



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
Canjilon Ranger District

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2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)

Carson National Forest Canjilon Ranger District

Cebolla Allotment #00104

Cebolla Livestock Association

/s/ Francisco B. Sanchez
District Ranger

5/23/2014
Date

AUTHORIZATION

The Cebolla Livestock Association is permitted to graze 578 cattle from 5/16 – 10/25. Table 1, below, shows the association's authorization for grazing year 2014.

Table 1 - Permitted & Authorized Use by Permittee

Permittee	Cattle Permitted #s	Private Land Cattle #s	# Cattle Authorized for 2014	Non-Use #s
Archuleta, David	180		180	
Archuleta Brothers	40		20	20
Chacon Family	24	25	49	
Maes, Fermin	20		0	20
Rosina Martinez Trust	58		58	
Martinez Ranch Partnership	68		68	
Sanchez Trust	29		11	18
Valdez, Abel	13		0	
Valdez, Joe	25		38*	
Ulibarri, Feliberto	53		53	
Ulibarri, Ronnie	20		20	
Association Bull	23		21	2
Totals	553	25	518	60

*Joe Valdez is grazing Abel Valdez' 13 head.

**Table 2 - Association - Permitted & Authorized Use
Huckaby Management Area**

Number of Cattle Permitted	Number of Cattle Authorized	Pasture	Grazing Period
553	0	Dagget/Hart	05/16– 10/25

**Table 3 - Association - Permitted & Authorized Use
Cebolla Management Area**

Number of Cattle Permitted	Number of Cattle Authorized	Pasture	Grazing Period
389	369	Vega Paz	6/1 – 7/15
389	369	Bano	7/16 – 8/31
389	369	Del Medio	9/1 – 10/25

**Table 4 - Association - Permitted & Authorized Use
Nutrias Management Area**

Number of Cattle Permitted	Number of Cattle Authorized	Pasture	Grazing Period
189	149	Sanchez	6/1 – 7/15
189	149	Tonita	7/16 – 8/31
189	149	La Seccion	9/1 – 10/25

Your permitted on date is May 16th for the Huckaby Management Area and June 1st for the Cebolla and Nutrias Management Areas. However, before turnout of livestock on the allotment is allowed, range

readiness standards must be met. A range readiness inspection will be conducted at least one week before turnout. You will be invited to attend the inspection with the district range staff. Range readiness standards have been determined for the Carson National Forest. They include specific conditions of key species plant growth, soil moisture, water availability, and rangeland improvements.

Dry conditions may require you to remove your cattle from the forest earlier than expected. The dry conditions may cause utilization rates to be reached sooner than the planned dates. Please ensure that you help in moving the cattle. It's critical that utilization rates are maintained as a part of drought management. Movement decisions will be made in cooperation with you and based on the utilization of key forage species and key areas as outlined in the Annual Operating Instructions.

You must continue salting practices to draw the cattle away from the meadows and water sources. It is in your best interest to fully distribute your cattle throughout the entire range. We monitor at the key grazing areas and if these areas are fully used then you will be moving your cattle ahead of schedule and perhaps headed home sooner than your scheduled ending date.

The rotation schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when circumstances such as lack of water or overuse occur within the pasture. You may propose changes of pastures outside of the above rotation schedule in coordination with this office. A written justification should be submitted by the Grazing Association ten days prior to the proposed changes effective date to this office. The decision made by the District Ranger will be based upon the condition of the range, recommendations of the range staff, and the needs of the permittees.

If you decide to move your cattle off of the grazing allotment early or put on reduced numbers resulting in less head months grazed than the amount paid for, you may want to apply for a credit/refund of unused grazing fees. In order to do so, you will need to apply in writing for the credit within two weeks of incurring the credit/refund or by **November 1, 2014**, whichever comes first. This keeps the numbers accurate and allows for Ranger approval and more accurate accounting of grazing fees the following season.

All cattle should be moved off the allotment by the last day of the grazing season. The last day of the grazing season is not the day to open gates and allow cattle to drift home. Anticipate moves in advance and plan accordingly. We understand that a few cows will be hard to catch. We ask that you make a concerted effort and let us know if you have any cows left on the grazing allotment after the end of the grazing season.

