ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2011

Black Range Ranger District
Gila National Forest

V+T Allotment #229

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

Approved By: */s/ Larry D. Cosper* Date: 1/19/2011
Larry Cosper, *District Ranger*

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BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT
2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
V+T Allotment

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Los Adobes Limited Partnership	2249 yearling cattle 1030 cow/calf	Term	04/20-10/20 03/1-04/15 09/15-02/28

Authorized Use for 2011:

Permittee	Brand(s)	Numbers & Season
Los Adobes Limited Partnership	V Ŧ RRC	*2249 yearlings* *04/01/2011-09/30/2011*

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on "**seasonal *use***" *allotments is as follows:*

a. All cattle six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in "**writing**" and "**in advance**" by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. When this happens, the District will document the phone call and send a copy to the SO Resource Clerk, with their recommendations noted. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Ranger District Office. **Note**: credit/refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of livestock.

Pasture Rotations:

Pasture	Number	On Date	Off Date	Days
Wahoo	0	RESTED		
Boiler	278	04/01	09/30	183
Hardcastle	345	04/01	09/30	183
Corduroy	591	04/01	09/30	183
Garcia Forest	263	04/01	09/30	183
Garcia Bull	0	RESTED		
Watershed	148	04/01	09/30	183
West Forest	624	04/01	09/30	183

This pasture rotation schedule will depend on range readiness, available water, weather conditions and permittee needs. Changes to the grazing rotation must be approved by the Forest Officer in advance. An "**amended**" AOI must be developed to reflect the approved changes.

The off-date for a pasture is the date when the livestock are to be fully out of the unit, or in the case of the last pasture, fully off of National Forest System lands. We recognize that moves cannot usually be accomplished in one day. It is your responsibility to begin early movement of livestock to ensure that pastures are clean by the dates specified.

Please return the enclosed "**Actual Use Worksheet 2011**" document to the Black Range Office immediately after your off-date and no later than **January 5**.

Range Improvements: Range improvements are planned for the V+T Allotment during the 2011 grazing season.

BLM Land Exchange – Look for Water Opportunities in Garcia Forest Pasture Section 22 R12N, R8S. Garcia Bull Pasture Sec. 12 & 13 T8S, R12W.

- Bear Canyon Well and pipeline to Indian Peaks – Storage Tank (2@30,000 tanks Steel Rim– Run Pipelines to other Pastures
- Spring Canyon Well – Solar Submersible Implemented 2001 – Water Canyon – Apply water right.
- Continued maintenance of water developments, windmills, and corrals as needed to successfully facilitate the grazing operation.

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds

become available. You may apply for a "**Free Use**" post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on the allotment. Maintenance to standard is required even if you have taken **"nonuse".**

Allowable Use: (*Standards by Pasture and Key Area*)

Pasture	Key Area	Key Species	Upland Allowable Use	Riparian Allowable Use
All	*Grassland Openings*	Bluegrass & native bunchgrass	30-40%	
All	*Riparian Areas*	Woody riparian species		Not to exceed 25%
All	*During "growing season"*	All riparian grass & sedge		35%
All	*During "dormant season"*	All riparian grass & sedge		40%

If allowable use is reached on any key area prior to the scheduled off date, you will need to immediately move your livestock to the next unit or off National Forest if that unit is the last in the rotation. This will usually necessitate beginning the move one or more days prior to reaching allowable use or the scheduled off date.

Monitoring: The range personnel will conduct allotment inspections each year to ensure compliance with the terms and condition addressed in the Term Grazing Permit, including the Allotment Management Plan and Annual Operating Instructions. The permittee may also schedule inspections at any time.

Key areas for monitoring are identified as riparian areas and transect cluster locations. Additional key areas may be identified during the season based on routine monitoring.

The idea of a key area is to find a site that is representative of a larger area in which cattle obtain the majority of their required forage resources. Key area monitoring will avoid areas directly adjacent to permanent water sources, cattle trails, roads, and fence lines.

Upland areas will be monitored for use on perennial grass species.

District personnel will contact the permittee to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, an may also include FS Regional stubble-height standards, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

Salting: Salt should be placed in such a way as to distribute livestock use throughout the area. Place salt well away (>¼ mile) from any water sources, or key areas that traditionally receive heavy use such as roads, parks, and riparian areas. Place salt in areas of light use to draw cattle to those areas such as oak thickets or under the aspen, spruce or pine. Salt locations must be

moved every year and do not place more than one block in a location. The best distribution can be obtained by scattering one-half block chunks in areas of light use. Salt or supplement will not be placed near areas where such placement is liable to result in conflicts with other Forest users. Pick-up your salt after livestock are rotated to the next pasture.

Supplemental Feed: Any hay, straw, or supplemental feed used in association with your grazing permit must be certified and tagged as free of noxious weeds and/or noxious weed seeds.

Other Resources:

Wildlife and Fish:

There is documentation that identify protected and restricted Mexican Spotted Owl habitat on the V+T Allotment, however there are no restrictions regarding this species on the livestock management.

Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat before earth-disturbing maintenance is authorized.

The Chiricahua leopard frog was listed as a threatened species in 2002 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We have completed grazing consultation on your allotment regarding the effects of livestock grazing on the Chiricahua leopard frog. We determined that livestock grazing will either have no effect or will not adversely affect the Chiricahua leopard frog. As a result of this determination, there were no changes required of your grazing permit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination. Therefore, consultation has been completed. A copy of this consultation is on file with your local Ranger District.

The Forest Service will be directly engaged in communication and assistance in the Blue Range Wolf Reintroduction effort. Any management actions that may require movement of cattle, changes in rotation, season of use or removal from a pasture or allotment must be approved by the District Ranger. We encourage you to cooperate with the Interagency Field Team, New Mexico Game and Fish and U.S. Fish and Wildlife in management of the wolves. Please stay in communication with range personnel or the District Ranger if concerns or question arise.

Heritage and Cultural

You must obtain permission from this office, before conducting earth- disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc. Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the Forest without written clearance from this office.

NEPA and Appeal Rights:

These Instructions implement the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decision for the V+T Allotment dated 09/25/2007, and are not eligible for appeal under 36 CFR 251.

V+T C&H
2010 ACTUAL USE RECORD

Planned use from the AOI:

Allotment	***Units***	***Numbers***	**Season**
V+T		**c/c**	

Please fill in your actual use by the unit grazed and the number of livestock and dates grazed in each unit. Bulls count as part of your permitted numbers.

Unit	Number of Livestock	Date entered Unit	Date left Unit

LOSSES: Indicate number and class of animals lost by cause.

Unit	Class of Lvstk	Predators	Poison	Other

Days spent maintaining allotment improvements:_____Approximate cost of materials: $_____

Approximate cost to manage livestock on National Forest, including riding, salting etc.:$_____

COMMENTS:

_____

_____

Signature:_____Date:_____