



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern Region 3  
Carson National Forest  
Tres Piedras  
Ranger District

P.O. Box 38  
Tres Piedras, NM 87577  
575-758-8678  
TT/TDD 575-758-8678  
FAX 575-751-3230

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**2014**  
**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)**  
**APACHE ALLOTMENT (00651)**  
**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST**  
**TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

LIST OF APACHE LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

A Quarter Circle Lazy 5 Ranch, LLC (Andrew Abeyta)  
Charles Bagwell  
G.Lee & Grace Bagwell  
James L. Bagwell  
Benjamin H. & Carla M. Breslin  
Thomas L. and Sandra L. Culler  
Clinton and Cade Huffaker  
Michael L. Sanchez

Prepared By:

/s/Wayne Yonemoto  
Wayne Yonemoto  
District Range Staff

6.24, 2014  
Date

Approved By:

/s/Chris Furr  
CHRIS FURR  
District Ranger

6.25.14  
Date

## **Introduction**

The Annual Operating Instructions meeting was held on Mar. 14, 2014 at the Conejos Peak Ranger District. Grazing Association members attending the meeting included, Jim Bagwell, Charles Bagwell, Lee Bagwell, Clinton Huffaker, and Tom, Sandy, and Kayla Culler. Wayne Yonemoto represented the U. S. Forest Service.

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) is a decision document that is made part of the terms and condition of the Term Grazing Permit. The AOI includes guidance criteria described below that addresses annual resource conditions, livestock numbers, period of use, pasture rotations, monitoring and range improvement projects. The 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests continues to be program guidance. The objectives of this strategic action plan continue to be a high priority and emphasize collaboration, rangeland health, rangeland monitoring and permittee involvement.

The livestock grazing fee is \$1.35/HM (Cattle).

The dry weather pattern condition includes the following. Within the area, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 3-month forecast is for increased chances of normal to above normal precipitation, May through July., 2014, as well as, increased chances of normal to above- normal temperatures.

The SPI definition that indicates the end-of-drought is for the SPI values to be positive 1.0 (or higher) for the past 12 months. The SPI for the past 12 months April, 2013 thru March, 2014 is described as Near Normal (-0.74 to +0.74), so the end of drought has not occurred.

SPI values of negative 0.70 or less for the past month signal drought conditions. The SPI for the past 1-month thru March, 2014 is described as Near Normal (-0.74 to +0.74), so 1-month drought conditions are partially present. Within the District, during the periods of Oct. to Dec., 2013 and Jan. to Mar., 2014, there were various areas of favorable normal to above normal precipitation but also areas of below normal precipitation. Also, below normal to normal to above-normal temperatures occurred.

The authorized eartag color is purple. All authorized cattle will be eartagged correctly with the authorized letter/number. The authorized use for the current grazing season is as follows:

### **Member Information and Season of Use (Term Permit/Annual Authorized Use Request Form)**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Permitted # (6/16 – 9/30)</b>	<b>Authorized c/c, e/l (6/16 – 9/30)</b>	<b>Eartag Letter</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
A Quarter Circle Lazy 5 Ranch, LLC (Andrew Abeyta)	385 e/l	385 e/l	--	
Charles Bagwell	207 c/c; 500 e/l	250 c/c	A	
G.Lee & Grace Bagwell	181 c/c; 500 e/l	231 c/c	B	
James L. Bagwell	25 c/c	25 c/c	J	Bagwell Total may be 480 or

				less cattle
Benjamin H. & Carla M. Breslin	59 c/c	0 to 7 c/c	G	
Thomas L. and Sandra L. Culler	77 c/c	77	M	
Clinton and Cade Huffaker	76 c/c	76	H	
Michael L. Sanchez	118 c/c	0 to 30 c/c	T	
Total	743 c/c (2614 HMs, AUMs); 1385 e/l (4872 HMs, 1462 AUMs); 107 days; total 7486 HMs	2014 Bill - 669 c/c (2353 HM, AUMs); 385 e/l (1354 HMs, 406 AUMs)		

Range readiness inspections will determine the final authorized livestock number and whether range vegetation and soils meet the criteria for grazing. Range readiness is tentatively scheduled for Jun. 10, 2014.

