

**3-10-2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
JAWBONE ALLOTMENT 649  
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

**I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES**

The Jawbone Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on March 19, 2010 at Tres Piedras Ranger District from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Jawbone attending permittees were, Jake Vigil, Thomas Greigo and Arturo Valdez. Forest Service representatives were Wayne Yonemoto, Anna Dominguez, and Estevan Gallegos.

The Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made part of the Term Grazing Permit. Carson Forest Annual Operating Instructions are posted on the Carson Forest Web site. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson>, located under, Natural resources, Range, District, Allotment. Annual Operating Instructions contain items that are guidance criteria addressing proper use of the Jawbone allotment. Permittees were advised to review terms and conditions stated on their permits. NEPA decision was completed 9-30-2008 for Jawbone allotment.

**II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

**A. WEATHER**

2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest will be referred to during 2009 grazing season. The plan stresses communication, permittee involvement, monitoring, range administration, and reference to the Standard Precipitation Index addressing adaptive management during near normal, drought and drought recovery conditions. Permittees are recommended to have a drought contingency plan.

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) will be used to define drought conditions following the 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. SPI values are available from the Western Regional Climate Center at [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu). The following are indicators in determining drought conditions. Conditions will be determined by the size of the negative number, the larger the negative number, the more severe the drought. Example: SPI values of -0.70 or less for the past month signal drought conditions. SPI values of positive 1.0 or more for the past 12 months signal the end of drought. The following are the 1 and 12 month SPI through the end of February 2008.

1-month SPI through the end of February 2010 is -0.75 to +1.24 (moderately wet)

12-month SPI through the end of February 2010 is -0.74 to 0.74 (near normal conditions)

2010 spring and summer precipitation patterns will determine adaptive management actions with the objective to maintain/improve forage resources.

Weather conditions influence insect infestations of Mormon crickets. Livestock rotation is adjusted in response to insect infestations/densities in Hopewell and La Manga pastures addressing resource protection.

Weather conditions influence Forest fire occurrence and permittees are recommended to have a fire contingency plan for livestock management.

**Report wildfires to:** Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (505) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208 or (505) 758-6209.

#### **B. Review of Jawbone 2009 grazing season**

Jawbone AOI and spreadsheet are adaptive management references to compile and summarize chronological conditions during the grazing season. Completion of the spreadsheet identifies management objectives for the following grazing season.

On 3-27-2009 Jawbone permittees agreed to 40% reduction in c/c, 87% reduction in e/l, a total of 61% in AUM's. Jawbone permittees reported livestock numbers to update actual use with slight reduction in e/l but remaining a 61% reduction in AUM.

Prior to June 16 elk intensity occurred in areas of more abundant forage production—South facing slopes—Hopewell pastures. The 2010 spreadsheet has been amended to consider elk intensity prior to livestock entry which influences opportunity for forage re-growth, production, vigor and end of season ungulate utilization standards.

Sheep entered Gavilan but within a week moved to Hopewell following the deferred management objective. Cattle remained on the north side of HWY 64 allowing maximum rest for the Hopewell pasture. Jawbone cattle permittees employed a rider for 95% of the season maintaining 90% clean out of the two pasture rotation, excessive use by Tio Grande allotment occurred in La Manga pasture due to private and boundary fence conditions.

Permittees received fence materials from USFS to maintain interior fence between Broke off and La Manga/Gavilan.

Tally of boundary/interior fences and watering points are made part of the annual analysis so that fence responsibility by individual permittee can be completed addressing 10% of deferred maintenance per year. Heavy maintenance of 3.7 miles of boundary fence or 2 watering points would roughly equate to 10%. 2010 Permittees management objective is to identify maintenance responsibility recorded on the deferred maintenance list.

Estimated ungulate frequency of defoliations averaged was two by wild and domestic ungulates. 2009 spring was cooler but moisture allowed increased production at the end of the year resulting in moderate-high production and estimated to be within the 20-40% utilization standard in all the pastures at the end of the growing season.

2009 Jawbone allotment has been voluntary taking reduction contributing to higher conservative use to the allotment. It is estimated that permittees will continue to take reductions in 2010. Assigned deferred maintenance continues addressing livestock management of adjacent allotments. Identifying specific permittee deferred maintenance responsibility is a 2010 priority as well as heavy maintenance on ¼ mile of boundary fence.

### **70% of the identified objectives should be met in 2010**

1. Forest Service Manual states: Livestock counting: The permittee will notify the District Ranger before livestock enter the National Forest System. If requested by the District Ranger, the permittee will present the livestock for counting prior to entry, and at any time thereafter during the permitted season. AOI will document livestock entry date and number of c/c and bulls, to complete actual use records. Tres Piedras Ranger District messaging system is 575-7588678, extension 78113, or 78116.
2. Follow deferred rest rotation in all pastures. Resource conditions will determine if Hopewell or Broke Off will be the entering pasture. Herd management of 90% of the grazing season to ensure that 90% of the authorized livestock are contained within the designated pasture, complying with range of authorized use, and 40% utilization standard at the end of the grazing season. Strategically place salt addressing distribution of livestock.
3. Evaluate elk intensity especially in Hopewell pasture since this pasture has the highest ratio of South facing slopes influencing early utilization.
4. Evaluation of Mormon crickets to adjust herd management or schedule in Hopewell and La Manga pastures.
5. Range improvement maintenance is priority over new construction, all maintenance using heavy equipment require District Rangers approval. Jawbone assigned maintenance responsibilities need to be identified by individual permittee on the working deferred maintenance list which will be mailed with the 2010 AOI. Completion of 10% of deferred maintenance is 2010 objective, this would equate to heavy maintenance of 3.7 miles of boundary fence or 2 watering points—Rincon tank, La Manga Spring.
6. Completion of the 2010 Evaluation Analysis worksheet at the end of the 2010 grazing season to evaluate management.

#### **C. 2010 Range Readiness**

2010 range readiness inspection is scheduled for 6/9/10 at 9:00 A.M. at Tres Piedras District Office. Please make every effort to attend and evaluate range conditions to estimate adaptive management adjustments.

#### **D. 2010 Grazing Fee and Annual Authorized Use Request**

The livestock grazing fee for grazing year 2010 is \$1.35 c/c and \$.27 e/l on National Forests. 2010 unauthorized use of National Forests is \$2.24 for livestock and \$.45 for sheep and goats.

The 2010 authorized livestock and grazing season are no guarantee that grazing can occur for the tentative rotation. Low resource conditions may require alterations in rotations or removal of livestock from the allotment.

**Table 1-Jawbone 2010 permitted/authorized data/Actual data. HM and AUM formula is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) =HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for 1000 lb cow/calf, .3 is the coefficient or e/l) =AUM.**

<b>Total c/c and e/l Permitted livestock, 3796-4747 HM 2084-2607 AUM</b>	<b>2010 Authorized season, 6/16-9/30, 107 days, with 204 c/c (717 HM/946 AUM) 39% reduction in c/c, 61% reduction in e/l, (47% reduction in AUM)</b>	<b>2010 Actual season, days, numbers, and HM/AUM</b>
<i>Greigo Ranches 100-125 c/c 6/16-9/30, 107 days 351-440 HM 463-581 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c =120 c/c, 107 days, 422 HM, 557 AUM</i>	
<i>Wayne Garcia 67-84 c/c 6/16-9/30, 107 days 235-295 HM 311- 389 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c=84 c/c, 107 days, 295 HM, 389 AUM</i>	
<i>Jake Vigil 97-121 c/c 6/16-9/30, 107 days 341- 426 HM 450- 562 AUM</i>	<i>Non-use</i>	
<b>Total Permitted cattle 264-330 6/16-9/30, 107 days 928- 1161 HM 1225-1532 AUM</b>	<i>204 c/c, 107 days, 717 HM, 946 AUM, 39%</i>	
<i>Arturo Valdez 576- 720 e/l 7/1-9/30, 92 days 1742- 2,178 HM 522- 653 AUM</i>	<i>Non-use</i>	
<i>Lonell, Leon in c/o Leona Crowther 445-556 7/1-9/15, 77 days, 1,126- 1,408 HM 337-422 AUM</i>	<i>556 e/l 7/1-9/15, 25 days, 1408 HM, 422 AUM, 0% reduction</i>	
<b>Total e/l permitted 2868- 3586 HM 859- 1075 AUM</b>	<i>556 e/l, 7/1-9/15, 25 days, 1408 HM, 422 AUM, 61% reduction in HM and AUM e/l</i>	
<b>Total permitted livestock 3796-4747 HM 2084-2607 AUM</b>	<i>2125 HM, 1368 AUM, 56% reduction in HM, 48% reduction in AUM</i>	

**E. Tentative Rotation Schedule**

All allotment rotation plans are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as lack of water, low forage production and insect infestations. Range Readiness inspection will confirm availability of water and adjust 2010 tentative rotation schedule if needed. The pastures currently have minimum-goal-maximum days, HM and AUM. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock addressing utilization standard of 40% of annual production.

**Table 2-2010 Jawbone Pasture rotation. HM and AUM formula is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month)=HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for 1000 lb cow/calf, .3 is the coefficient or e/l) =AUM.**

<i>Tentative rotation of pastures</i>	<i>Range of days and estimated carrying capacity</i>	<i>2010 Authorized 6/16-9/30, 107 days, with 204 c/c (717 HM/946 AUM) 39% reduction in c/c, 61% reduction in e/l, (48% reduction in AUM) Min-GOAL-Max Tentative scheduled days HM AUM</i>	<i>2010 Actual use</i>	<i>Livestock herding days per pasture</i>	<i>Number of salt blocks</i>
<i>La Manga</i>	<i>20---40 X--- 1136 HM</i>	<i>7/26-9/3, 204 c/c 20---40--50 days 130-268--327 HM 171-353--431 AUM</i>			
<i>Gavilan</i>	<i>10-20 X----668 HM</i>	<i>9/4-9/24, 204 c/c 10--15--21 days 67--100-140 HM 88--132--185 AUM</i>			
<i>Broke off</i>	<i>30---60 days X----1403 HM</i>	<i>6/16-7/25, 204 c/c, 30--40--50 days 201-268-335 HM 265-353-442 AUM</i>			
<i>Hopewell</i>	<i>40---90 days X---1509 HM</i>	<i>7/1-9/15, 556 e/l 25---40---77 days 456-731--1407 HM 137-219-422 AUM  9/25-9/30, 204 c/c Trailing -6 days 7---40 HM 9---52 AUM</i>			

**F. Monitoring references and Utilization standards**

The following list describes priority monitoring data of the Jawbone allotment addressing proper use.

1. 2010 Jawbone evaluation analysis worksheet
2. 2010 Jawbone AOI, SPI, Water availability, Range readiness stubble heights, estimated elk utilization prior to livestock entry date, actual use, production/vigor of forage.
3. 2010 working deferred maintenance list
4. Production cages, Parker, and permittee key areas reviewed with methods listed on the Tres Piedras Monitoring

**Estimated ocular utilization descriptions are for permittee reference at the end of the growing season. Descriptions are obtained from the “Utilization study Data-Ocular Estimated Method, key herbaceous species, Form R3-2200-OEH.” Reference to cages will calibrate % utilization estimation.**

1. **0-5% utilization**, Rangeland shows no evidence of grazing use: or rangeland has appearance of negligible grazing.
2. **6-20% utilization**, Rangeland has appearance of very slight grazing. Key herbaceous forage plants may be topped or slightly used. Current seed stalks and young plants of key herbaceous species are little disturbed.
3. **21-40% utilization**, Rangeland may be topped, skimmed or grazed in patches. Low value herbaceous plants are ungrazed and 60-80% of the current seed stalks of key herbaceous species remain intact. Most young plants are undamaged.
4. **41-60% utilization**, rangeland appears entirely covered as uniformly as natural features and facilities will allow. 15-25% of the current seed stalks of key herbaceous species remain intact. No more than 10% of the low value herbaceous forage plants are utilized (Moderate use does not imply proper use)
5. **61-70% utilization**, Rangeland has appearance of complete use. Key herbaceous species are almost completely utilized with less than 10% of the current seed stalks remaining. Shoots of rhizomatous grasses are missing. More than 10% of low value herbaceous forage plants have been utilized.
6. **81-100% utilization**, Rangeland has mown appearance and there are indications of repeated coverage. There is no evidence of reproduction or current seed stalks of key herbaceous species. Key herbaceous forage species are completely utilized. Remaining stubble of preferred grasses is grazed to soil surface.

**Table 3-Jawbone key species requirements**

<b>Key areas</b>	<b>Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures</b>	<b>Range Readiness 6/9/10</b>	<b>Range readiness estimated production/vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</b>	<b>End of season utilization 10/16/10</b>	<b>Estimated production/vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</b>
7/26-9/3, 9/4-9/24	La Manga/Gavilan c/c				
Cage	Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open				

<i>Parker</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<b>6/16-7/25</b>	<b>Broke off c/c</b>				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<b>7/1-9/15</b>	<b>Hopewell -e/l</b>				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12" + heading out Arizona fescue 8" + heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				

Utilization is not to exceed 40% of annual forage production at the end of the year. Riparian utilization standard is 4" stubble height of the annual available forage. Through the completion of NEPA, maps will be updated for future reference to riparian areas on the Jawbone allotment.

### III. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Deferred maintenance assigned in your Term Grazing Permit requires annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture. Maintenance of existing deferred maintenance is priority over new construction, new construction or reconstruction must have the approval of the District Ranger. Deferred maintenance priorities are allotment boundary fences

maintained prior to livestock entry into a pasture or neighboring allotment pasture. Interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture

The cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent material. Additional technical maintenance information and specification guides can be found on the Natural Resource Conservation Service web site at:

<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/intro3.html>

When allotments are in non-use, permittees are responsible for maintenance of allotment improvements referred to in the deferred maintenance list. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger.

The working deferred maintenance list has been completed as a management tool addressing the following management objectives:

- Update/correct corporate data to produce accurate new maps
- Update/correct I-web data base reference numbers for future merge with Arc-GIS, NEPA process
- Organize data by pasture addressing communication with permittees
- Reference to pasture attributes, (boundary and interior fences, dirt tanks, trick tanks, springs, cattleguards, and corrals) are organized according to type. Organization of attributes identifies maintenance prioritization
- Document maintenance responsibility
- Develop maintenance strategies with seasonal conditions. For example, in dry seasons prioritizing critical dirt tanks that need to be cleaned out

The deferred maintenance list is referenced to document travel management and prioritize annual maintenance which are listed on the AOI in project status section below.

**A. 2009 Project Status**

Permittees continued maintenance of boundary fences address excessive use  
Permittees maintenance of springs to ensure water during drought  
Design proposed catch pen in Gavilan area for gathering and pushing across HWY 64 to corral  
Design spillway repair/reconstruction and clean out of Rincon Negro dirt tank  
Recreation fence around Hopewell lake needs to be completed and maintained

**B. 2010 Project Status**

Permittees continued maintenance of boundary fences address excessive use  
Permittees maintenance of springs to ensure water during drought  
Design proposed catch pen in Gavilan area for gathering and pushing across HWY 64 to corral  
Design spillway repair/reconstruction and clean out of Rincon Negro dirt tank  
Recreation fence around Hopewell lake needs to be completed and maintained

### C. **Travel Management Rule**

Travel Management Plan was discussed in 2007, 2008,2009 and continues into 2010. The travel management rule requires each Ranger District to designate those roads, trails and areas open to motor vehicle use. On November 2, 2005, the Forest Service announced final management regulations governing OHV's and other motor vehicle use on National Forests and Grasslands. On June 8, 2006, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth approved the agency's schedule for implementation of the travel management rule. "The schedule will guide local efforts through 2010 to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be part of allotment planning in the future. More information is available on the Carson NF web page at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/Carson/recreation/travel\\_mgmt/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/Carson/recreation/travel_mgmt/index.shtml)

Permittees can provide comments to USFS regarding:

- Roads or motorized trail that you would like to see remain open as part of the designated system
- Roads or motorized trail that you would like to see closed
- Access routes you believe are necessary to access range improvements and descriptions of how you have been accessing these improvements
- Roads or motorized trails you would like to see closed to the public but where you could retain adequate access for range operations and maintenance of your range-related facilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
BENJAMIN ROMERO  
District Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachment: Appendix

## Appendix

### Grazing Permittee Instructions for Sheep Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District

1. Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season.
2. Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted.
3. A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.
4. Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit.
5. The Annual operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

### Management on the Range

1. The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan.
2. Use the open herding system of handling sheep for better effect on the range and the sheep. The herder should hold the lead sheep instead of pushing the rear, and train the sheep to spread out and graze contentedly, instead of following the natural tendency of certain leaders in the band to move ahead too rapidly. Practice the open herding system of grazing in order to minimize the trailing and driving directly to and from water sources. Trailing and bunching the sheep should be avoided as much as possible. The herder would bed the sheep in a different location each night, except under exceptional circumstances, and never bed the sheep at camp (which is moved ever 7 days). Reusing the bed grounds contributes to the spread of disease and parasites. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary between 20% and 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.
3. Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Sheep should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage.
4. When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger.

