

2010

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI'S)

CANJILON CREEK ALLOTMENT #00102

Pacomio and Jose Mondragon

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

CANJILON RANGER DISTRICT

/s/John P Moore III  
John P Moore III  
District Ranger

3/26/2010  
Date

# Annual Operating Instructions

## AUTHORIZATION

You are permitted to graze 759 head of sheep for the grazing season of 6/16 to 10/31; per your request, you are authorized to graze the following in 2010:

**Table 1 - Permitted & Authorized Use**

<i>Number of Sheep Permitted</i>	<i>Number of Cattle Authorized</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Grazing Period</i>
759	60	Canjilon Creek Allotment	6/20 – 10/30

As a reminder you're still permitted for sheep grazing. Until the Forest Services completes the necessary Environmental Assessment on the allotment, we cannot guarantee that you will be allowed to graze each year during this transitional period. We want the cattle scattered through out the allotment and away from the riparian areas. You can do this with a rider and you can also use salt as a tool to draw cattle away from the riparian areas and areas that are close to reaching allowable use levels.

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. It is in your best interest to fully distribute your cattle throughout the entire range. We monitor at the key 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 ending or off date you should also move your salt blocks to reduce impacts to salt grounds.

The rotation schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when such as lack of water or overuse occurs 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 permittee ten days prior to the proposed change to this office before a proposal to change the approved rotation schedule will be acted upon by the District Ranger. 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 2010, 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 grazing season and livestock numbers are listed below. Adjustments in numbers 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:

Riparian and grassland – 20-40%  
Ponderosa pine, aspen and mixed conifer – 20-40%

## **2010 ALLOTMENT OBJECTIVES**

1. Authorized reductions in time and numbers of livestock may influence flexibility of livestock management in the deferred rotation system.
2. Management goal is to improve consistent communication/documentation of actual use to USFS. USFS is requesting record of actual use, are to be submitted to the USFS at the end of the 2010 grazing season, 10/09.
3. Maintain or improve current range condition of the Canjilon Creek grazing allotment by fence maintenance herding, riding, salting, and good stewardship practices.
4. It is highly recommended that the 2010 rotation schedule follow a two herd season long grazing system.
5. The Canjilon Creek permittees will allow only the numbers, kind and class of livestock on the allotment during the period specified in Part 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 Canjilon Creek 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. This year we may establish photo points and/or measure stubble height within

key areas on key grass species to determine utilization. Permittees are invited to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while these range condition evaluations are being made. Within the Canjilon Creek Allotment the key grass species will be:

**Table 2 - Key Forage Species**

<i><b>Pasture Name</b></i>	<i><b>Key Forage Species</b></i>	<i><b>Utilization Guidelines</b></i>	<i><b>Stubble Height</b></i>
Canjilon Creek Allotment	Arizona Fescue Thurber Fescue Kentucky Blue Red Top Sedges	20-40% For all Species	6"-7" 6"-7" 2"-4" 4"-6" 3"-5"

## **MONITORING**

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height 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, actions will be taken to limit additional forage use. We are especially concerned with use levels in riparian areas and canyon bottoms where cattle tend to concentrate use on palatable feed. We have enclosed a map with 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 above.

Forage use level should be monitored periodically by permittee 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 with 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 moved 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, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated. The range readiness inspection will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. The permittees are encouraged to participate in these inspections.

## **IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance of existing range improvements is critical to the proper management of your allotment. All springs in the allotment must be in good working condition to aid in the distribution of cattle through out the allotment. 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 Canjilon Creek Allotment.

### **Mineral Supplements/Salt Blocks:**

Mineral supplement/Salt block sites will be regularly rotated to reduce trampling and grazing impacts to vegetation. Use your salt as a tool to draw the cattle away from the meadows. You must place your salt at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from water.