

**2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
SPRING CREEK ALLOTMENT 631  
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

**I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES**

The Spring Creek Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on February 18, 2011 at Conejos Peak Ranger District from 10:00-12:00. Permittees attending the meeting included: Patricio and Linda Abeyta, Mark Bechaver, Jasper Casias, Tyler Huffaker, Brad Huffaker, and Clint Huffaker. Wayne Yonemoto and Anna Dominguez represented the U. S. Forest Service.

The Annual Operating Instructions are made part of the Term Grazing Permit and are posted on the Carson National Forest Web site; <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson>, located under, Natural Resources, Range, District, and Allotment. Annual Operating Instructions are guidance criteria addressing annual resource conditions, livestock numbers, period of use, rotations, monitoring and range improvement projects. Permittees are advised to review the terms and conditions that are stated in their permits that were completed after the NEPA decision in 2004.

**II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

**A. Weather**

The 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests continues to be program guidance. The objective(s) of this high priority strategic action plan emphasizes collaboration, rangeland health, rangeland monitoring and permittee involvement with reference to the Standard Precipitation Index addressing adaptive management during near normal drought and drought recovery conditions. Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) is used to define drought conditions as explained in the 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan. SPI are available from the Western Regional Climate Center at [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu). Conditions are 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 2007.

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 conditions)

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. Weather conditions influence insect infestations of Mormon crickets which has potential for occurring in the Cow Creek pasture. Livestock rotation can be adjusted in response to possible insect infestations/densities in Cow Creek pasture.

**B. Spring Creek Fire Contingency Plan**

2011 drought conditions influence fire potential throughout the Carson Forest. USFS and Spring Creek permittees completed a Fire contingency plan. 2011 permittee list has been updated with

current brand and ear marking information addressing communication, identification and notification in preparedness of fire evacuation. During 2011 grazing, ecological review will:

1. Identify routes of fire escape following key areas
2. Prioritize dirt tank maintenance in reference to erosion control
3. Determining locations where natural ignitions can be allowed to burn
4. Strategically identify areas in which fire breaks can be completed to establish resilient mosaic ecologies.
5. Identify fire break areas on large landscape planning projects

The main strategy for emergency evacuation of livestock is to open all gates and lay down all snow fences so that cattle are free to move away from smoke and/or fire.

The following are USFS and permittees estimated fire potential per pasture based on intimate knowledge of topography and vegetation. Resource conditions would highly influence fire evacuation strategy.

1. **Cow Creek** has the largest fire potential because its acres of mixed conifer and Spruce fire ecotypes. There is limited ingress/egress points along HWY 64.
2. **Coyote** has diverse ecological types of Coniferous forest, ponderosa pine, grasslands, and sagebrush which contribute to the high ability for cattle to move away from fire.
3. **Palmer** has diverse ecological types of coniferous forest, ponderosa pine and grasslands contributing to the high ability for cattle to move away from fire.
4. **Wheatgrass pasture's** ecological types of ponderosa pine, grasslands, and sagebrush contribute to the high ability for cattle to move away from fire.

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

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

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

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

### C. **Review of Spring Creek 2010 grazing season**

Spring Creek AOI spreadsheet is an adaptive management reference compiling and summarizes chronological resource conditions during the grazing season. Completion of the spreadsheet identifies management objectives for each pasture to apply to the following grazing season.

2010 permittees agree to take 10% reduction in numbers with a full grazing season. 2010 spring resource conditions reflected low stunted forage production therefore, Spring Creek permittees agreed to a delayed staggered herd entry and less livestock numbers totaling 30% of permitted livestock. Credits were issued to all permittees for 2010 grazing season.

Elk utilization occurred in all pasture at unknown levels. The 2010 spreadsheet has been edited to document elk intensity estimations. All ungulate use influences opportunity for forage re-growth, production, vigor and end of season utilization standards. Wild horse observation will be documented in the Cow Creek pasture.

Tentative rotation schedule was minimally adjusted with USFS approval in response to resource conditions. Spring Creek livestock herd management was in the range of 70+%.

10% of deferred maintenance was not completed by Spring Creek permittees.

Estimated ungulate frequency of defoliations was 2 throughout the allotment with moderate intensity. 2010 spring was cold and dry resulting in some chance for forage to growth and re-growth which contributed to the estimated moderate average production. All pastures (Wheatgrass, Cowcreek, Palmer and Coyote) met the 20-40% utilization standard at the end of the growing season.