## **Camp Operation**

1. Move camps at least every 7 days. Locate camps to avoid contaminating water supplies. Remove trash and garbage. Leave the camp site clean and use good sanitation practices. Bury all human waste and locate latrines at least 100 feet from surface water.

## **The Herder**

1. The herder will be expected to deal with unexpected emergencies and make day to day decisions. The herder should report conditions and observations that are vital to the sheep operation. The herder must know the allotment boundary and various property boundaries within the allotment in order to avoid unauthorized use or excess use. When applicable, information on adjoining bands of sheep and their routing/bedding will be shared with permittees and their herders.

## **Salting**

1. Salt must be placed in each pasture prior to cattle entering the pasture. Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, spring, earthen dam stock tanks and other sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line instead of the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

## **Range improvement projects**

1. Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.
2. Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent material. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.
3. All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after livestock leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.
4. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger. During the AOI meeting and throughout the year suggestions for proposed projects are accepted.

## **Special Attention Items**

1. Written authorization from the District Ranger is required for vehicle travel in road closure areas. All cross-country travel where allowed must not cause ruts or down-cutting in the soil surface. Cross-country vehicular travel when the ground is wet is prohibited. This written authorization is only for vehicle travel necessary for your livestock operation on you allotment. Prudent use of this authority is asked when and where general public use is concentrated. All permittees are encouraged to stay off roadways closed to vehicular travel during hunting seasons.

2. All temporary camps and corrals made or used by permittees or their riders will be cleaned up (left in a sanitary condition) and all materials/trash will be removed from the sites. Temporary camp/corral locations should be discussed with the FS prior to setting up the camp.
3. Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or stock will be allowed.
4. Ear tags will be provided initially to new permittees on allotments that are tagged. After initial allocation of tags, 10 percent will be provided per grazing season.
5. Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year).
6. Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.

**Report wildfires to: Tres Piedras ranger station at (505 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208 or (505) 758 6209.**

If you have any questions please contact the Tres Piedras Ranger District office.

## Appendix

### Grazing Permittee Instructions for Cattle Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District

1. Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season.
2. Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted.
3. A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.
4. Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit.
5. The Annual operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

#### Management on the Range

1. The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan.
2. Obtaining the best distribution of cattle on mountain ranges is made difficult because of their natural tendency to gather in openings, watering sites, drainages, riparian areas and meadows. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary between 20% to 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.
3. Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Frequent movement of salt within slight to light use areas is required to improve the pattern of use. Cattle should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage.
4. When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger. All cattle on the allotment would be handled as one herd. Moves between pastures may be handled as drifting moves where gates to the next successive pasture may be opened 2 days before the agreed scheduled move date. The exit pasture that the cattle are leaving must be cleaned-out within 3 days after the scheduled date for moving.

#### Salting

1. Salt must be placed in each pasture prior to cattle entering the pasture. Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, spring, earthen dam stock tanks and other sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line instead of the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

## **Range improvement projects**

1. Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.
2. Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent material. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.
3. All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after cattle leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.
4. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger. During the AOI meeting and throughout the year suggestions for proposed projects are accepted.

## **Special Attention Items**

1. Written authorization from the District Ranger is required for vehicle travel in road closure areas. All cross-country travel where allowed must not cause ruts or down-cutting in the soil surface. Cross-country vehicular travel when the ground is wet is prohibited. This written authorization is only for vehicle travel necessary for your livestock operation on you allotment. Prudent use of this authority is asked when and where general public use is concentrated. All permittees are encouraged to stay off roadways closed to vehicular travel during hunting seasons.
2. All temporary camps and corrals made or used by permittees or their riders will be cleaned up (left in a sanitary condition) and all materials/trash will be removed from the sites. Temporary camp/corral locations should be discussed with the FS prior to setting up the camp.
3. Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or other unreadable stock will be allowed.
4. Ear tags ill be provided initially to new permittees on allotments that are tagged. After initial allocation of tags, 10 percent will be provided per grazing season.
5. Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year).
6. Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.

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