

**2010-2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
TCLP ALLOTMENT 650
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES

The TCLP Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on September 10, 2010 at Tres Piedras Ranger District. TCLP attending permittees were, Jake Vigil and Arturo Valdez. Forest Service representatives were Anna Dominguez.

The Annual Operating Instructions are a 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 TCLP Allotment.

Permittees were advised to review the terms and conditions as stated on their permits that were completed after the NEPA decision in 2003.

II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

A. Weather Report

2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest will be referred to during the 2008-2009 grazing season. The plan stresses communication, permittee involvement, monitoring, range administration, and references the Standard Precipitation Index that addresses 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 (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 September, 2009.

1-month SPI through the end of August, 2010 is -1.24 to -0.75 (moderately dry conditions)

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

2010 growing season was dry/colder spring, late monsoons and dryer conditions in the fall expressed by the low water collection in the dirt tanks is documented in the TCLP range readiness report 9-2-10, 9-3-10, 9-17-10. 2010-2011 resource conditions will determine adaptive management actions that would have an 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 (575) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (575) 758-6208 or (575) 758-6209.

B. Summary of 2009-2010 grazing season

The majority of the TCLP grazing season is during the dormant season, working deferred maintenance list completion documents the complex attributes on the TCLP allotment. Management objectives were focused on the equip project completion schedule of pipelines, drinking tanks, and corral completion.

On September 10, 2009, TCLP permittees agreed to a 6% reduction in c/c and nonuse in e/l totaling to 46% reduction in HM on the TCLP allotment. Management for sheep permit is dependent on the El Rito/ Comanche Allotment Environmental Analysis decision.

2009-2010 precipitation was lower than average reflected in the 9-2010 field inspection reports. The 2010 May/June precipitation was below normal and the monsoon season in July and August was normal to below normal. Warm and cool season forage production varied between below-moderate to moderate. Numerous unauthorized roads and gates continue to contribute to motorized travel throughout TCLP and adjacent allotments. Installation of priority cattleguards on FR 551 continue to be a priority in the 2010-2011 grazing season.

The Ocular Estimated Method, Key Herbaceous Species, Form R3-2200 is used to determine that 20-40% utilization standard was met at the end of the 2010 growing season. TCLP winter grazing allotment met the 40% utilization standard on dormant season pastures. End of season production in the Vibora pasture is moderate average with no harvested water in dirt tanks.

The following are summarized objectives for 2010-2011 grazing season reviewed with permittees at the AOI meeting on September 30, 2009.

- **Aguaje**, Aguaje and Mojino are planned to be used together from 10-1-10 to 1-1-11 due to water availability and lack of control of open gates by forest users. Pasture rotation is not as critical during dormant season use, especially with numerous unauthorized roads/gates used by the public for wood hauling and hunting which contributes to unauthorized livestock use in surrounding allotments. Allotment perimeter gates need to be maintained and reviewed throughout the season to keep livestock in authorized areas. The majority of the fence is maintained by NM HWY department. TCLP permittees priority is the Santos perimeter fence.
- **Mojino**, Aguaje and Mojino would be used together from 10-1-10 to 1-7-11 due to water availability and lack of control of open gates by forest users.
- **Martinez, North Noria and South Noria** would be used together due to water availability from 1/8/11 to 4/5/11. Private property that is part of the TCLP allotment boundary can be an issue in this pasture and should be reviewed throughout the pastures rotation.
- **Vibora**, 4/6-6/15 has been the spring pasture for more than 7 years. It is recommended to change the rotation and allow this pasture a spring rest. It is recognized that it is difficult to rest this pasture due to weather that influences pattern of use. Illegal dumping of trash has been occurring for 6+ years off of FR 558 and increasing, and is a concern to permittees. Trash dumping is probably occurring due to the proximity of the Ojo Caliente transfer station and closures on Sunday and Monday. Trash has been dumped on FR558 road re-routing the road that is adjacent to the increasing rural development. Permittees were notified of the 4-21-10 Dumping prevention partners meeting in Penasco.