Compliance with New Mexico Statewide Regulations, 21.30.6 NMAC, Bovine Trichomoniasis, effective June 17, 2005, becomes a term and condition of the United States Forest Service term grazing permit. We ask that you comply with the NM State Trichomoniasis regulations.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Allotment. Tres Piedras district range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time that livestock enter or leave the Carson NF. Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in writing for all of the permitted numbers (Full Nonuse), or part of the permitted numbers (Full Nonuse). Verbal applications will not be accepted. If a permittee is approved for "Full nonuse", the permittee is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

### **Rotation Schedule**

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on the range readiness determination):

#### **Tentative Rotation Schedule (6/16 – 9/30, 107 days)**

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Tentative Dates (# of Days)</b>	<b>Days (min to max)</b>	<b>Actual Use</b>	<b>Reason for Adjustments</b>
<b>Toltec</b>	20	15 - 20		
<b>Cruces</b>	3 days Trailing only	3 to 10 days Trailing only		
<b>Bonito</b>	(34)	25 - 35		
<b>Osier</b>	(33)	25 - 35		
<b>Apache</b>	(20)	15 - 20		
<b>(Osier - Osier Fork Area)</b>	Limit use in Osier southern area 5 to 10 days	5 to 10 days		

<b>(Osier - Watershed in Osier)</b>	Limit use in Watershed 7 to 10 days	7 to 10 days with herd or limit to 150 head with fence up for 25 to 35 days; rest periodically		
Total	(107) Range readiness determines the authorized entry date; utilization determines the exit date			

Consider Toltec (highest elevation, water sources may be poor) or Osier entry at Range Readiness inspection. Apache would not be the last pasture. Bonito would not be the entry pasture.

Considerations for grazing system:

1) Scheduling Bonito grazing use as the last pasture isn't desirable because of various herds are trailing through Bonito; Beaver is Lagunitas exit pasture, and cattle will not stay in pasture because majority of the grass is dormant. Osier and Cruces/Toltec are the best pastures to graze last in the rotation.

2) Optional rotations (When all members truck to Apache corral on same entry day, 3 days needed to pair up in Apache pasture):

- 1) Cruces/Toltec (L. Bagwell, when trailing, 5 day rest); Bonito; Osier; Apache; Cruces/Toltec;
- 2) Cruces/Toltec (L. Bagwell, when trailing, 5 day herd); Cruces/Toltec; Bonito; Osier; Apache;
- 3) Cruces/Toltec; Bonito; Apache; Osier;
- 4) Cruces/Toltec; Osier; Apache; Bonito; Bonito last when Beaver is not the Lagunitas exit pasture.
- 5) Cruces/Toltec; Osier; Bonito; Apache;
- 6) Apache; Cruces/Toltec; Bonito; Osier;
- 7) Apache; Osier; Bonito; Cruces/Toltec;

### **Review of 2013 Monitoring Data**

The monitoring information in the Allotment Study file was reviewed. The forage production improved after the July, August precipitation (normal to above normal). Participants discussed areas of below average to average production and average to above average production, livestock distribution management and utilization. All pastures had a majority of grazeable acres at average to below average production.

Utilization guidelines 20% to 40% (end of season) in 3 of the 4 pastures was met, but some areas did contain heavy utilization in the Cruces and Osier pasture. The Grant cattle use the Apache pasture trailing route adjoining the stateline when exiting or entering the pasture and trailing to the Apache corral. The riparian guideline was met at Osier Creek, and Apache Creek. FS monitoring indicated end-of-growing season utilization: Apache – 50%; Osier – 35%; Cruces – 30 to 40%; Toltec – 30%; Bonito – 30%; Watershed – 30 to 40%.

### **2013 AOI Compliance**

1. 3 of 4 pastures met the utilization guidelines of 20% to 40% utilization measured at the end of the growing season. Salt placement assisted in improving the livestock distribution in each pasture. Association placed salt at the timber areas to assist in distributing cattle in the uplands, outside of the drainages.
2. Met the riparian standards for the grazing seasons in the Osier Creek, and Apache Creek.
3. During 2013, the distribution in Apache was effective, utilization was less than 40% upon pasture exit but at the end of season utilization was above 40% due to stray cattle reentering Apache pasture; and pastures were not fully cleaned out during the grazing season. Strays were present longer than the typical 3 days after the pasture exit date.
4. The Association provided additional member riders to assist in on-the-ground management during critical forage growth periods that improved distribution, removed stray cattle from sensitive areas, improved salt placement, and assisted in the herding management of the riparian areas.

### **2013 Actual Use**

Actual Use: 669 c/c; 6/16 – 9/30, (107 days, 30 c/c late entry 7.14), 2326 HM, 11% reduction); 373 e/l, 6/16 – 9/17, 95 days, 1165 HM, 350 AUMs, 76% reduction); Total sheep/cattle 3491 HM, 53% reduction) (373 e/l; 6/16 – 9/17; same pasture rotation as cattle pasture entry/exit; 130 c/c to 180 c/c graze the Watershed Area.)

Bonito 6/16 – 7/13 (28 days)

Toltec 7/14 – 8/5 (23 days)

Apache 8/6 – 8/28 (23 days)

Osier 8/29 – 9/29 (32 days)

Apache 9/30; 1 day at exit to gather

### **Monitoring**

Please contact Tres Piedras RD with any questions regarding monitoring and whether you wish to participate in the annual monitoring of your allotment. Your participation is encouraged. The following monitoring assessments, evaluations and methods may be conducted on the allotment:

Weather update (SPI and temperature)

Soil moisture depth

Water availability

Reading paired annual production/utilization cages with supporting photos and documentation, Rapid Assessment Method, Cover/Frequency, Parker 3-Step, Grazing Response Index, Ocular Estimate Method by Class, Ocular Utilization Estimate by Weight, Photo Point, and Range Trend Plot.

Key site map of the Allotment

Key forage list showing community type, species list and stubble height

Range readiness stubble ht./utilization guidelines

Grazing season monitoring stubble ht./utilization guidelines

End of season stubble ht./utilization guidelines

Range readiness documentation

Watershed health indicators

### **Utilization Guidelines**

Within each pasture, grazing utilization would occur at 20% to 40% of the annual available forage (not to exceed 40%) and would be assessed at the end of the growing season.

Utilization guidelines in the riparian areas includes leaving 4 inches of stubble height of the annual available forage when livestock exit the pasture. When proper use levels are reached within the pasture, livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture unless other management considerations require livestock removal before proper use levels are reached.

### **Key Forage Species**

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Key Forage Species</b>	<b>Stubble Height</b>
Osier/Bonito	Mt. muhly	4"
	Timothy	6"
	Parry's oatgrass	4"
Apache/Cruces/Toltec	Kentucky bluegrass	4"
	Mt. muhly	4"
	Sheep fescue	4"
	AZ/Thurber fescue	6"
Riparian	Kentucky bluegrass	4"
	Carex	4"

Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is required. A 3 day period will be allowed to remove stray(s) permitted livestock from the pasture/allotment. Regular herding and riding management practices are important to achieve proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the optimal duration of the grazing period. Salting practices are also described in the cattle operator instructions at the end of this AOI.

### **AOI Objectives**

- Management of the Osier Fork of the Rio Brazos (1mile) would require frequent herding of cattle away from the riparian, moving cattle to the north. (Note: Osier Fork of the Rio Brazos may need an enclosure with water gap to restrict riparian use in the southern Osier pasture area).
- Continue to minimize grazing use in the riparian areas of the allotment with special emphasis on the Cruces riparian in order to meet the riparian standards each grazing season. Continue to herd livestock away from the riparian areas and use salt placement to improve livestock distribution. Monitor, maintain or improve the riparian green zone forage.
- One herd within each authorized pasture should be maintained throughout the grazing season with good cleanouts of the pastures to prevent the situation where stray Apache Association cattle are not in the authorized pasture.
- Herd livestock to the Toltec area immediately upon entering the Toltec. Herd livestock to the Dixie/Arkansas areas and use salt placement locations to improve distribution. (Dixie/Arkansas areas have downed timber and needs pile burning/prescribed burning.)
- Rotate pastures to vary the cool and warm growing season rest and allow the opportunity for cool and warm season growth.
- Monitor the pasture grazing time in order to improve forage vigor.
- Move sheep camps every 7 days to minimize impacts to the area.

- Improve livestock distribution when initially entering the pasture by moving small groups throughout the pasture, to various salt locations with rider representation from all the members. Also, herd/move livestock within the authorized pasture every few days to distribute cattle.
- Minimize grazing use in the Apache to 15 to 20 days. Limit Osier and Bonito number of days to 30 to 35 days. Limit Cruces pasture use to only trailing for a period of years.
- Prevent Apache Association excess use within Lagunitas and San Antone.
- FS monitoring of the Apache pasture trailing route to prevent heavy use by Grant cattle in the fall. Crossing Permit route follows Forest Road with no shortcuts through the riparian drainages.
- The Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) in New Mexico designation for Cruces Basin Wilderness area streamflows includes Lobo Creek, Escondido Creek, Osha Creek, Diablo Creek, Beaver Creek and Cruces Creek. ONRW's (perennial waters) receive the highest protection under the state Water Quality Act.

### **2012 Decision Notice**

- 575 c/c to 743 c/c; 1066 e/l to 1385 e/l; 6/16 – 9/30 (entry/exit dates may vary 14 days)
- Construct holding pen for stray cattle; reconstruct 14 mi. interior/boundary fence; install 1 cattleguard, 1 culvert on FR 87; develop 4 springs; allotment road maintenance
- 1.5 mi. laydown fence to create an Osier Fork riparian pasture. If the riparian area does not measurably improve within 5 years, then a 200 acre riparian exclosure would be created by constructing an additional 1.5 mi of laydown fence and a watertap at the exclosure would be installed for a livestock water source.
- 350 acres of vegetation treatment: including hand thinning in spruce-fir habitat; by 210 acres of pre-commercial thinning, mixed forest products removal, and fuelwood; by 125 acres of pre-commercial thinning, mixed forest products removal, fuelwood, and meadow restoration; and by 15 acres of pre-commercial thinning, mixed forest products removal, fuelwood, and road right of way improvement.
- 5500 acres of prescribed burn treatments: broadcast burning, jackpot burning, and maintenance re-entry burning of 5150 acres of grasslands; and pile burning, jackpot burning, broadcast burning, and maintenance re-entry burning of 350 acres of spruce-fir habitat.

### **Permittee Management Concerns (Also refer to the Project Section)**

- Allotment road maintenance is needed. Roads have ruts and are developing gullies.
- ATV use is occurring in the wilderness area (Cruces/Bonito) and Osier Creek area.
- Lagunitas Association member in 2012 stood up assigned maintenance fence section at the area northwest of the trailhead. Review assignment of maintenance responsibilities on the Apache/Lagunitas boundary fence.
- Apache Creek drainage is used by private cattle trailing through the stateline gate in the spring and fall. FS needs to monitor the crossing permit route that should only follow the Forest Roads, and not trail through the riparian areas.
- Gates are being left open by hunters in the fall; trash is not picked up by campers in the wilderness. Cumbres fence at Los Pinos not stood up in 2012.
- Watershed boundary fence may be put up by the Association in the future to rest the Watershed pasture and may require FS maintenance.
- As Apache allotment Association members (and allotment rider), you are authorized to

drive (in your vehicle) off of the FS developed roads further than the 300 ft. during the performance of your maintenance responsibilities. In addition, ATV transport of materials is allowed except within the designated wilderness area. During conditions (moist soil) when your vehicle tires will cause increasing soil surface disturbance and greater negative impacts, you are not authorized to drive beyond or off of the established FS roads/trails. Aspen fence stays may be removed from the adjacent fence area within the allotment. This authorization will expire on Oct. 5, 2014 or may change to an earlier expiration date depending on Forest conditions, seasonal closures (wildfire) or limited accessibility.

**Annual Authorized Use Request Form**

Credits from previous year, if applicable, would apply to the current bill (669 c/c, 385 e/1, 6/16 - 9/30). The final livestock numbers and entry date would be determined after range readiness inspections. Therefore, additional billing may be required after the first billing. (Credit for 2012 overpayment of \$389.34 will be on the 2014 bill.)

**Range Improvement Projects And Maintenance**

Range improvement projects maintenance labor/costs are the responsibilities of the permittee. Term permit assigned projects such as, allotment boundary fences, pasture boundary fences, cattleguards, earthen dam stock tanks, pit tanks and other structural improvements must be maintained prior to permittee entry onto the allotment. When allotments are in non-use the permittees are still required to maintain their assigned improvements.

The following are improvements which require special attention during the current grazing season.

**Project Priority:** 1) Continue repair of stateline fence; particularly west of Arkansa with treefall and west of the Dixie canyon that ends at steep cliff; 2) Repair Osier/Cruces fence with 4 inch wood stays; cut aspen wood stays (2 miles); but no aspen at site (FS issue in 2014, 0.5 mile of 4’X8’ TWP – 80 each; 6’ T posts – 100 each)

