



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
El Rito Ranger District

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2010

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIS)

ESCONDIDO ALLOTMENT # 00205

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**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

District Ranger

Date

Annual Operating Instructions (AOI's)

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions are in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael, Sandra Imler-Jacquez, and Diana Trujillo on January 12, 2010 and are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit. The authorized eartag color is "orange". The authorized use for the 2010 Grazing Season on the Escondido Allotment is as follows:

Table 1 – Permittee Information and Season of Use

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Eartag #	Remarks
	#	Season	#	Season		
Griego Ranch	71 c/c	5/23 – 10/15	71 c/c	5/23 – 10/15	1 - 71	

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Escondido Allotment. El Rito district range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest.

Nonuse applies only to animal numbers. Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (Total Nonuse), or part of the permitted numbers (Partial Nonuse). Verbal applications will not be accepted. If a permittee elects to request "total nonuse" he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

Season dates are dependant on range readiness inspections. Dates for range readiness inspections have been scheduled for May 12, 2010. You are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 am.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Escondido Allotment. The El Rito range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest. A five-day grace period will be allowed for removal of stray(s) permitted cattle from the allotment.

Compliance with New Mexico Statewide Regulations, 21.30.6 NMAC, Bovine Trichomoniasis, effective June 17, 2005, becomes a term and condition of the United States Forest Service term grazing permit. We ask that you comply with the NM State Trichomoniasis regulations.

ROTATION SCHEDULE

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (**actual dates will be based on range readiness**):

Table 2 - Rotation Schedule:

Lower Pasture	5/23 – 6/15
Upper Pasture	6/16 – 9/25
Felipito Pasture	9/26 – 10/15

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Forage utilization will be measured in predetermined key areas. We will need your assistance for locating and setting up these key areas. The Forest Service will contact the permittees later in the spring and summer to set these key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Escondido Allotment.

Monitoring will be conducted using Vegetative Utilization Monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

Utilization guidelines for the Escondido allotment are light to moderate or 20-40% use of grazable forage. Utilization will be measured at the end of the growing season in the key areas.

Riparian Stubble Heights will be maintained at four inches throughout the grazing season. When Riparian areas have been grazed down to a four inch stubble height cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

MONITORING RESULTS FROM 2009

Table 3

Pasture	Species	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
Lower	Thurber Fescue	20-40%	30-40%
Lower	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	30-40%
Felipito	Thurber Fescue	20-40%	20-40%
Felipito	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	20-40%
Upper	Western Wheatgrass	20-40%	30-40%
Upper	Sedge	20-40%	30-40%

Distribution of livestock needs to improve on the allotment as some areas are receiving little use while others are receiving excessive use. At the end of the 2009 grazing season utilization was met in areas that were monitored in the three pastures. A key grazing area is a portion of rangeland selected because of its location, grazing or browsing value, or use to serve as a monitoring and evaluation point for range condition, trend, or degree of

grazing use. Key areas reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the rangeland and guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part. The intent of monitoring in key grazing areas is to maintain good to excellent range conditions in key areas while accommodating the needs of wildlife. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock to achieve a light to moderate grazing intensity of 20-40% by weight of annual available forage in key grazing areas. It will be important in the 2010 grazing season that cattle be rotated on time and distributed evenly to prevent over grazing in these key areas. Proper fence maintenance, salt dispersal, range riding and monitoring by the permittees can greatly change the numbers for the better. Adjustments in authorized livestock and season of use could result if distribution and management of livestock results in excessive utilization.

MONITORING

Dates for range readiness inspections have been set for May 20, 2010. Other monitoring dates are tentatively scheduled for July 7, and August 13, and October 19 for “End of Season” monitoring. Monitoring dates are subject to changes due to weather, fire danger, or unforeseen circumstances. Please contact Ezequiel Rael or Estevan Gallegos with any questions regarding monitoring. Your participation is welcome and encouraged. We will be meeting at the El Rito Ranger District office at 9:30 for each of the dates.

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization standards. Once allowable use is achieved, livestock must be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment. The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture.

If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified 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. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will also be evaluated. Distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will also be evaluated. Distribution is the key to achieving proper livestock management on the allotment and to providing for the fullest use of the grazing season. Salt must be placed out of bottoms, away from water, roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

IMPROVEMENTS

The following projects have been scheduled for implementation:

- Two earthen tanks – pending funding.
- 60’x60’ pipe corral – pending funding.

It is important that you inspect and maintain the assigned fences and water developments in the “*entry pasture*” to a good functioning condition prior to the entry date. All other pasture fences and waters must be maintained prior to livestock movement into the next

scheduled pasture(s).

In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify the range personnel so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts while you are maintaining your fences on your allotment, you can get authorization to cut these materials by obtaining a Free Use Permit from the range personnel at the El Rito office.

TRESPASS AND UNAUTHORIZED USE

Notify the El Rito Ranger District of any known violation. Grazing permit holders who put on more livestock than authorized will be served with a notice of non-compliance, charged an unauthorized grazing fee, and face possible suspension/cancellation of all or part of their permit. Permittees are encouraged to report all trespass to the District range personnel.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

Direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOI.

An Environmental Assessment for the Escondido allotment was completed in 2007. An Allotment Management Plan was also completed in 2007 and provides management direction for the allotment.

Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

**ACTUAL USE INFORMATION
ESCONDIDO ALLOTMENT
2010 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on Off	Date	Date on Off	Date	
Lower		5/23	6/15			
Upper		6/16	9/25			
Felipito		9/27	10/15			

Number of Head counted on: _____.

Number of head lost: _____.

Additional Comments:

Table 1

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