- **East and West Solo pastures** are part of the TCLP allotment. USFS individually administers three cattle and one sheep permits on TCLP allotment. Permitted cattle use pastures on the East side of HWY 285 and the sheep use the West side of HWY 285. Recent range improvements on Eastern cattle pastures, (well, storage tank, pipeline, and fences) are not used by sheep permittee as they are not used for sheep management on Western pastures. Deferred maintenance list has been updated to identify projects and maintenance responsibility in 2010 with increased clarity on the Amador well maintenance. Sheep permittee cannot make management decisions on restocking his allotment until El Rito/Comanche Allotment EA decision is complete. Amador well, is located on the El Rito District in the Comanche Allotment and currently has primary use to Tres Piedras District, Cerro Azul allotment, and secondary use to the TCLP allotment. Historically, Amador well served Comanche Allotment until the pump jack was strolled and later replaced and priority use given to Cerro Azul permittees. Documentation of Amador well history, prioritization of maintenance as it pertained to Tres Piedras Ranger District has been completed. El Rito Comanche allotment needs to complete Amador well maintenance and synchronize it with TCLP and Cerro Azul allotments. Illegal trash dumping is a continuing issue on the East and West Solo pastures.

C. 2010-2011 Range Readiness

Inspection of range readiness was completed on 9-2010. Evaluation of forage production met requirements for livestock entry on permitted date 10/1/10.

D. 2010 Grazing Fee and Annual Authorized Use Request

The livestock grazing fee 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.

TCLP cattle permittees completed their 2010 annual authorized use forms reflecting 34% reduction in permitted cattle numbers based on resource protection. Sheep permit is taking non-use until the El Rito Comanche Environmental assessment is completed. Total reduction is 63% permitted HM/AUM.

The 2010-2011 authorized livestock and grazing season are no guarantee that grazing can occur for the tentative rotation. Resource conditions may require alterations in rotation or possible early off date.

The annual grazing season billing period begins March 1 and grazing fees may increase or decrease depending factors such as, private grazing land lease rates/beef cattle prices/livestock production cost. For this reason 2010-2011 permitted/authorized table has higher detail reflecting different grazing years. TCLP permittees receive two grazing bills for their permitted seasons. 2011 grazing season bills are generally are mailed out after March 1.

Table 1-TCLP 2010-2011 permitted/authorized data. HM and AUM formula used in adaptable management is: # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) = HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for cow/calf) = AUM.

<i>TCLP Permittees Grazing season begins March 1. TCLP grazing season falls in two different billing years therefore is described in this manner due to management objectives.</i>	<i>2010-2011 Authorized season</i> *10/1-2/28, 320 c/c, 151 days, 1589 HM, 2097 AUM *3/1-6/15, 320 c/c 107 days, 1126 HM, 1486 AUM Total 320 c/c, 258 days, 2714 HM, 3582 AUM, 6% reduction in c/c	<i>2010-2011 actual season, days, numbers, and HM/AUM</i>
<i>Griego Ranches</i> * 125 c/c 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 625 HM, 825 AUM. * 125 c/c 3/1-6/15, 107 days 440 HM, 581 AUM *Total 125 c/c, 258 days, 125 c/c, 1065 HM, 1406 AUM	<i>*10/1-2/28 115 c/c, 151 days, 570 HM, 754 AUM</i> *3/1-6/15, 115 c/c 107 days, 404 HM, 534 AUM Total 115 c/c, 258 days, 974 HM, 1288 AUM	
<i>ROG, Inc.</i> *95 c/c, 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 805 HM, 1063 AUM. * 95 c/c, 3/1-6/15, 107 days, 334 HM, 441 AUM. *Total is 95 c/c for 258 days, 805 HM, 1063 AUM	<i>Non-use, resource protection due to low water conditions.</i>	
<i>Jake Vigil</i> *121 c/c, 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 605 HM, 799 AUM. *121 c/c, 3/1-6/15, 107 days, 426 HM, 562 AUM *Total is 121 c/c for 258 days, 1031 HM, 1361 AUM	<i>*10/1-2/28, 110 c/c, 151 days, 546 HM, 721 AUM</i> *3/1-6/15, 110 c/c 107 days, 387 HM, 511 AUM Total 110 c/c, 258 days, 933 HM, 1232 AUM	
<i>Total</i> *341 c/c, 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 1701 HM, 2246 AUM * 341 3/1-6/15-16, 107 days, 1200 HM, 1584 AUM Total 341 c/c, 258 days, 2892 HM, 3817 AUM	<i>225 c/c, 258 days, 1907 HM, 2520 AUM, 34% reduction in cattle</i>	
<i>Arturo Valdez</i> *720 e/l, 1/15-2/28, 45 days, 1065 HM, 320 AUM. *720 e/l, 3/1-4/15, 46 days, 1089 HM, 327 AUM. *Total is 720 e/l for 91 days, 2154 HM, 647 AUM	<i>Non-use until El Rito Comanche Environmental assessment is complete as the individual operation uses three different allotments and private land.</i>	
<i>TCLP Total Permitted 5055 HM, 4477 AUM</i>	<i>Total reduction is 63% permitted HM/AUM</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/availability. Field inspections will support management decisions in the 2010-2011 tentative rotation schedule. The pastures currently have minimum-**goal**-maximum days, HM and AUM. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock to address the utilization standard of 40% of season production in the Vibora.

Table 2-2010-2011 Pasture rotation. HM and AUM formula which is used in adaptable management is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) =HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for cow/calf) =AUM. Application of AUM is a scale of reference for adaptable management in response to resource conditions mostly influenced by climate.

<i>Tentative rotation of pastures</i>	<i>Permitted Minimum-Goal-maximum Days HM AUM</i>	<i>2010-2011 34% reduction in c/c numbers 225 c/c authorized, 10/1-6/15, 258 days. Tentative rotation</i>	<i>2010-2011 Actual use</i>	<i>2010-2011 Carson Forest standard of utilization at end of season</i>
<i>Mojino</i>	<i>30-50-92 days 336-560-1031 HM 443-739-1360 c/c AUM</i>	<i>50 days 468 HM 617AUM 10/1/10-11/19/10, 50 days</i>		
<i>Aguaje</i>	<i>30-50-70-92 days 336-560-784-1031 HM 443-739-1034-1360 c/c AUM</i>	<i>50 days 468 HM 617AUM 11/20/10-1/7/10, 50 days</i>		
<i>Martinez</i>	<i>3-5-10 days 33-56-112 HM 43-73-147 c/c AUM</i>	<i>10 days 93 HM 122 AUM 1/8/11-1/17/11, 10 days</i>		
<i>North Noria</i>	<i>10-20 days 112-224 HM 147-295 c/c AUM</i>	<i>20 days 187 HM 247 AUM 1/18/11-2/6/11, 20 days</i>		
<i>South Noria</i>	<i>46-58-60-75-80 days 515-650-672-840-896 HM 679-858-887-1108-1182 c/c AUM</i>	<i>58 days 543HM 716 AUM 2/7/11-4/5/11, 58 days</i>		
<i>Vibora</i>	<i>40-50-62-70-78 days 448-560-695-784-874 HM 591-739-917-1035-1153 c/c AUM</i>	<i>70 days 655 HM 846 AUM 4/6/11-6/15/11, 70 days</i>		
<i>East Solo</i>	<i>46 days, 1088 HM, 326 e/l AUM</i>	<i>Non-use</i>		
<i>West Solo</i>	<i>45 days, 1065 HM, 319 e/l AUM</i>	<i>Non-use</i>		
	<i>TCLP Total Permitted 5055 HM, 4477 AUM</i>	<i>63% reduction in total permitted HM/AUM</i>		

F. Monitoring references and Utilization standards

The following list describes priority monitoring data of the TCLP allotment that addresses proper use.

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

Drought conditions followed by elk selective grazing can stunt forage production influencing estimated ocular % utilization and 4” riparian area stubble height. Permittees are recommended to have a contingency plan due to drought and elk utilization.

