

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

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2010

The annual meeting for the Angostura Allotment was held on March 30, 2010, at the residence of Mrs. Sara Hurtado in Holman, New Mexico. Sara Hurtado and Ernesto Hurtado represented the Angostura de Caballos Cattle Association. Melvin Herrera and Sean Kelly 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 improving drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. Conditions for this year appear positive as seen so far this winter.

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 | 4 bulls |
| Sara and Ernesto Hurtado | 73 cow/calf | 73 cow/calf |
| Estevan R. & Suzanne Lopez | 10 cow/calf | 10 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% |
| Lower Alamitos | 06/01 - 06/10 | 10 days | | |
| Dropout | 06/11 - 07/10 | 30 days | | |
| Upper Alamitos | 07/11 - 08/10 | 31 days | | |
| Lower Alamitos | 08/11 - 08/31 | 20 days | | |
| Agua Sarca/Loring | 09/01- 09/30 | 30 days | | |

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 moving to a different 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 the allotment.

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2009 grazing season went well on the Angostura allotment. Production on the allotment was excellent last season and plants exhibited good vigor. Utilization levels were within guidelines in key areas and riparian areas exceeded the four inch stubble height guidelines.

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

The Grazing Instructions for 2010 are the same as in 2009.

Utilization guidelines for 2010 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 range together to determine range readiness and on-date.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. A decision is expected to be signed by the Forest Supervisor during this grazing season. Permittees stated that they need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required improvement maintenance and other duties such as checking that gates are closed, checking cattle distribution, monitoring, and placing of salt and mineral supplements. Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

FS mentioned that there is a planned project on FR 161 to improve the turnaround at the Alamitos trailhead this upcoming summer.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2010:

1. Rebuild corral at Alamitos.

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

NEPA has been completed on the Angostura allotment. Forest Service discussed what would be happening next and the implementation of the decision. This will include issuing new grazing permits to permittees on the allotment and doing some prescribed burning later on. The Term Grazing Permit was reviewed with permittees.

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.