East Sand Flat

Quemado Ranger District

2014 Annual Operating Instructions

(11/06/13)

As per your Annual meeting held with Sara Marta, please see the following instructions. Please utilize these instructions as direction for management on your grazing allotment during the 2014 Grazing Season. We appreciate your cooperation in the management of your livestock throughout the 2014 grazing year.

2014 Pasture Rotation:

PASTURE	START DATE	END DATE	NUMBER	ALLOWABLE USE
Winter (Indio/Tularosa)	03/01/14	06/15/14	300	35 %
Campground	06/16/14	08/15/14	300	35 %
Twin Spring	08/16/14	09/30/14	300	35 %
Lost Cabin	10/01/14	11/15/14	300	35 %
Indio	11/16/14	01/15/15	300	35 %
Tularosa	01/16/15	02/28/15	280	35 %
Big Bull	01/16/15	2/28/15	20 (bulls)	35 %
Earl Well	Earl Well will be used as a temporary holding trap throughout the year			
Dell Buey Trap	Will be used for holding over replacement heifers.			

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply as they did in 2013 for portions within the Lost Cabin, Campground and Twin Spring pastures. A map displaying these areas was provided to you with your permit; if you need a new map please contact the District office.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in these areas from February 1 to August 31 and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed. The purpose of this restriction is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

The Decision Notice dated 09/27/05 set guidelines for allowable use rates on riparian species located in Indio Canyon at 25%. Allowable use levels for key forage species in all other areas, including browse, is 35%.

Utilization Monitoring:

Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use and determine utilization percentage at that time. Monitoring dates will be set according to the previous year's monitoring results. If pastures were approaching allowable use during the 2013 grazing season they will be monitored at the mid-point of the pasture use period to determine if it is necessary for livestock to be moved to the next pasture in the rotation. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the East Sand Flat Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2014 Monitoring Dates:

Pasture	Monitoring Date
Winter (Indio/Tularosa)	04/01/14, 05/01/14, 06/03/14
Campground	08/05/14
Twin Spring	09/16/14
Lost Cabin	10/01/14
Indio	01/06/14
Tularosa	02/17/14

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

2013 Monitoring Results:

Pasture	Date	Key Area	%Use
Winter	06/04/13	C2	9
Winter	06/04/13	C4	10
Lost Cabin	11/07/13	P4	11
Lost Cabin	11/07/13	C3	8

2013 utilization monitoring results show 0 accounts of over utilization; I appreciate your efforts in the management of your livestock to comply with utilization standards. Please continue to do so during the 2014 grazing season.

2013 MSO Monitoring Results:

Pasture	Date	PAC #	%Use
Lost Cabin	07/25/13	030609004	0
Campground	11/07/13	030609006	4
Twin Spring	07/25/13	030609009	0

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2014 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option.

Range Developments:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

Actual Use:

Actual use data provided to the District was calculated at 3527 AM's for the 2013 grazing season.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to contact Monte Topmiller or Sara Marta at (575) 773-4678.

Monte Topmiller for

JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

12/12/13
Date