. It is important that we communicate effectively to address proper grazing management and avoid emergency situations.

I also encourage you to read the paper handed out in the past entitled “Rangeland Management Before, During, and After Drought” by Larry Howery, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. That paper has many helpful, universal concepts regarding forage recovery and livestock husbandry practices pertaining to drought management and may provide us all with important information to consider and act on. This paper is available at: <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1136.pdf>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the management of the Cabresto allotment for the 2014 grazing season, please contact Sean Kelly at (505) 632-2956.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sandra Imler-Jaquez

Sandra Imler-Jaquez
District Ranger
Jicarilla Ranger District
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