

**TRAMPAS ALLOTMENT #401**  
Carson National Forest  
**Camino Real Ranger District**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2010**

The annual meeting for the Trampas Allotment was held on February 26, 2010, at the District Office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Attending were Jake and Frutoza Lopez, Raymond Chavez, Richard Maestas, Jolene McTiegue, Randy and Floyd Tafoya, and J. D. Sandoval from the Trampas Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera and Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

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

The Camino Real District and permittees discussed the recovery from drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming season. Considerable snowfall has occurred and permittees were offered full numbers if they are able. Any non-use this year again will be recorded as for personal convenience.

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

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and kind</b>
<b>Trampas Grazing Association</b>	<b>124 cow/calf, 6 bulls</b>	<b>93 cow/calf, 4 bulls</b>
Raymond M. Chavez	(7 cow/calf)	(12 cow/calf)
Melvin Cordova	(4 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Frutoza, Jake, & Edward Lopez	(25 cow/calf)	(20 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Martinez	(19 cow/calf)	(20 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Jose F. Martinez	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Viola Sanchez McTeigue Estate	(7 cow/calf)	(7 cow/calf)
Florinda M. Romero Estate	(2 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Orlando Sanchez, Jr.	(12 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Mr & Mrs. Jose D. Sandoval	(9 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Eddie Randy and Floyd Tafoya	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Irene Velarde Valdez	(4 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Elias Estevan Velarde	(7 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maestas	(10 cow/calf)	(12 cow/calf, 1 bull)

2. Season of Use  
05/1 - 9/15 (138 days)

**Table 2-Pasture Rotation**

<b>3. Pasture Rotation</b>				
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Estimated Time</b>	<b>Actual Use</b>	<b>Utilization%</b>
Lower Entrañas #4	05/1 – 05/7	7 days		
Lower Entrañas #3 and Canada Abeyta	05/8 – 05/25	17 days		
Lower Entrañas #2	05/26 – 06/08	14 days		
Lower Entrañas #1	06/09 – 06/28	20 days		
Trampas River	06/29 – 09/15	79 days		

Canada Abeyta will be used in conjunction with Lower Entrañas #3, and rotation dates are flexible depending on resource conditions through the grazing season.

**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 Discussed**

The 2009 grazing season went well. Most permittees went on ...with excellent cooperation between permittees and the District. The voluntary reduction of livestock grazed by 29 percent last season (86c/c 6 bulls), as well as a good production year, allowed for the allotment to be grazed within the allowable use levels. Distribution of livestock was good last season. Permittees did a good job of maintenance of range improvements.

Basic grazing instructions for 2010 are the same as in 2009. 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.

The Trampas allotment environmental assessment has been completed and **there are some changes** in season of use, utilization guidelines, and herbaceous cover height guidelines.

**The earlier grazing season** of 5/1 - 9/15 is in effect to take advantage of the early green up of Crested wheatgrass. Range readiness will depend on the roads drying up adequately and sufficient production of Crested wheatgrass, which would be about 6 inches average height.

**Within riparian areas:** strive to maintain an average 6 inch herbaceous cover height throughout the grazing season and 35% end of season utilization.

**Within upland meadows,** strive to maintain an average 4” herbaceous cover height throughout the grazing season to provide cover for wildlife prey base and sensitive species (voles etc). Monitoring should trigger movement of livestock seasonally and will be taken into consideration for planning next year’s grazing season. **Within non-revegetation, non-riparian areas:** strive to achieve an average 40% end of season utilization to maintain/improve the vigor of the plants.

**Within Crested Wheatgrass revegetation stands** west of the highway, utilization guidelines can be adjusted to 60% use.

Movement of livestock to meet these guidelines may be within a pasture to other key areas, or to the next scheduled pasture depending on pasture conditions.

Forage utilization will be measured in key areas.

Permittees will continue with the monitoring of their allotment in key use areas.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

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 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 should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

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

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2010:

1. Construction of gathering corral at the intersection of S.R. 76 and F.R. 155
2. Wing corral will be repaired in cooperation with Rio Chiquito permittees.
3. Spring development at Turkey plot needs new pipeline and trough.
4. Road to Trick tank #2 needs blading.
5. Trick tank construction in Canada Ancha pasture.
6. Reconstruct the Canada Abeyta pasture trick tank.
7. Install a cattle guard at the bottom of section 11 on the road coming into Canada Abeyta pasture from Truchas.
8. Identify and develop new water source between Canada de Los Alamos and La Joya.

The fence along the Trampas River boundary will be maintained as needed between the Trampas and Rio Chiquito associations to prevent cattle from mixing.

Permittees acquired a new storage tank to add to the Trick Tank #3. It is in place but still needs to be hooked up to the existing system in a way that it could store the overflow from the first storage tank.

The Camino Real Ranger District will provide tags to permittees as needed.

Permittees agreed to have members of the Rio Chiquito association utilize the Canada Ancha area, as requested, same as last year. This area has been utilized by Presciliano Sandoval and Joyce Sandoval as they have water on private land and there is no water on the pasture. Eventually when the proposed trick tank is constructed in the pasture the Trampas association will be able to use that pasture.

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.