



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
Tres Piedras
Ranger District

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2014
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)
SERVILLETA ALLOTMENT (00633)
TRES OREJAS ALLOTMENT (00637)
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT

ALLOTMENT PERMITTEE:

Lonell & Leon Crowther

Prepared By:

/s/Wayne Yonemoto
Wayne Yonemoto

6.25.14
Date

Approved By:

CHRIS FURR
District Ranger

Date

Introduction

The Annual Operating Instructions meeting was held on Jun. 3, 2014 at the Crowther corrals in Sanford. Leon Crowther (permittee) attended the meeting. 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) and \$0.27/HM (Sheep).

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 green for Servilleta and yellow for Tres Orejas. All authorized cattle will be eartagged correctly with the authorized letter/number. The authorized use for the current grazing season is as follows:

Servilleta - Permittee Information and Season of Use (Term Permit/Annual Authorized Use Request Form)

Permittee Name	Permitted	Authorized (e/l; period)	Actual Use	Remarks
Lonell & Leon Crowther	(556 e/l; 5/15 – 6/30; 859 HMs; 258 AUMs) Sheep/cattle use; Allotment Total – 1362 – 1703 AUMs; Sheep – 1362 - 1703 AUMs; Cattle – 1362 – 1703 AUMs; (Example –	556 e/l; 5/15 – 6/30		The sheepherder will not be on the job until week of Jun. 9 at the earliest.

	1362 AUMs may be 827 e/l or 188 c/c depending on the number of days)			
Total	Rest/deferred grazing system; Examples: 5/15 -6/1 to 6/30; or 7/1 to 8/31; or dormant; or other season of use	Feb./Mar. conditions may indicate a reduction in the initial May grazing bill; (Range readiness inspection determines the authorized livestock number)		

Tres Orejas - Permittee Information and Season of Use (Term Permit/Annual Authorized Use Request Form)

Permittee Name	Permitted	Authorized (c/c; period)	Actual Use	Remarks
Leon & Lonell Crowther	No sheep allowed because of possible disease transmission to bighorn sheep. Tres Orejas will not be grazed (dormant or other season of use) by cattle until infrastructure is completed; 44 cattle; 5/15 – 6/30; 90 to 113 AUMs	40 – cattle (Validate cattle permit with 90%)		Permittee request for 2014 total nonuse will be addressed with a MOU
Total	Rest/deferred grazing system; Examples: 5/15 -6/1 to 6/30; or 7/1 to 8/31; or dormant; or other season of use	Feb./Mar. conditions may indicate a reduction in the initial May grazing bill; (Range readiness inspection determines the authorized livestock number)		

Range readiness inspection will determine the final authorized livestock number and whether range vegetation and soils meet the criteria for grazing. Range readiness is tentatively scheduled for May 8, 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 (Partial 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):

Servilleta Tentative Rotation Schedule (5/15 – 6/30)

Pasture	Tentative Dates (# of Days)	Days (min to max)	Actual Use	Reason for Adjustments
Pasture A	5/15 – 6/4 (21)	14 - 21		
Pasture D	6/5 – 6/30 (26)	20 - 26		
Pasture E	To be determined (TBD)			
Pasture F	TBD			
Pasture B	TBD			
Pasture C	TBD			
Pasture G	TBD			
Pasture H	Nonuse	Holding pasture		
Total	(5/15 – 6/30) Range readiness determines the authorized entry date; utilization determines the exit date; 7 pastures (H) nonuse	47 days		

Tres Orejas Tentative Rotation Schedule (5/15 – 6/30)

Pasture	Tentative Dates (# of Days)	Days (min to max)	Actual Use	Reason for Adjustments
Pasture A	TBD			
Pasture B	TBD			

Pasture C	5/15 – 5/31	12 - 24		
Pasture D	TBD			

TBD – to be determined

Review of 2013 Monitoring Data

The monitoring information in the Allotment Study file was reviewed. The forage production improved after the August to September precipitation (below normal to normal). Participants discussed areas of below average to average production and average to above average production, livestock distribution management and utilization. Servilleta was in nonuse. Tres Orejas was in nonuse. The utilization guidelines 20% to 40% (end of season) were met in Servilleta and Tres Orejas.