ALLOWABLE USE

The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers are indicated in Table 1 thru 4 of this Annual Operating Instructions. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are met or exceeded. To achieve the desired allowable use, it is important to have proper livestock distribution. The maximum overall allowable use for the entire grazing season is:

Pinion juniper woodland and grassland – 20-40%
Ponderosa pine, aspen and mixed conifer – 20-40%

2014 ALLOTMENT OBJECTIVES

Authorized reductions in time and numbers of livestock may influence flexibility of livestock management in the deferred rotation system.

Management goal is to improve consistent communication/documentation of actual use to USFS. USFS is requesting a record of actual use, which is to be submitted to the USFS at the end of the 2014 grazing season.

Maintain or improve current range condition of the Cebolla grazing allotment by fence maintenance herding, riding, salting, and good stewardship practices.

The Cebolla permittees will allow only the numbers, kind and class of livestock on the allotment during the period specified in Table 1 hereof or the annual Bill for Collection, including any modifications made as provided for in Section 8 (c). Part 3 item 4. Permittees will notify the District Ranger at least 5 days before livestock enter National Forest Service lands.

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Cebolla Allotment. We will be checking levels of use during the grazing season. We will be visiting the allotment to ensure that utilization levels are within recommended levels. We will measure stubble heights within key areas on key grass species to determine utilization. Grazing Association directors and permittees will be invited to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while these range condition evaluations are being made. The key grass species for the Cebolla Allotment are in the following table.

Table 5 - Key Forage Species

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Utilization Guidelines	Stubble Height
Daggett, Hart, Lower Bano, Lower Sanchez, Lower Del Medio	Western Wheatgrass Blue Grama Crested Wheatgrass	20-40% For all Species	3"-5" 1.5"-3" 3"-5"
La Seccion, Tonita, Vega Paz, Upper Bano, Upper Del Medio	Arizona Fescue Kentucky Blue Mountain Muhly Oat Grasses	20-40% For all Species	4"-6" 2"-4" 4"-6" 8"-10"

MONITORING

A reminder to the permittees, both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble heights on the allotment to ensure that proper use levels are not exceeded. If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, action must be taken to limit additional forage use. We are especially concerned with use levels in riparian areas, canyon bottoms, and open meadows where cattle tend to concentrate use on palatable feed. We have identified key areas to be monitored on this allotment. The primary grass species on this allotment and approximate stubble heights associated with 20-40% use are as outlined in Table 5.

Forage use level should be monitored periodically by permittees to aid in determining when livestock should be moved between pastures. Forest Service personnel will be checking within each grazed pasture during the scheduled grazing period. If use within that key area is approaching allowable stubble heights then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns. This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

The Forest Service may conduct inspections on the grazing allotment during the on-going grazing period as time and personnel availability allows. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated.

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of existing range improvements is critical to the proper management of your allotment. In order for rotation schedules to work, all fences must be in good condition. All fences, in the pasture you will be using first, must be up and functioning and any fences your neighbor is counting on in their first pasture. Then, before you move your cattle to the next pasture, the fences in that pasture must be

maintained and in good condition prior to cattle being allowed to enter the pasture. As you know the livestock grazing program has come under the scrutiny of the public. It is important that we demonstrate the ability to manage your livestock. This means that the cattle should be in the pastures scheduled for grazing during the times they are scheduled to be there.

SPECIAL MITIGATION MEASURES

In order to conform with Amendment of Forest Plans and the final U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Biological Opinion for Ongoing Livestock Grazing Activities on Allotments" which determine a No Affect and/or May affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect on your allotment, the following conditions must be met

Forage Utilization:

Forage use by grazing animals will be maintained at or above a condition, which assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species. In order to attain this standard, the above site-specific key areas and key forage utilization standards have been developed for the Cebolla Allotment.

Mineral Supplements/Salt Blocks:

Mineral supplement/Salt block sites will be regularly rotated to reduce trampling and grazing impacts to vegetation. Cutting salt blocks in half before distributing them on the range is an easy way to avoid having to move them, as they get used before they need to be moved.