**Future Projects**

Repair Apache/Osier fence with post replacement and FS issued 2 barbed wire rolls	Completed in 2013
Repair Bonito/Cruces fence (add wood stays at spring section 4/9)	Completed in 2013
Construct small holding pens at Apache near top of the meadow with railroad ties/cattle panes when CE is completed	Discussed
Reconstruct/maintain 1.0 mile of Bonito Cruces fence when CE is completed	Discussed
FS issued 16 rolls of barb wire to Association in 2004 for the stateline fence that have not been installed yet.	Discussed – 2 of 16 rolls are left for 2014; 4 rolls installed @ Apache/Osier fence – adjoining Sec. 5 gate. 12 rolls need to be installed; Gil (rider) used 2 rolls in 2010; Used 8 rolls in 2011 at Apache/Osier middle gate.
FS road maintenance at Long Canyon area	Discussed

Lagunitas fence maintenance at Toltec area needed	Discussed
Assoc. repaired Bonito/Lagunitas fence	2011 maintenance
Assoc. repaired Toltec/Cruces; Apache/Osier fence	2012 maintenance

**Excess Use And Unauthorized Use**

Permittees are encouraged to notify the Tres Piedras Ranger District of any known violation by permittees (excess use) or non-permittees (unauthorized use). Grazing permit holders who graze more livestock than authorized will receive a Notice of Non-Compliance, charged an excess use grazing fee, and the term permit may be suspended or cancelled in whole or part

**National Environmental Policy Act Status for Grazing Permit Issuance**

Direction for management on the allotment is being documented in this AOI. An environmental assessment has not been completed yet. The 2007 to 2008 monitoring studies have evaluated the existing condition during that time period. Open and positive communication is encouraged. Please contact the range personnel if you have any questions or wish to discuss allotment management objectives, or Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

**Travel Management**

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed. The travel management rule requires each Ranger District to designate those roads trails and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be included in the AOI in the future. A second travel management meeting was held in Tres Piedras on March 21, 2007 (The first travel management meeting was held in Tres Piedras July 11, 2006). Attendees provided comments to the USFS regarding roads or trails that should remain open or closed; and access routes to range improvements that are needed within the allotment. Scoping letter (dated February 2, 2009) was mailed to the public.

ACTUAL USE INFORMATION

**Apache Allotment  
Grazing Season**

**Attachment 1**

Pasture	Scheduled Livestock Number & Class (c/c;e/l)	Scheduled Use (6/16-9/30)		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
<b>Osier</b>						
<b>Watershed</b>						
<b>Cruces</b>						
<b>Toltec</b>						
<b>Bonito</b>						
<b>Apache</b>						

Number of Head counted on: \_\_\_\_\_.

Number of head lost: \_\_\_\_\_.

Additional Comments:

**Table 1**

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

**Utilization Information  
Apache Allotment  
Grazing Season**

**Attachment 2**

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
<b>Osier</b>					
<b>Watershed</b>					
<b>Cruces</b>					
<b>Toltec</b>					
<b>Bonito</b>					
<b>Apache</b>					





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## **Appendix**

### **Grazing Permittee Instructions for Cattle Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District**

Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season. Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted. A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.

Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

#### Management

The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan. Obtaining the best distribution of cattle on mountain ranges is made difficult because of their natural tendency to gather in openings, watering sites, drainages, riparian areas and meadows. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary between 20% to 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.

Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Frequent movement of salt within slight to light use areas is required to improve the pattern of use. Cattle should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage. When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger. All cattle on the allotment would be handled as one herd. Moves between pastures may be handled as drifting moves where gates to the next successive pasture may be opened 2 days before the agreed scheduled move date. The exit pasture that the cattle are leaving must be cleaned-out within 3 days after the scheduled date for moving.

#### Salting

Salt must be placed in each pasture prior to cattle entering the pasture. Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, springs, earthen dam stock tanks and other sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line instead of in the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

#### Range Improvement Projects

Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.

Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent materials. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.

All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after cattle leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.

Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger. During the AOI meeting and throughout the year suggestions for proposed projects are accepted.

#### Special Attention Items

Written authorization from the District Ranger is required for vehicle travel in road closure areas. All cross-country travel where allowed must not cause ruts or down-cutting in the soil surface. Cross-country vehicular travel when the ground is wet is prohibited. This written authorization is only for vehicle travel necessary for your livestock operation on your allotment. Prudent use of this authority is asked when and where general public use is concentrated. All permittees are encouraged to stay off roadways closed to vehicular travel during hunting seasons.

All temporary camps and corrals made or used by permittees or their riders will be cleaned up (left in a sanitary condition) and all materials/trash will be removed from the sites. Temporary camp/corral locations should be discussed with the FS prior to setting up the camp.

Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or other unrideable stock will be allowed. Eartags will be provided initially to new permittees on allotments that are tagged. After initial allocation of tags, 10 percent will be provided per grazing season.

Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year). Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.

Report wildfires to: Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (505) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208 or (505) 758-6209.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tres Piedras Ranger District office.

## **Appendix**

### **Grazing Permittee Instructions for Sheep Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District**

Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season.

Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted.

A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.

Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit.

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

### **Management on the Range**

The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan.

Use the open herding system of handling sheep for better effect on the range and the sheep. The herder should hold the lead sheep instead of pushing the rear, and train the sheep to spread out and graze contentedly, instead of following the natural tendency of certain leaders in the band to move ahead too rapidly. Practice the open herding system of grazing in order to minimize the trailing and driving directly to and from water sources. Trailing and bunching the sheep should be avoided as much as possible. The herder would bed the sheep in a different location each night, except under exceptional circumstances, and never bed the sheep at camp (which is moved every 7 days). Re-using the bed grounds contributes to the spread of disease and parasites. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary within 20% to 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.

1. Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Sheep should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage.
2. When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger.

### **Camp Operation**

Move camps at least every 7 days. Locate camps to avoid contaminating water supplies. Remove trash and garbage. Leave the camp site clean and use good sanitation practices. Bury all human waste and locate latrines at least 100 feet from surface water.

### **The Herder**

The herder will be expected to deal with unexpected emergencies and make day to day decisions. The herder should report conditions and observations that are vital to the sheep operation. The

herder must know the allotment boundary and various property boundaries within the allotment in order to avoid unauthorized use or excess use. When applicable, information on adjoining bands of sheep and their routing/bedding will be shared with permittees and their herders.

### **Salting**

Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, springs, earthen dam stock tanks and other sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line instead of in the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

### **Range Improvement Projects**

Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.

Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent materials. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.

1. All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after cattle leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.
2. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger. During the AOI meeting and throughout the year suggestions for proposed projects are accepted.

### **Special Attention Items**

Written authorization from the District Ranger is required for vehicle travel in road closure areas. All cross-country travel where allowed must not cause ruts or down-cutting in the soil surface. Cross-country vehicular travel when the ground is wet is prohibited. This written authorization is only for vehicle travel necessary for your livestock operation on your allotment. Prudent use of this authority is asked when and where general public use is concentrated. All permittees are encouraged to stay off roadways closed to vehicular travel during hunting seasons.

All temporary camps and corrals made or used by permittees or their riders will be cleaned up (left in a sanitary condition) and all materials/trash will be removed from the sites. Temporary camp/corral locations should be discussed with the FS prior to setting up the camp.

1. Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or other unrideable stock will be allowed.
2. Eartags will be provided initially to new permittees on allotments that are tagged. After initial allocation of tags, 10 percent will be provided per grazing season.
3. Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year).
4. Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.

Report wildfires to Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (505) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208 or (505) 758-6209. If you have any questions, please contact the Tres Piedras Ranger District office.

## **Grazing Permittee Instructions for Sheep Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District**

1. Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season.
2. Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted.
3. A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.
4. Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit.
5. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

### **Management on the Range**

3. The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan.
4. Use the open herding system of handling sheep for better effect on the range and the sheep. The herder should hold the lead sheep instead of pushing the rear, and train the sheep to spread out and graze contentedly, instead of following the natural tendency of certain leaders in the band to move ahead too rapidly. Practice the open herding system of grazing in order to minimize the trailing and driving directly to and from water sources. Trailing and bunching the sheep should be avoided as much as possible. The herder would bed the sheep in a different location each night, except under exceptional circumstances, and never bed the sheep at camp ( which is moved every 7 days). Re-using the bed grounds contributes to the spread of disease and parasites. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary between 20% to 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.
5. Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Sheep should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage.
6. When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger.

### **Camp Operation**

1. Move camps at least every 7 days. Locate camps to avoid contaminating water supplies. Remove trash and garbage. Leave the camp site clean and use good sanitation practices. Bury all human waste and locate latrines at least 100 feet from surface water.

### **The Herder**

1. The herder will be expected to deal with unexpected emergencies and make day to day decisions. The herder should report conditions and observations that are vital to the sheep operation. The herder must know the allotment boundary and various property boundaries within the allotment in order to avoid unauthorized use or excess use. When applicable, information on adjoining bands of sheep and their routing/bedding will be shared with permittees and their herders.

### **Salting**

3. Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, springs, earthen dam stock tanks and other sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line instead of in the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

### **Range Improvement Projects**

1. Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.
4. Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent materials. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.
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