2011 Spring Creek authorized livestock recommendations are based on 2010 grazing season review considering the 2010 actual 30% reduction, growing season, estimated ungulate intensity, forage production, utilization standards and 2011 conservative stocking rate in reference to current SPI. It was agreed to tentatively bill at 10% reduction with full grazing season, with the assumption that Spring Creek permittees will adjust to forage conditions evaluated at Range Readiness and follow the historical staggered herd entry. Permittees will be required to report livestock numbers and entry date to USFS to complete actual use data. Actual use data from 2003-2010 reflects staggered herd entry with less than authorized numbers resulting in additional reduction based on permittee personal preference and credits applied.

### **70% of the identified objectives should be met in 2011**

Emphasis on the Terms and Conditions of the grazing permit are Part 3 item 1. Each year the permittee will file with the District Ranger an application for changes from the use specified in the term grazing permit. It is to be submitted substantially in advance of the desired grazing season. Approval of the application, in whole or in part will be reflected in the ensuring bill for collection. Permittee are to inform USFS of allotment entry date and numbers to allow opportunity for livestock counting. Forest Service Manual states: Livestock counting. The permittee will notify the District Ranger before livestock entry on 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. Livestock entry date and number of cow/calves and bulls is used to complete actual use records. **Phone number to Tres Piedras messaging system is 575-758-8678, extension 78113, 78116.**

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 meeting the 20-40% estimated utilization at the end of the grazing season. Adjust authorized livestock numbers and season to resource conditions.

Report wild horse observation to USFS as it occurs.

Range improvements maintenance is priority over new construction, all maintenance using heavy equipment requires District Rangers approval. Spring Creek assigned maintenance responsibilities need to be identified by individual permittee on the Working Deferred maintenance list mailed with the 2011 AOI. Completion of 10% of deferred maintenance is a 2011 objective: this would equate to maintenance of American springs, ¼ mile of heavy maintenance on the Tusas/Spring Creek boundary. Removal of old wire rolls on Tusas ridge.

USFS management objective is to read Parker Transects to transition to alternative range monitoring method of cover frequency in full grasslands ecotypes.

**D. 2011 Range Readiness**

Range readiness inspection is scheduled for May 13, 2011 at 9:00 am at Tres Piedras District Office. Please make every effort to attend and discuss livestock entry date and proposed HM reduction if any.

**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. 2010 Unauthorized use of National Forests is \$2.24 for livestock and \$.45 for sheep and goats.

The 2011 authorized livestock and grazing season are not a guarantee that grazing can occur as planned in the tentative rotation. Resource conditions may require alterations in rotations or a possible early off date.

**Table 1-Spring Creek 2011 permitted/authorized data/Actual data. HM and AUM formula is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) =HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for 1000 lb cow/calf) =AUM. AUM and HM are used as a scale of reference.**

<p><i>Spring Creek Sum of eight individual permittees 403-----537 c/c 91-----153 days with a range of entry 5/15-- 6/15 and exit 9/14---10/14</i></p>	<p><i>2011 Authorized</i></p> <p><i>482 c/c ( 10% reduction) 153 days (0% reduction) 5/15-10/14</i></p>	<p><i>Reported/counted on XXXXXXXX by XXXXXXXX X c/c X bulls Pasture entered</i></p>
<p><i>1205-----2701 HM 1590----3564 AUM</i></p>	<p><i>2424 HM ( 10% reduction) 3200 AUM (10% reduction) 5-13-11 RR decision was to have 7 day delay entry (5/20) with additional 15% reduction in numbers to adjust with forage production, water availability and projection of use in the Palmer.</i></p>	

<p><b>Patricio A. and Linda A. Abeyta</b>  26 c/c-35 c/c  91-----153 days  78-----176 HM  103---232 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/c=31 c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>156 HM</del>  <del>206 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=26 c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>125 HM</i>  <i>165 AUM</i></p>	
<p><b>Mark E. Brian P Bechaver</b>  26 c/c-35 c/c  91-----153 days  78-----176 HM  103---232 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/c=31 c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>156 HM</del>  <del>206 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=26 c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>125 HM</i>  <i>165 AUM</i></p>	
<p><b>Japer Casies</b>  19 c/c-25 c/c  91-----153 days  56-----126 HM  74-----166 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/c=22 c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>110 HM</del>  <del>146 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=19 c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>92 HM</i>  <i>121 AUM</i></p>	
<p><b>Broch and Tandi Canty</b>  38 c/c-51 c/c  91-----153 days  113-----257 HM  149-----339 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/c=46c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>231 HM</del>  <del>305 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=38c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>183 HM</i>  <i>241 AUM</i></p>	

<p><b>Edwin Gurule</b>  31 c/c-41 c/c  91-----153 days  92-----206 HM  121----272 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/e=37 c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>186 HM</del>  <del>245 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=31 c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>150 HM</i>  <i>198 AUM</i></p>	
<p><b>Bradley H., Clinton T.,  Tyler J. Huffaker and  Aaron Valentine</b>  178-237 c/c  91-----153 days  533-----1192 HM  704----1573 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/e=213 c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>1071 HM</del>  <del>1414 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=178c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>860 HM</i>  <i>1135 AUM</i></p>	
<p><b>Clinton T. and Tyler J.  Huffaker</b>  54 c/c-72 c/c  91-----153 days  162-----362 HM  213----478 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/e=65 c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>326 HM</del>  <del>431 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=54 c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>260 HM</i>  <i>343 AUM</i></p>	
<p><b>W. and K. Reed and  Company</b>  31-41 c/c  91-----153 days  93-----206 HM  123----272 AUM</p>	<p><del>X bulls+ X c/e=37 c/e</del>  <del>153 days</del>  <del>186 HM</del>  <del>245 AUM</del></p> <p><i>X bulls+ X c/c=31 c/c</i>  <i>147 days</i>  <i>150 HM</i>  <i>198 AUM</i></p>	

<i>Sum of eight individual permittees</i> 403-----537 c/c 91-----153 days 1205-----2701 HM 1590-----3564 AUM	<i>X bulls+ X c/c= 403 c/c (25% in numbers)</i> <i>147 days (4% in time)</i> <i>1947 HM 28% reduction</i> <i>2570 AUM 28% reduction</i>	
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**F. 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 with possible adjustments to the 2011 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 utilization monitoring is recommended so that adjustments to the rotation can be made. If the tentative rotation schedule needs adjustments, permittees are to follow “Grazing Permittee Instructions for cattle operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District,” item 5.

**Table 2-2011 Spring Creek 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>Sum of Spring Creek 8 permittees permitted season</i> 403-----537 c/c 91-----153 days 1205-----2701 HM 1590-----3564 AUM  <i>Pasture rotation</i> <i>Minimum-goal-maximum days</i> <i>HM</i> <i>AUM</i>	<i>2011 Authorized 10% with full season was adjusted to</i> <i>403 c/c</i> <i>147 days, 1947 HM 2570 AUM 28% reduction due to resource conditions</i>  <i>Tentative dates</i> <i>Minimum-goal-maximum days</i> <i>HM</i> <i>AUM</i>	<i>2011 Actual,</i>
<i>Wheatgrass</i>	2-----7--*-25 days 35-123*-441 HM 46-163*-582 AUM	<i>5/21-5/31, 11 days ~staggered herd</i> 2--3---7-11--25 days 26-39---92-145--331 HM 34-51-121---192-436 AUM	
<i>Palmer</i>	28-*-40 days *-494--706 HM *-652--931 AUM	<i>6/1-6/30, 30 days</i> 28--30--40--45 days 370--397--529---596 HM 488--524--698---786 AUM	
<i>Cow Creek</i>	20-*-50 days 353-*-883 HM 466-*-1166 AUM	<i>7/1-7/31, 31 days</i> 20--31--40--50 days 264-410-529--622 HM 348-541-698--821 AUM	
<i>Coyote</i>	26----50----52--* days 459-883-918--*HM 606-1166-1212 --*AUM	<i>8/1-10/10, 71 days</i> 26----50----60--71 days 344--662--794-- 940 HM 454--873--1048--1240 AUM <i>Adjustments in Coyote need to be made because 71 days is too high.</i>	

Wheatgrass	Trailing		
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#### G. Monitoring records/references and Utilization standards

The following is a list of Spring Creek monitoring records and references addressing proper use which are combinations of Level I, II, III monitoring , (Monitoring Rangelands in New Mexico, RITF Report 53).

1. 20010-2011 Spring Creek Evaluation analysis worksheet
2. 2011 Spring Creek AOI and Working deferred maintenance list
3. Production cages, Parkers, and permittee key areas, reviewed with Photo/ocular utilization estimations, Parkers/RAM, and cover frequency.

