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Date: May 6, 2011

**Annual Operating Instructions 2011
Carracas Allotment # 330**

Dear Permittee,

This letter details your 2011 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Carracas grazing allotment as discussed in your annual operating meeting.

A. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS & SEASON OF USE:

The Carracas allotment will be in non-use this year.

Table 1. Livestock numbers and season of use.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permitted #'s</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Authorized #'s</u>
Carracas	8	Cow/Calf	05/16 – 10/31	Non-use

B. GRAZING SYSTEM: Grazing Schedule and Pasture Sequence:

Table 2. Grazing schedule and pasture sequence.

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Carracas	Non-use

C. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE:

The following will be completed this grazing season:

Maintenance of existing range improvements. All assigned range improvements must be maintained even during periods of non-use.

Insure that any pieces of old plastic pipe, old fence wire, or any discarded materials involved in range improvement maintenance be cleaned up and removed from Forest lands.

Any range improvement maintenance that involves physical ground disturbance must have prior approval from the District Ranger. Please contact the district office with any questions you may have regarding this issue.



D. SALTING AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING:

Salt and supplemental feed will be used as a range management tool to draw livestock into areas of little or no use. This normally does not include areas adjacent to water or canyon bottoms. Salt should be checked and moved periodically to avoid potential overuse.

E. PROTECTION:

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land, and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of extreme fire danger, branding fires will be prohibited or else be allowed by permit only.

All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only with prior approval of the District Ranger.

F. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS:

MONITORING

Even though the allotment will be in non-use, monitoring will be done to assess grazing utilization from horses. Forest Service personnel will be using a variety of accepted methods to monitor key grazing areas. Permittees are invited and encouraged to participate in monitoring visits.

Key forage species have been identified for the Carracas allotment. A maximum forage use level of 30% has been set for the Carracas allotment. Maintenance of the appropriate minimum average leaf lengths on key species will result in conservative use levels.

Table 3. Monitoring location, key species, and stubble height.

LOCATION	KEY SPECIES	STUBBLE HT.
All Key Areas	Western Wheat	4 - 5 in.
	Blue Grama	2 - 2.5 in.
	Galleta	3 - 4 in.
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 - 5.5 in.

G. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLANNING:

The drought conditions we have experienced in the past few years have returned over the 2010/2011 winter months. However, we have received some recent precipitation. With this recent precipitation, we will have a good start to our grazing season. We can only speculate at this point whether the improved moisture patterns, will continue throughout 2011. Please ensure that you have a contingency plan for management of your livestock if drought conditions return this summer. If conditions warrant, we will need to work closely together to amend your annual operating instructions in order to meet rangeland resource objectives.

Our mutual goal should be to protect the long-term productivity of the range resource while considering the needs of your livestock operation. I strongly encourage you to closely monitor forage use levels using the guidelines in the Special Management Concerns described above. It is important that we communicate effectively to address proper grazing management and avoid emergency situations.

If you have any questions or concerns about the management of the Carracas allotment for the 2011 grazing season, please contact Roy Hudgeons at (505) 632-2956.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark S. Catron

MARK S. CATRON
District Ranger
Jicarilla Ranger District
Carson National Forest