

**2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SANTOS ALLOTMENT 636
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES

The Santos Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on February 11, 2011 on phone conversation at Tres Piedras Ranger District from 9:00-10:00 am with permittee Antonio Manzanares and Forest Service representatives Anna Dominguez.

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 Santos allotment. Permittee is advised to review terms and conditions stated on permits that were completed after 1998 NEPA decision.

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. Permittee is 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. 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, 6 and 12 month SPI through the end of January 2011.

1-month SPI through the end of January 2011 is -1.99 to -1.25 (very dry)

6-month SPI through the end of January 2011 is -1.24 to -0.75 (moderately dry)

12-month SPI through the end of January 2011 is -0.74 to +0.74 (near normal)

Carson National Forest Supervisor Kendall Clark sent out a moisture condition letter to all permittees on 1-13-2011. 2011 spring and summer precipitation patterns will determine adaptive management actions with the objective to maintain/improve forage resources.

B. Santos Fire Contingency Plan

2011 drought conditions influence fire potential throughout the Carson Forest. The fire potential in Santos allotment is low due to the mosaic of sagebrush, grasslands and pinion Juniper ecological types. Santos fire contingency plan would be to herd sheep away from the fire into the sagebrush

grasslands away from the fire. The highest fire potential area is in the pinion Juniper along HWY 285 on the West portion of the allotment.

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

C. Review of 2010-11 spreadsheet and inspection reports

Due to the dynamic influences on resource condition an annual spreadsheet (adaptive management tool) compiling /summarizing chronological allotment management and resource conditions is completed with permittee. The spreadsheet helps identify/document management objectives for each quarter section of the allotment so that sheep can be used as a grazing tool to maintain-enhance range conditions. The spreadsheet:

- Documents permitted, authorized, and actual livestock management data
- Documents current and prior year's objective per area so that it can be easily referenced
- Documents qualitative Grazing Response Index, (during the growing season) to consider early elk utilization prior to livestock entry
- Considers weather conditions to describe end of season forage production/ vigor and utilization

Sheep require high management due to lambing in coordination with herd movement, therefore herd numbers fluctuate. For this reason it was decided to continue billing Antonio Manzanares in full permitted numbers to track reductions from a base number. 2010 Actual spring use described in HM is 868 HM, 48% reduction of permitted season, spring credit was applied to temporary winter use.

Acting District Ranger authorized use of Santos allotment in the winter of 2010-2011 upon referencing 9-3-2011 range inspection reports. Dormant season use was 2042 HM or 551 AUM, which is ~44% more than the permitted HM/AUM which occurred during the dormant season.

21-40% estimated utilization occurred during the growing season. Santos sheep allotment has high management and consistent presence of the herder allows more frequent timely adjustment to resource conditions and following the 40% utilization guideline. Estimated forage production was moderate average throughout the allotment.

Unauthorized TCLP livestock and wildlife use contribute to unknown forage utilization throughout the allotment. Continued excess use by TCLP authorized cows has been observed from October 2010-February 2011. High density of roads and 11 gates allow excessive use to continue. Placement of permanent cattleguards in strategic locations is a future management goal to address excessive use.

Management objective for Santos allotment is continued high herd management in response to resource conditions and continuing reporting actual use. **A Tres Piedras messaging system has been activated for permittees to contact and report actual use 575-758-8678 ext 78113.**

D. 2011 Range Readiness

2011 range readiness inspection is scheduled for April 7, 2011 at noon. Please make every effort to attend and discuss livestock management with current conditions.

E. 2011 Grazing Fee and Annual Authorized Use Request

The livestock grazing fee for grazing year 2011 is \$1.35 c/c and \$.27 e/l on National Forests. Grazing fees are determined by 2010 production costs. 2010 Unauthorized use of National Forests is \$2.24 for livestock and \$.27 for sheep and goats.

Annual Authorized use request form was completed, billing 900 e/l, from 4/11/10-6/5/10. Permittee has requested to be billed in full numbers with a separate bill from Canjilon Ranger District due to the credits applied resulting from adaptive management to resource conditions.

The 2011 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 livestock removal from the allotment.

Table 1-Santos 2011 permitted/authorized/actual data. HM and AUM formula is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month)=HM. HM x .3 (coefficient for e/l) =AUM. Application of HM/AUM equation is to calculate actual use.

<i>Santos Permittee, Permitted season and number 4/11-6/5 , 56 days, 900 e/l, 1657 HM, 497 AUM</i>	<i>2011 Spring Authorized 4/11-6/5 , 56 days, 900 e/l, 1657 HM, 497 AUM</i>	<i>2011 Actual</i>
<i>Antonio Manzanares</i>		
<i>Spring Total</i>		
<i>Total</i>		

F. Tentative Rotation Schedule

Sheep rotation plans are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as very poor road conditions preventing water from being hauled or low forage production. Range readiness inspection will confirm availability of forage and road conditions to haul water. 2011 rotation schedule will be determined at range readiness inspection. Santos rotation follows 2 camps per quarter of the allotment. Camps should be moved every 7-10 days during the growing season, 10-12 days in the dormant season. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of sheep addressing utilization standard of 40% of annual production. Allotment management will continue to use adaptable management addressing drought conditions and following Tres Piedras Sheep grazing instructions, Appendix to 2011 AOI.

