

**2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
TUSAS ALLOTMENT 622
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES

The Tusas Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on February 25, 2010 at Conejos Peak Ranger District from 1:00-4:00. Tusas attending permittees were Lloyd Reynolds, Rick Reynolds, Carl Smith, Michael Ouellette, Dale Sowards, and Dennis Moeller, and Ernest Sanchez. Forest Service representatives were Benjamin Romero, 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>, Natural resources, Range, District, Allotment. Annual Operating Instructions contain items that are guidance criteria addressing proper use of the Tusas allotment. Permittees were advised to review terms and conditions stated on their permits. NEPA for the Tusas Allotment is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

A. Weather Report

2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest will be referred to during 2010 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. We recommend that the permittees 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. 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 January 2010.

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

12-month SPI through the end of January 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 (proper use).

Weather conditions influence Forest fire occurrence and it is recommended that permittees 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 Tusas 2009 grazing season

Tusas 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 each pasture for the following grazing season.

On March 4, 2009 Tusas agreed to 12% reduction in livestock numbers and 5 day delay entry date resulting in a 3% reduction in the grazing season, total authorized reduction was 15% in HM. Tusas permittees reported livestock numbers and staggered herd entry that resulted in an additional 2% reduction totaling 17% in 2009 grazing season; credits for three permittees were completed.

Prior to May 24 high elk intensity occurred in opening pastures (all pastures East of Tusas ridge). The 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 utilization standards.

Tentative rotation schedule was adjusted by 14 days in response to resource conditions days and within the range of HM. The Tusas rider managed livestock 90% of the grazing season with 90% clean out of all nine pastures. Salt was strategically distributed to manage livestock within the allotment. Tusas permittees' boundary and interior fences were maintained with no excessive use reported.

Non-functional tanks were removed from Moeller and Biscarra springs. Posito spring heavy maintenance will be carried over to 2010.

Installation of heavy duty fence and gate on private crossing lane between Buckhorn and Posito was installed to improve livestock distribution.

Tentative location of rider camp was identified by the Biscarra/Deer Trail underpass by FR 133. Feeding and watering specifications will need to be completed in the future if this location is identified as a rider camp.

Relocation of sections of interior fence for Barela/Martinez and West/East Wheatgrass and cattle guard were reviewed and considered for future projects.

Tally of boundary/interior fences and watering points were completed addressing prioritization of 10% of deferred maintenance in future grazing seasons.

Estimated ungulate frequency of defoliations average was two throughout the allotment. Light to moderate intensity by all ungulates was estimated at the end of the growing season. 2009 spring was wet and conditions dried up later in the growing season resulting in moderate to average production, referencing the low seed production on Arizona fescue and Kentucky blue grass. All pastures were estimated to meet the 20-40% utilization standard throughout the allotment.

2010 Tusas authorized livestock recommendations based on 2009 grazing season review. Considering 2009 17% livestock reduction, growing season, estimated ungulate intensity, forage production, utilization standards and conservative stocking rate, USFS Range Specialist recommended a continued 12% reduction in authorized livestock numbers and a 7 day delay entry.

Actual use data from 1996-2009 was referenced supporting recommendation. Tusas Actual use data reflected that additional reduction usually occurs in response to resource conditions and staggered herd entry in the range of 3+%. USFS and permittees considered past management pattern and came to an agreement of 2010 authorization of 10% reduction in livestock numbers and full season with the understanding that range readiness and staggered herd entry will probably contribute to an additional 3+% reduction.

Range readiness conditions will consider livestock entry date following a complete one herd deferred rest rotation in a counter clock wise pattern within the estimated ranges of days of each pasture, and 20-40% utilization standard.

