

**ANGOSTURA ALLOTMENT #405
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District**

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2014

The annual meeting for the Angostura Allotment was held on April 28, 2014, at the Camino Real district office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Ernesto Hurtado represented the Angostura de Caballos Cattle Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera and Tamara Malone represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permits for the Angostura Grazing permittees.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittee discussed possible drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. The Southwest Region is experiencing continued drought, so any non-use would be considered resource protection non-use. Forest Service and Permittees remain optimistic about grazing within the range of permitted numbers this year. The 2009 Environmental Assessment of grazing on the allotment took drought into consideration and included new guidelines to improve and maintain conditions.

Table 1- Permittee, Permitted and authorized kind and number.

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized number and kind
Angostura de Caballos Cattle Association	4 bulls	3 bulls
Sara and Ernesto Hurtado	67 cow/calf to 73 cow/calf	73 cow/calf
Estevan R. & Suzanne Lopez	9 cow/calf to 10 cow/calf	0 cow/calf

Table 2- Season of use

2. Season of Use	
06/01 - 9/30	(122 days)

Table 3- Pasture Rotation

3. Pasture Rotation				
Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual Use	Utilization%
Agua Sarca/Loring	07/15 - 08/30	46 days		
Lower Alamitos	07/05 - 07/15	10 days		
Upper Alamitos	07/16 - 08/10	25 days		
Dropout	08/11 - 09/10	31 days		
Lower Alamitos	09/11- 09/30	20 days		

Ernesto will graze about 25c/c and 1 bull in the Agua Sarca/ Loring pasture for the period shown above and will graze the rest of the time across the highway in the other pastures listed. Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Angostura allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed, and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions. Range improvements, i.e. fences, will be maintained prior to entry into each pasture.

4. Maintenance of Improvements

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittees going on to a particular pasture on the allotment. Range improvements for the first pasture in will be inspected at the same time as range readiness.

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2013 grazing season was a challenging one due to ongoing drought effects. Early forage production was minimal and below average, and water on the scheduled pasture was also short causing us to amend the AOI and delay the on date for the grazing season. Permittees stocked to the low end of permitted numbers and with the onset of the monsoon season, utilization levels were within guidelines in key areas and riparian areas exceeded the four inch stubble height guidelines at the end of the season.

Range monitoring by the permittees on the allotment is continuing and encouraged.

The Grazing Instructions for 2014 are the same as in 2013. Salt away from roads and streams; use herding, salt, fences, and water sources to disperse cattle across the pastures to use the available forage; avoid overuse in key areas.

Utilization guidelines for 2014 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key use areas.

The grazing fee for this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

Permittees and the Camino Real Ranger District will look at the range together to determine range readiness and on-date. On that date permittee will meet with members of the Luna Chacon grazing association to discuss fence maintenance responsibilities on shared fence boundary.

There are some programs offered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) that may provide assistance to permittees to help alleviate hardships brought on by the drought.

The Carson NF will be undergoing Forest Plan revision and so permittees are encouraged to get involved in the process. This process may take up to several years to complete and there will be several opportunities for permittees.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. The decision has been signed and is immediately. Permittees are encouraged to stay on roads which are open to the public as much as possible. Permittees stated that they need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required maintenance on fences and other range improvements, checking that gates are closed, checking on cattle health and location, and placing salt and mineral supplements. Forest Service requested that permittees stay on established roads and routes only. The District Ranger requested that ATV's and other

motorized vehicles not be driven across open meadows or other locations currently free of system roads or routes (existing two tracks recognized on the ground, but not a Forest Service system road). Trips should be minimized as well as, liberal use by others not necessary for essential range management business.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2014:

1. Loring spring fence maintenance
2. Prescribed burning.
3. Loma Linda fence maintenance

The Camino Real Ranger District will provide replacement tags as needed.

In the future some prescribed burning will be planned to occur on the allotment.

FS reminded permittees that they are responsible for calling to arrange livestock counts before on-date.

The Camino Real Ranger District would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management (either season or numbers) so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittee.

/s/Tamara S. Malone 7/2/2014
District Ranger Date