**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. The red are allotment specific subjective references for vigor and opportunity to grow.**

1. **0-5% utilization**, Rangeland shows no evidence of grazing use: or rangeland has appearance of negligible grazing, (High 5-Moderate high 4)/ (opportunity to grow was most of the season).
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, (Moderate high 4)/ (opportunity to grow was most of the season).
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, (moderate-average 3), (opportunity to grow was some of the season).
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), (Low moderate 2)/ (opportunity to grow was little chance).
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, (Low 2)/ (opportunity to grow was little chance).
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, (Low 1)/(opportunity to grow was no chance).

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 Spring Creek are intermittent influencing the 4” standard stubble height. Updated maps specifying riparian areas are necessary for herd management

Table 3-Spring Creek key species stubble heights reference

<i>Key areas/Tentative rotation</i>	<i>Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures</i>	<i>Range readiness 5/13/11, Range readiness estimated production/vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</i>	<i>Actual use/End of season utilization 0-5% 6-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% 81-100%</i>	<i>End of season Estimated production/ vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</i>
<i>5/21-5/31, 11 days ~staggered herd</i>	<b>Wheatgrass</b>	<i>Low 1</i>		
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Blue gramma 1.5” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Crested wheatgrass 6+”</i>	<i>Dormant 5” 5”</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Western wheatgrass 6-8” Arizona fescue 8+” Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>	<i>5” 6” 5” dormant</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Western wheatgrass 6-8” Arizona fescue 8+” Crested Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5”</i>	<i>5” 6” 5” dormant</i>		
<i>6/1-6/30, 30 days</i>	<b>Palmer</b>	<i>Low 1</i>		
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>	<i>6” 5” Dormant 2-3”</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>	<i>6” 5” Dormant 2-3”</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>			
<i>7/1-7/31, 31 days</i>	<b>Cow Creek</b>	<i>Low 1</i>		
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>			
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>			
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Arizona fescue 8+” Western wheatgrass 6-8” Blue gramma 1.5” Kentucky blue grass fully open panicle</i>			
<i>8/1-10/10, 71 days</i>	<b>Coyote</b>	<i>Low 1</i>		

<i>Cage</i>	<i>Arizona fescue</i> 8+” <i>Western wheatgrass</i> 6-8” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5” <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>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>Kentucky blue grass</i> fully open panicle			
<i>trailing</i>	<i>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, using equivalent materials. 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>. If permittees take non-use they are still responsible for maintenance of assigned deferred maintenance.

The working deferred maintenance list will be mailed to the permittees with the 2011 AOI for completion of individual permittee responsibility. 2010 priorities not completed have been carried over to 2011 as described below.

#### A. 2010 Deferred Maintenance Priorities

- American Spring is an ongoing maintenance priority in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009, 2010. *American Spring was not maintained and is carried over to 2011.*

- Ongoing priority from 2007 is the maintenance of Esquibel tank to its original design. *Permittees requested NRCS to evaluate and complete a design for reconstruction of Esquibel tank.* Design is reconstruction of the berm which will require a CE by USFS.

**B. 2011 Deferred Maintenance Priorities**

- Spring Creek assigned maintenance responsibilities need to be identified by individual permittee on the Working Deferred maintenance list mailed with the 2011 AOI.
- Completion of 10% of deferred maintenance is a 2010 objective which would equate to:
  - Maintenance of American springs
  - ¼ mile of heavy maintenance on The Tusas/Spring Creek boundary
  - Removal of old wire rolls on Tusas ridge
  - Cost estimates for the re-construction of Esquibel tank

**C. Travel Management Rule**

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed 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 through 2011 to designate those roads, trails and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be part of allotment planning in the future. More information is available on the Carson NF web page at:

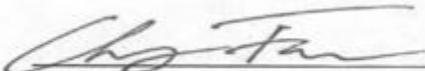
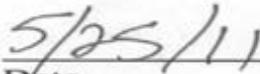
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel\\_mgmt/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel_mgmt/index.shtml).

Permittees can provide comments to USFS regarding:

- Roads or motorized 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 descriptions of how you have been accessing these improvements
- Roads or motorized trails you would like to see closed to the public but where you could retain adequate access for range operations and maintenance of your range related facilities.

**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 Spring Creek 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 AOI's. 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.

 <hr/> CHRIS FURR District Ranger	 <hr/> Date
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## 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 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.