70% of the identified objectives should be met in 2010

1. Permittee USFS notification of allotment entry date and numbers is needed to allow opportunity for livestock counting. 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. Modification to AOI authorized livestock should document livestock entry date and number of cow/calves and bulls, to complete actual use records. **A Tres Piedras messaging system to report actual use is 575-758-8678, extension 78113, or 78116.**
2. Avoid splitting the herd. Only under moderately-dry conditions with significant herd reductions (20%) will a split herd be authorized by District Ranger. Herd management of 90% of the grazing season to ensure that 90% of authorized livestock are contained within the designated pastures and complying with range of authorized use and 40% utilization standard. Strategically place salt addressing distribution of livestock especially in Deer Trail. Deer Trail management objective is to herd livestock to the west end of the pasture.
3. Estimate Elk intensity documented on the evaluation spreadsheet to reference in livestock adaptable management.
4. Evaluation of Mormon crickets to adjust herd management or schedule in Buckhorn, (especially Placer Creek). Daily move livestock away from watering point on Placer Creek.
5. Report wild horse observance to range staff.
6. Range improvements maintenance is priority over new construction, all maintenance using heavy equipment require District Rangers approval. Tusas 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 maintenance of 3 springs, Posito, Biscarra, Burned Mountain, and ¼ mile of heavy maintenance on Jawbone or Spring Creek allotment boundary fence.
7. Completion and submission of 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 5/7/10 at 10:00 A.M. at Wheatgrass corral. Please make every effort to attend and discuss livestock entry date schedule and proposed HM reduction if any.

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. Resource conditions may require alterations in rotations or possible early off date.

Table 1-Tusas 2010 permitted/authorized date/Actual date. 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) =AUM.

<i>Permitted season 5/17-10/16, 153 days, 1115 c/c, 5608 HM, 7402 AUM.</i>	<i>2010 Authorized 10% reduction in numbers with full season 5/17-10/16, 153 days, 5051 HM 6619 AUM.</i>	<i>2010 reported /counted on majority X-X-XX By XXXXXX Xx c/c X bulls Wheatgrass</i>
<i>Jerry Duran 37 c/c, 186 HM, 232 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c = 33 c/c, 166 HM, 219 AUM</i>	
<i>Dennis Moeller 111 c/c, 588 HM, 776 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c = 100 c/c, 503 HM, 664 AUM</i>	
<i>Lloyd Reynolds 242 c/c, 1217 HM, 1606 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c = 218 c/c, 1097HM, 1448 AUM</i>	
<i>Reynolds Ranch 194 c/c, 976 HM, 1,288 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c =175 c/c, 880 HM, 1116 AUM</i>	
<i>George Smith 170 c/c, 855 HM, 1,111 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c =153 c/c, 770 HM, 1016 AUM</i>	
<i>Dale Sowards 80 c/c, 402 HM, 531 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c =72 c/c, 362 HM, 477 AUM</i>	
<i>Elwin and Lena Sowards 183 c/c, 921 HM, 1,216 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c =165 c/c, 830 HM, 1095 AUM</i>	
<i>Ernest Sanchez 98 c/c, 493 HM, 651 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c =88 c/c 443 HM, 584 AUM</i>	
Total	<i>1004 c/c, 5051 HM, 6619AUM</i>	

E. Tentative Rotation Schedule

All allotment rotation plans are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as lack of water or low forage production. Range Readiness inspection will confirm availability of water and adjust 2010 tentative rotation schedule if needed. The pastures currently have

tentative dates with authorized minimum-**goal**-maximum days, HM and AUM. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock addressing utilization standard of 20- 40% of annual production. Elk intensity monitoring is recommended so that adjustments to rotation can be made addressing resource protection.

Table 2-2010 Tusas 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) =AUM. AUM and HM are used as a scale of reference.

<i>Pastures</i>	<i>Permitted 5/17-10/16, 153 days, 1115 c/c (5609 HM, 7404 AUM) Minimum-goal-maximum days HM AUM</i>	<i>2010 Authorized 10% reduction in numbers with full season 5/17-10/16, 153 days, 5051 HM 6619 AUM Minimum-goal-maximum days HM AUM</i>	<i>2010 Actual use</i>
<i>E. Wheatgrass</i>	<i>Trailing—2---7 days 36---73---257 HM 48---96---339 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 5/17-5/18 Trailing-2---7 days 33---66---231 HM 43---87---304 AUM</i>	
<i>Coyote</i>	<i>5--7--10 days 183--257--367 HM 241--339--484 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 5/19-5/25 5--7--10 days 165--231---330 HM 217--304---435 AUM</i>	
<i>Martinez</i>	<i>7---14---21 days 256--513--769 HM 338--677--1015 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 5/26-6/4 7---10---21 days 226--330--693 HM 298---435---914 AUM</i>	
<i>Biscarra</i>	<i>5---7---10 days 183--257--367 HM 241--339--484 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 6/5-6/14 5---7---10 days 165--231--330 HM 217--304--435 AUM</i>	
<i>Deer Trail</i>	<i>34--35--40--50 days 1246--1283--1466--1833 HM 1645--1694--1935--2419 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 6/15-7/23 34---39--50 days 1122---1287--1650 HM 1481---1699--2178 AUM</i>	
<i>Buckhorn</i>	<i>20--25--30 days 733--916--1100 HM 968--1209--1452 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 7/24-8/22 20--25--30 days 660--825--990 HM 871--1089---1307 AUM</i>	
<i>Posito</i>	<i>10--15---25 days 367--550--916 HM 484--726--1209 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 8/23-9/6 10--15---25 days 330--495--825 HM 435---653---1089 AUM</i>	
<i>Barela</i>	<i>20--30--40 days 733--1100--1283 HM 968--1452--1283 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 9/7-10/6 20--30--40 days 660---990---1320 HM 871---1307---1742 AUM</i>	
<i>W. Wheatgrass</i>	<i>Trailing----5---9---11 days 36--183---330---403 HM 48---241---435---531 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 10/7-10/15 Trailing----5---9---11 days 33---165---297---363 HM 43---217---392---479 AUM</i>	

<i>E. Wheatgrass</i>	<i>Trailing—2---7 days 36---73---257 HM 48---96---339 AUM</i>	<i>Tentative 10/15-10/16 Trailing-2---7 days 32---65---226 HM 42---86---298 AUM</i>	
	<i>Permitted 5/17-10/16, 153 days, 1115 c/c (5609 HM, 7404 AUM)</i>	<i>2010 Authorized 10% reduction in numbers with full season 5/17-10/16, 153 days, 5051 HM 6619 AUM</i>	

F. Monitoring references and Utilization standards

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

1. 2010 Tusas AOI, Evaluation analysis worksheet and actual use.
2. 2010 Tusas Working deferred maintenance list
3. Tusas production cages, Parkers, and permittee key areas, reviewed with methods listed on the Tres Piedras Monitoring Plan

Estimated ocular utilization descriptions for permittee reference at the end of the year. Descriptions are obtained from the “Utilization study Data-Ocular Estimate 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. **61-80% 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.

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. The few riparian areas identified in Tusas have been intermittent in the past near normal precipitation years influencing the 4” standard stubble height. Updated maps specifying riparian areas are necessary for herd management and monitoring.

Table 3-Tusas key species stubble heights reference

Key areas	Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures	Range readiness 5/7/10	Range readiness estimated production /vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1	End of season Utilization	Estimated production/ vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1
5/17-5/18, 2 days	East Wheatgrass				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested wheatgrass 6+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>	<i>5” 5” .5”</i>			
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested wheatgrass 6+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested wheatgrass 6+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>				
5/19-5/25, 7 days	Coyote				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>				
5/26-6/4, 10 days	Martinez				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>				

<i>Parker</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
<i>Permittee</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
6/5-6/14, 10 days	<u>Biscarra</u>				
<i>Cage</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
<i>Parker</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
<i>Permittee</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
6/15-7/23, 39 days	<u>Deer Trail</u>				
<i>Cage</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
<i>Parker</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
<i>Permittee</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Blue gramma 1.5” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				
7/24-8/22, 30 days	<u>Buckhorn</u>				
<i>Cage</i>	Arizona fescue 8+” Mountain Muhly 6+” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle				

<i>Parker</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
8/23-9/6, 15 days	Posito				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Parry Danthonia</i> full bloom <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Parry Danthonia</i> full bloom <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Parry Danthonia</i> full bloom <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
9/7-10/6, 30 days,	Barela				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Western wheatgrass</i> 6-8” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Western wheatgrass</i> 6-8” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Western wheatgrass</i> 6-8” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5” <i>Mountain Muhly</i> 6+” <i>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle				
10/7-10/15, 9 days	West Wheatgrass				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Western wheatgrass</i> 6-8” <i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				

<i>Parker</i>	<i>Western wheatgrass 6-8"</i> <i>Arizona fescue 8+"</i> <i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+"</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5"</i>				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Western wheatgrass 6-8"</i> <i>Arizona fescue 8+"</i> <i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+"</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5"</i>				
10/15-10/16, trailing	<i>East Wheatgrass</i>				

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 permit deferred maintenance list or working deferred maintenance list.

The working deferred maintenance list will be mailed to the permittees with the 2010 AOI for completion of individual permittee responsibility. 2009 priorities not completed have been carried over to 2010 as listed below.

A. 2009 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- Permittees responsible boundary fence maintenance, especially: Tusas Deer Trail boundary with Spring Creek. Tusas Posito and Jawbone prior to June 16. USFS needs to complete an inspection, of high maintenance completed on Jawbone Tusas Hopewell fence. *USFS did not review fence, no issues were reported.*
- Permittees top priority is reconstruction design of Tusas-Jawbone boundary fence approximately 2 miles. Jawbone responsibility----design. *This project is incomplete and carried to 2010.*
- Clean up Biscarra and Moeller eroded tanks that are not in use. *Permittees removed old tanks.*
- USFS, road maintenance for ungulate management. *USFS Maintained FR 576, and 91B.*
- Continued monitoring for future management proposals throughout the allotment. *Completed by updating AOI actual use, and evaluation worksheet.*

- Complete 2009 Working deferred Maintenance list identifying Road/Trail access route and means of travel for Tusas range improvements. *To be reviewed at the end of season meeting 11-18-09.*
- Permittees requested State Highway to erect a trucks turning sign on HWY 285 into Wheatgrass corral due increase in traffic and low visibility. *Sign has not been established.*
- Permittees did complete and submit a spring improvement project for Posito and Biscarra completed by NRCS. Cost evaluation of new construction verses maintenance needs to be completed by USFS. Additional dirt tank plans designs should be completed in cost effectiveness comparisons.

B. 2010 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- Range improvements maintenance is priority over new construction, all maintenance using heavy equipment require District Rangers approval. Tusas 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 maintenance of 3 springs, Posito, Biscarra, Burned Mountain, and ¼ mile of heavy maintenance on Jawbone or Spring Creek allotment boundary fence. Boundary fence priority will be evaluated with permittees at range readiness.

C. Travel Management Rule

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed in 2007, 2008, 2009 and continues into 2010. The travel management rule requires each Forest Service administrative unit or 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 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. Permittees can provide comments to USFS regarding:

- Roads or motorized trails that you would like to see remain open as part of the designated system
- Roads or motorized trails that you would like to see closed
- Access routes you believe are necessary to access range improvements and description 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 you range-related facilities.

VIII. APPEAL RIGHTS

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with the Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, 208 Cruz Alta, Taos, New Mexico 87571, Within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Tres Piedras District Ranger, who was the deciding officer, and the address for mailing the appeal copy is Tres Piedras Ranger District, P.O. Box 38, Tres Piedras, New Mexico 87577.

Before you file a Notice of Appeal, I would ask that you contact me and then together we would try to resolve any disagreements. I value your experience and knowledge of the allotment and appreciate the opportunity to discuss your concerns. If we cannot reach an agreement, you would exercise your appeal rights. Our discussion would ensure that we both understand the reasons for each of our positions regarding any issues. I look forward to working with you this season. I am confident that we will work effectively together to manage the resources in a manner that reflects good stewardship of the land and cattle.

BENJAMIN ROMERO
District Ranger

Date

Attachment: Appendix

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 FS 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 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 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.