2013 AOI Compliance

- Servilleta was not grazed. Tres Orejas had unapproved nonuse (nonuse request was verbally denied, but written letter was left in draft). Project maintenance on the Tres Orejas boundary fence northwest of Stover tank (600 ft.) and the northwest boundary area of section 6 (200 ft.) was not completed. The Tres Orejas 2 water catchments were also not maintained.
- Utilization guidelines 20% to 40% (end of season) were met.
- Improve livestock distribution in the big sagebrush/crested wheatgrass openings by salting in the pinon/juniper areas that are as far from the water sources as possible.
- Servilleta – because of limited water source availability, permittees in the past were required to haul water during the authorized period (for pasture A, northern area of pasture D, pasture E, pasture F). Only pastures A and D were grazed in the past. Also, an AOI objective was met to move sheep camps every 7 days depending on forage availability during the period of use in pastures A and D.

2013 Actual Use

Servilleta

Approved Nonuse

Tres Orejas

Unapproved nonuse for cattle. (Sheep are not permitted due to bighorn sheep presence in the Rio Grande gorge)

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. If applicable, 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 - Servilleta/Tres Orejas

Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Western wheatgrass	4"
Crested wheatgrass	4"
Arizona fescue	6"
Needle and thread	4"
Junegrass	2.5"
Sand dropseed	4"

Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is required. A 3 day period will be allowed to remove stray 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

- Servilleta – Complete project maintenance on the assigned allotment projects. Graze other pastures besides A and D at various periods of use. Tres Orejas - Complete project maintenance on the assigned allotment projects.
- Tres Orejas – Cattle use only. Full permitted cattle numbers would be authorized only after the total infrastructure is developed and completed, or in other words complete project maintenance on the Tres Orejas boundary fence northwest of Stover tank (600 ft.) and the northwest boundary area of section 6 (200 ft.), in addition to completing maintenance of the 2 water catchments. By completing permittee maintenance responsibilities, full permitted numbers can be grazed. However, full permitted numbers may also be grazed when the permittee hauls water to the allotment’s northwest corner, northeast corner, and the southwest corner, or also when available snow is present. As stated in the EA Decision Notice (9/27/07), sheep use is not authorized while there is a threat of transmitting disease from the domestic sheep in these areas to a Rio Grande gorge population of Rocky Mt. bighorn sheep.

- Complete a MOU for nonuse; or Issue a letter or a Noncompliance letter for 2014 denial of nonuse that will state the occurrence of the 2012, 2013 unapproved nonuse; also, include the project maintenance completion date requirement.
- For the waiver of Tres Orejas, Options of selling allotment validated cattle and/or completing the private process of obtaining a warranty deed (Leon/Lonell Crowther) for property that will become the new redesignated base property for the Tres Orejas allotment permit. The current 40.5 acres of base property will then be redesignated by the proper procedure to the warranty deed for the 1 acre property with the required corral facilities and an adequate water source.
- Servilleta – Within pasture A, sheep would be herded away from the southwest area (66 acres in TEU 119) and no livestock grazing within the 66 acres would occur. No sheep camps would be allowed in the southwest area. A FS botanical survey of *Astragalus ripleyi* would be conducted in Jun./Jul. 2008.
- Servilleta Pastures A, D, E, F would be grazed in the rotation described below, with water hauling requirements. Move sheep camps every 7 days depending upon forage availability.
- Servilleta - The development of additional infrastructure described in the EA is required to fully implement a 7 pasture rotation. Also, transporting water to various pastures and locations is required.
- Permittee will notify the District office of the livestock numbers and entry date prior to entering the allotment, so that the FS has the opportunity to count and inspect the livestock that will enter the allotment.

From 2007 Decision Notice/FONSI

Authorize use during any season of the year for appropriate duration and intensity to meet management objectives, while remaining within utilization guidelines and within the capacity calculations of each pasture that is to be used. The season of use will be determined on a yearly basis through the annual operating instructions.

Implement an adaptive management grazing management system, which identifies a “probable starting management” (Table 2), but which allows for adjustments to meet management objectives (e.g., changing season of use, number and/or kind of livestock, period of use or number of days, entry or exit dates, grazing system or annual rotation of pastures, and livestock distribution). Full implementation of the flexible grazing management system is dependent upon construction of the infrastructure necessary to apply the system, especially for cattle grazing. Hence, full numbers of cattle animal unit months (AUMs) will not be allowed until the necessary infrastructure is in place. Partial implementation could occur on a pasture by pasture basis.

In any given year, only the AUMs associated with the pastures that are actually being used will be allowed.

Summary of Grazing Management for this Decision Notice.

