

FLECHADO ALLOTMENT #453
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2011

The annual meeting for the Flechado Allotment was held on May 5, 2011, at Herman's shop in White Rock, New Mexico with Herman Manzanares. Melvin Herrera represented the Camino Real Ranger District.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for Herman Manzanares.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittees discussed possible drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. The Southwest Region is experiencing Moderate to Extreme drought, so any non-use this grazing season will be considered resource protection non-use. The mountainous Flechado Allotment is less affected and is classified as being in moderate drought at the time of the meeting. Forest Service and Permittees remain optimistic about grazing within the range of permitted numbers this year. The 2009 Environmental Assessment of grazing on the allotment took drought into consideration and included management changes and several range improvements to improve and maintain conditions.

Table 1-Permittee Permitted and Authorized kind and number

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized Number and kind
Herman A. Manzanares	100 -131 cow/calf	100 cow/calf

Table 2- Season of use

2. Season of Use	
06/16 - 9/30	(107 days)

Table 3-Pasture Rotation Estimated time and actual use

3. Pasture Rotation Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual use	utilization %
La Jara	06/16 – 07/15	30 days		
Osha	07/16 – 08/30	45 days		
Siemental	08/31 – 09/20	21 days		
Riparian/Gathering	09/21 – 09/30	10 days		
Flechado	REST			

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Flechado allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed, and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the

grazing season based on resource conditions. Range improvements, i.e. Fences, will be maintained prior to moving to a different pasture.

4. Maintenance of Improvements

Improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittee going on to the allotment.

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2010 grazing season went well with good production of forage and use being within the guidelines. Maintenance of assigned range improvements was good. Distribution of livestock was good last year.

There was more progress made last year on the fence between the Osha pasture and Angel Fire. Close to a mile of fence was reconstructed by a contractor. More work will need to be scheduled for this year so that the permittee can continue to use this pasture. Recreational users continue to cause problems with gates being left open, off road travel on closed roads, and fences being cut. Most problems are caused by ATV users. Permittee asked for spring loaded or gravity closing gates to automatically close gates in specific areas.

The elk enclosure in the riparian pasture was discussed and the permittee again expressed their expectation that it be removed within a few years. Monitoring efforts will continue this year.

A new fuelwood area was thinned out south of Hwy. 64 on the Flechado pasture. The public will be allowed to access the forest to retrieve firewood. Access to gates will be monitored and used in conjunction with the AOI to lessen the impact to cattle grazing. There is a concern over gates being used and allowing livestock to get out onto the highway. FS may be able to lock the gates or otherwise deal with the gate issue whenever the pastures will be grazed in fuelwood areas.

Utilization guidelines for 2011 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas, and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key use areas.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

Permittee and FS will look at range together to determine range readiness and on-date.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. A decision is expected to be signed by the Forest Supervisor during this grazing season. Permittees stated that they need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required maintenance on fences and other range improvements, checking that gates are closed, checking on cattle health and location, and placing salt and mineral supplements. Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

Grazing Instructions for 2011 are the same as in 2010. Salt away from roads and streams; use herding, salt, fences, and water sources to disperse cattle across the pastures to use the available forage; avoid overuse in key areas.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2011:

1. E boundary fence in the Osha Fire area needs reconstruction.
2. Construct tank N of Sec. 34 private property
3. Stock trail E of Sec. 34 private property needs to be cut out.
4. Reconstruct fence between private land and Flechado pasture to provide a division between the Flechado and Osha pastures.
5. Clean out spring between Apache and Bull passes.
6. Spring development at Palo Flechado Pass.
7. New trough for Siemental.
8. Remove old trough from Bull spring.

Forest Service would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management (either season or numbers) so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittee.