

FLECHADO ALLOTMENT #453  
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2014**

The annual meeting for the Flechado Allotment was held on May 21, 2014, at the Forest Supervisor's office in Taos, New Mexico with Herman Manzanares and Pam Maes attending. Melvin Herrera and Tamara Malone represented the Camino Real Ranger District.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for Herman Manzanares.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittees 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. Any non-use this grazing season will be considered resource protection non-use. Forest Service and the Permittee 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 management changes and several range improvements to improve and maintain conditions.

**Table 1-Permittee Permitted and Authorized kind and number**

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and kind</b>
Herman A. Manzanares	100 -131 cow/calf	70 cow/calf, 3 bulls

**Table 2- Season of use**

<b>2. Season of Use</b>	
06/1 - 9/30	(122 days)

**Table 3-Pasture Rotation Estimated time and actual use**

<b>3. Pasture Rotation Pasture</b>	<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Estimated Time</b>	<b>Actual use</b>	<b>utilization %</b>
La Jara	06/01 – 06/25	25 days		
Flechado	06/26 – 07/20	25 days		
Osha	07/21 – 08/26	37 days		
Siemental	08/27 – 09/20	25 days		
Riparian/Gathering	09/21 – 09/30	10 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Flechado 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 moving to a different pasture, and those for the entry pasture will be inspected during the range readiness monitoring. The Osha pasture will be used separately from the Flechado pasture provided the division fence is completed in Apache Pass. Otherwise pastures may be used together.

#### **4. Maintenance of Improvements**

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 permittee going on to a particular pasture within the allotment.

#### **5. Other Items of Discussion**

The 2013 grazing season was a challenging one due to severe drought conditions. Forage production throughout the allotment was below average. The permittee went on with 75 head of cattle which is lower than the lower end of the range of permitted numbers. Utilization within all pastures was within the utilization guidelines of 20-40% in key areas. Riparian stubble height was measured in riparian areas and also was within guidelines. The permittee lost 11 cows, their calves and a bull last year.

The Permittee is concerned that the Riparian fence, which maintenance is assigned to the Forest Service, is in disrepair. There is a need for maintenance and maybe even redesign to facilitate annual rotation. There are often instances of unscheduled cattle use in the Riparian pasture, which attracts the attention of concerned citizens. Gates are often left open to this pasture by the public.

Recreational users continue to cause problems with gates being left open, off road travel on closed roads, and fences being cut. Most problems are caused by ATV users. Permittee asked for spring loaded or gravity closing gates to automatically close gates in specific areas. He also requested Law Enforcement attention at those gates. He is highly concerned with the boundary fence along Angel Fire, as the private landowners have not done any maintenance. His cattle have gotten out and he has recently been cited for his cattle being in Angel Fire. He has put about \$7,000 of his own money to maintain this fence which he is not responsible for to try to address the issue. Forest Service will plan on meeting with Angel Fire community leaders, permittee and congressional leaders to try to arrive at resolution on the fence issue.

The Forest Service discussed concerns with private landowners in Valle Escondido with livestock getting onto private land. The permittee is interested in cooperating with landowners in possibly building a corral to accommodate penning of livestock if needed by private landowners in the occasion that livestock get out, and also cooperating in maintaining fence along private land for keeping their livestock on the forest.

The Secure Rural Schools funded fence construction project contract has been awarded and construction should begin this year around the North side of the Apache Subdivision, and to split the Osha pasture in half from the Angel Fire Boundary to the Tienditas boundary, in the vicinity of the Tres Hermanos Ranch.

There is an EA which was completed for construction of another segment of fence along the South side of the Apache Subdivision. The permittee will begin construction this year.

Monitoring efforts will continue this year within the elk enclosure in the riparian pasture. Permittee feels there are elk concerns within his allotment.

Wood areas thinned out south of Hwy. 64 on the Flechado pasture may entail allowing the public access in the forest to retrieve firewood. Access to gates will be monitored and used in conjunction with the AOI to lessen the impact to cattle grazing. There is a concern over gates being used and allowing livestock to

get out onto the highway. FS may be able to lock the gates or otherwise deal with the gate issue whenever the pastures will be grazed in fuelwood 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 this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

Permittee and FS will look at range together to determine range readiness and on-date.

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.

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.

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. There may also be opportunity for permittees to apply for equip funds with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to help fund range improvements such as fencing and possible water sources.

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.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2014:

1. Move drinkers further upland in both pastures from Apache Spring. This work should be completed this year.
2. Develop the water source below the Tres Hermanos Ranch near where the road crosses the new fence line that will split the Osha pasture.
3. Stock trail E of Sec. 34 private property needs to be cut out. This will occur as needed.
4. Reconstruct fence between private land and Flechado pasture to provide a division between the Flechado and Osha pastures.
5. Spring development at Palo Flechado Pass. May be able to develop and fence out the spring.
6. New trough for Siemental.
7. Remove old trough from Bull spring. Permittee will fix this old trough and reinstall.

Forest Service 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 6/2/2014  
District Ranger Date