Riparian standard is 4” stubble height of the annual available forage. There are very few riparian areas identified in TCLP and are limited to arroyos. Updated maps are necessary to clearly identify riparian areas to address 4” stubble height requirement. Stubble heights and percent utilization are two different ecological concepts. Stubble height is related to the effect of grazing and the physiological response of vegetation creating residual to protect soil from wind and water erosion.

TCLP allotment is a late fall, winter, spring, and early summer grazing season. During the majority of the season, livestock graze dormant forage. Spring climate determines ungulate utilization observations. Ocular descriptions of utilization reference the Vibora pasture in relation to cattle use. Descriptions are obtained from the “Utilization study Data-Ocular Estimate Method, Key Herbaceous Species, Form R3-2200-OEH.”

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.
- Below is a table of key species with forage heights requirements for allotment entry at range readiness.

Table 3-TCLP key species requirements

<i>Pastures</i>	<i>Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures</i>	<i>Range Readiness 9-2-10</i>	<i>Range Inspection dates</i>	<i>Estimated production/vigor at the end of 2011 growing season High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave 3 Low moderate 2 Low1</i>
	Mojino			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8” 6-8” w/sporadic seedheads 1.5”-2.5” w/seedheads 6” to 8” w/seedheads</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8” 6-8” w/sporadic seedheads 1.5”-2.5” w/seedheads 6” to 8” w/seedheads</i>		
	Aguaje			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8” 6-8” w/sporadic seedheads 1.5”-2.5” w/seedheads 6” to 8” w/seedheads</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8” 6-8” w/sporadic seedheads 1.5”-2.5” w/ sporadic production and seedheads 6” to 8” w/sporadic seedheads</i>		
	Martinez			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>Not reviewed</i>		

<i>Parker</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Sand dropseed 8''</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Sand dropseed 8''</i>	<i>Not reviewed</i>		
	<i>North Noria</i>			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Indian rice grass 4''</i>	<i>8'' 1.5''-2.5'' w/seedheads</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Indian rice grass 4''</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Indian rice grass 4''</i>	<i>Not reviewed</i>		
	<i>East Solo</i>			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Needle and thread 4''?</i>	<i>8'' 1.5''-2.5'' w/seedheads 6'' to 8'' w/ seedheads</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Needle and thread 4''?</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Needle and thread 4''</i>	<i>Not reviewed</i>		
	<i>West Solo</i>			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Needle and thread 4''?</i>	<i>8'' 1.5''-2.5'' w/seedheads 6'' to 8'' w/ seedheads</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Needle and thread 4''?</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass 6+'' Blue gramma 1.5'' Needle and thread 4''?</i>	<i>Not reviewed</i>		

III. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Deferred maintenance assigned in your Term Grazing Permit requires annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to livestock entry. Livestock management emphasizes assigned maintenance for boundary and interior allotment fences that must be maintained before the livestock entry date.

The cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working condition 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.

A working deferred maintenance has been completed and requires TCLP updating maintenance descriptions in 2010-2011 grazing season.

The following are 2010-2011 TCLP management objectives in relation to deferred maintenance.

- 319/EQIP project completion and incorporation into TCLP permit of the following improvements: 8 mile Noria Chili Line pipeline; 2.5 mile Vibora fence and 2.5 mile Noria fence, 20,000 gal. storage tank installation and construction of 3 corral pens, 50 acre land treatment.
- Installation of cattleguard on allotment boundary with Santos addressing TCLP c/c excessive into adjacent allotments.
- Ordering of gate closure signs to address excessive unauthorized use
- Illegal dumping of trash has been occurring for 6+ years off of FR 558, and is a concern of permittees. Recommend establishing no dumping signs.

A. 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 the allotment planning in the future. More information is available on the Carson NM 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

Range managers were informed in January, 2007 that if an allotment has a current grazing permit NEPA document, then appeal language is not needed on the AOI. Allotments with current NEPA operate within the guidelines of the NEPA Decision Notice. Therefore; appeal language has been omitted from TCLP 2009-2010 AOI. The opportunity to appeal management was when the NEPA

Decision Notice was issued. If the allotment subsequently has a new permittee, appeal rights still follow the NEPA/Decision Notice.

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 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.

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 Sheep Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District

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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.