	Servilleta	Tres Orejas
Type of Livestock Permitted	Cattle (cow/calves) &/or Sheep (ewes/lambs)	Cattle (cow/calves)
Permitted Season of Use*	Variable seasons, throughout year	Variable seasons, throughout year
Estimated Capacity: Cattle AUMs*	1,714 – 1,997	149 – 186
Estimated Capacity: Sheep AUMs*	1,714 - 1,997	370 – 444

* Actual numbers and season of use authorized on a given year are negotiated annually depending on prior year grazing intensity, Standard Precipitation Index (an indicator of anticipated current year forage production and water availability), range readiness, management goals and objectives, previous year's monitoring guidelines or prescriptions, watershed health, livestock distribution assessments, allotment management plan compliance, range condition, range trend, plant vigor, monitoring interpretation and evaluation, and pastures to be used in a given year.

Servilleta Probable Starting Management

- A 2-pasture deferred rotation grazing system (Pastures 633 A and 633 D) utilized by 556 ewes/lambs between May 15 – June 30 (590 AUMs). A herder will be used to keep cattle away from the southwest corner of Pasture A, where there are 66 acres of potential *Astragalus ripleyii* habitat, until after botanical surveys are completed in June and July of 2008.
- To fully implement a 7-pasture system will require hauling water to the other pastures in order to be able to effectively utilize the forage.

Tres Orejas Probable Starting Management

- Possible non-use in the short-term. Probable starting livestock management, when it occurs will be a 3-unit rotation system (Units B, C, and D) utilized by 44 to 55 cow/calves between May 15/June 1 - June 30 (90 - 113 AUMs). Unit A will likely be rested for 4 years by not hauling water. This will give the unit a slightly longer recovery period to improve the vigor of the herbaceous vegetation.
- Water is a limiting factor on this allotment. Road maintenance may need to occur for the permittee to be able to haul water for livestock.
- Sheep will not be allowed in Tres Orejas Allotment, while there is a threat of disease transmission from domestic sheep in this area to the Rio Grande Gorge population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Permittee Management Concerns (Also refer to the Project Section)

- Presently, the permittees have a need for sheep grazing on the Servilleta rather than cattle, and would use the Jawbone authorized sheep numbers to match the Servilleta sheep numbers, so the same sheep band would use both allotments.
- Permittee may sometimes finish lambing by 5/1, and then may be ready to transport sheep in 3 to 4 weeks after lambs gain in size, a strong Mother bond is developed and trucking is scheduled.
- An entry date of May 15 is acceptable to the permittee but if sheep graze the Servilleta crested wheatgrass too late, then the leaves aren't palatable to them, and the sheep will scatter; become stressed or unhealthy; not graze calmly in a band; and lambs will have poor weight gain. The best situation for spring sheep grazing is when the sheep can graze the crested wheatgrass during its greenup and continue to graze the new growth before the leaves become coarse and unpalatable. This occurs before meeting the range

readiness criteria. The FS range readiness criteria/procedure would continue to be followed.

- 2010 Servilleta – lost 25 ewes/75 lambs to coyotes.

Annual Authorized Use Request Form

Servilleta - 556 e/l, 6/10 (tentative date) – 6/30; Servilleta will be approved for nonuse. The herder did not return from his vacation in time to graze Servilleta before 6/25. The period of use on Servilleta after 6/25 would not be cost effective for trucking to the allotment. (Servilleta 2013 no credit.)

Tres Orejas – MOU nonuse will be for a period of 2014 to 2018. (Tres Orejas 2013 no credit.)

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 maintenance of Servilleta allotment fences completed by 6.30.14.
- Project maintenance of Tres Orejas allotment fences/water developments. Complete fence/water development maintenance in 2014.

Previous Projects Completed

Tres Orejas boundary fence maintenance	2008
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Future Projects

Corral EA at gravel pit pasture A location	2005 Initial Discussion; CE completed in 2000.
Tres Orejas trick tank maintenance	2005 Initial Discussion
Tres Orejas boundary fence (North of Stover tank)	2006 Initial Discussion
Servilleta/Tres Orejas FS road maintenance	2006 Discussion (Travel Management)
Servilleta/Tres Orejas new guzzler construction	Discussed (see EA, needs cultural clearances)
Servilleta/Tres Orejas new cattleguard installation	Discussed (see EA, needs cultural clearances)
Servilleta/Tres Orejas fence reconstruction	Discussed (see EA, needs cultural clearances)

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 and charged an excess use grazing fee. Also, 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 and is in conformance with the allotment management plan (AMP). An environmental assessment was completed in 2007 and an AMP was prepared. 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

The Carson National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map is available at the District Office. The 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.

Appendix

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year).
6. 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.



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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.

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