Table 2-2011 Pasture rotation

<i>Tentative rotation of pastures</i>	<i>Range of days Min-GOAL-Max</i>	<i>2011 Actual rotation and days</i>	<i>2011 Carson Forest standard of utilization at end of spring grazing season based on ocular method</i>
<i>NW area</i>	<i>7 days</i>		
<i>NE area</i>	<i>14-24 days, depending on resource. Scattered bands</i>		
<i>SE area</i>	<i>7-14 days, depending on resource. Scattered bands</i>		
<i>SW area</i>	<i>7 days</i>		
<i>NW area</i>	<i>7 days</i>		

G. Monitoring references

The following lists monitoring references of the Santos allotment with methods listed on the Tres Piedras Monitoring Plan.

1. Santos Evaluation analysis spreadsheets
2. Deferred maintenance conditions
3. Production cages, Parkers, and permittee key areas
4. Key forage list per area with required stubble heights in growing season

Estimated ocular utilization descriptions 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.

0-5% utilization, rangeland shows no evidence of grazing use: or rangeland has appearance of negligible grazing.

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.

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.

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)

61-90% 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 rhizomonatous grasses are missing. More than 10% of low value herbaceous forage plants have been utilized.

80-100% utilization, rangeland has mown appearance and there is 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 the 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 Santos are intermittent. Updated maps specifying riparian areas are necessary for herd management and monitoring.

Table 3-Santos key species requirements upon allotment entry

<i>Areas</i>	<i>Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures</i>	<i>Range Readiness 4-7-11</i>	<i>Range readiness estimated production/vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</i>	<i>End of season utilization</i>	<i>Estimated production /vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</i>
	<i>NW area, sections 20, 21, 29</i>				
<i>Cage/Corral</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>				
<i>Permittee/ Key area</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>				
<i>Parker / on the way to Railroad tank</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>				
	<i>NE area, sections 27, 26, 34, 35</i>				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>				

<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				
	<i>SE area, sections</i> 3,2,10,11				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				
	<i>SW area, sections</i> 33,4,9				
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5”				

III. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Deferred maintenance assigned in Term Grazing Permit, requires annual maintenance 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 livestock 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 continue to be responsible for deferred maintenance. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger.

A working deferred maintenance is part of 2011 AOI 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 addressing communication with permittee and land managers
- Document maintenance
- Documenting water availability and dirt tank condition
- Develop maintenance strategies with seasonal conditions

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

A. 2010 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- Design fence corral in the NW section, similar to Tio Gordito corral. Used fence material will be provided by the USFS from the Santos re-vegetation fence reference No. 636016. USFS has to complete a categorical exclusion (CE) for the proposed fence corral or include it in the upcoming NEPA analysis for the Santos Allotment. The CE for this proposed project is scheduled for 2010-2011 grazing season. **The CE for this proposal was not completed in 2010 and management objective has changed to 2011 clearance of areas for portable corral to use sheep as a tool for range improvement.**
- Allotment inspection reports reflect excessive use by TCLP in the Santos allotment. Wood harvesters and hunters contribute to a maze of roads and numerous gates left open off of FR 551 contributing to the excessive use. Permanent cattleguards have been prioritized in the arroyo by Bailey tank and allotment boundary along FR551. **Cattle guards were not installed and this objective is carried over to 2011. Illegal green wood harvesting occurring on the allotment is creating an unhealthy monoculture of young Pinon trees and permittee supports Tres Piedras Ranger District managing a green fuel wood cutting area in the Pinon to minimize overharvesting of mature Pinon in the Santos. Possible area would be Petaca peak where there is an overabundance of mature Pinon trees.**

- Corrections to existing boundary with E. Pinon are needed to facilitate a true allotment boundary. The boundary corrections are documented in the working deferred maintenance list which records the location and project number. These corrections are needed for future NEPA analysis when estimating carrying capacity of the allotment and responsible maintenance. **The boundary correction is known and will be addressed on the next NEPA allotment evaluation.**
- Permittee is proposing researching winter fat seeding possibilities in areas that have vegetation potential.

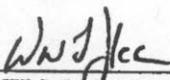
B. Travel Management Rule

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed with permittee in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and continues into 2011. 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:

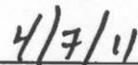
- Roads or motorized trails that you would like to see remain open as part of the designated system
- Roads or motorized trails that you would like to see closed
- Access routes you believe are necessary to access range improvements and description of how you have been accessing these improvements
- 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

Range managers were informed in January 07 that if an allotment has current NEPA, then appeal language is not needed on the AOI. Allotments with current NEPA operate within the guidelines of the NEPA decision therefore; appeal language has been omitted from Santos 2011 AOI. The opportunity to appeal management was when the NEPA decision was made. If the allotment has a new permittee appeal rights still follow the NEPA decision.



 WILLIAM JACKSON
 Acting 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 your 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.