

**TRAMPAS ALLOTMENT #401**  
Carson National Forest  
**Camino Real Ranger District**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2011**

The annual meeting for the Trampas Allotment was held on March 28, 2011, at Adrian Martinez's office in Truchas, New Mexico. Attending were Jake and Edward Lopez, Raymond Chavez, Richard Maestas, Adrian Martinez, Randy and Floyd Tafoya, and J. D. Sandoval from the Trampas Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera, Tammy Malone, and Sean Kelly represented the Forest Service.

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

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 would be considered resource protection non-use. This mountainous district 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 new guidelines to improve and maintain conditions.

**Table 1-Permitted and Authorized kind and number**

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and kind</b>
<b>Trampas Grazing Association</b>	<b>70 cow/calf, 3 bulls to 124 cow/calf, 6 bulls</b>	<b>102 cow/calf, 5 bulls</b>
Raymond M. Chavez	(7 cow/calf)	(12 cow/calf)
Melvin Cordova	(4 cow/calf)	(20 cow/calf)
Frutoza, Jake, & Edward Lopez	(25 cow/calf)	(20 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Adrian Martinez	(19 cow/calf)	(18 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Jose F. Martinez	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Viola Sanchez McTeigue Estate	(7 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Florinda M. Romero Estate	(2 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Orlando Sanchez, Jr.	(12 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Mr & Mrs. Jose D. Sandoval	(9 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Eddie Randy and Floyd Tafoya	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Irene Velarde Valdez	(4 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Elias Estevan Velarde	(7 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maestas	(10 cow/calf)	(10 cow/calf, 1 bull)

## 2. Season of Use

05/1 - 9/15 (138 days) or (05/16 – 9/30 depending on range readiness.) Crested wheatgrass production for adequate grazing capacity will dictate the on date, provided the ground is dry enough to handle the vehicle and cattle traffic on the pastures.

Table 2-Pasture Rotation

<b>3. Pasture Rotation</b>				
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Estimated Time</b>	<b>Actual Use</b>	<b>Utilization%</b>
Lower Entrañas #4 and Entranas pasture of the Rio Chiquito allotment	05/1 – 05/20	20 days		
Lower Entrañas #3 and Canada Abeyta	05/21 – 06/7	17 days		
Lower Entrañas #2	06/8 – 06/22	14 days		
Lower Entrañas #1	06/23 – 07/13	20 days		
Trampas River	07/14 – 09/15	62 days		

Canada Abeyta will be used in conjunction with Lower Entrañas #3, and rotation dates are flexible depending on resource conditions through the grazing season. Melvin Cordova will graze his livestock between private land and the Canada Abeyta and Canada Ancha of the allotment.

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Trampas 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

The entire cost of 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 permittees going on to the allotment.

## 5. Other Items Discussed

A new permit for the Trampas Association has been prepared in conjunction with the recently completed Environmental Assessment. The Forest Service went over the permit terms and conditions at the meeting, and permittees were reminded to submit deeds and proof of taxes paid on designated base properties, as well as current brand cards. Once all the necessary documentation is provided, the new Term Grazing Permit will be issued.

The 2010 grazing season went well. Permittees went on with less than permitted numbers and there was excellent cooperation between permittees and the District. The voluntary reduction of livestock grazed by 25 percent last season (93c/c 4 bulls), as well as a good production year, allowed for grazing within the allowable use levels for most of the allotment. Distribution of livestock was good last season. Permittees did a good job of maintenance of range improvements.

The changes in season of use, utilization guidelines, and herbaceous cover height guidelines from the 2009 environmental assessment were in effect last year. The Crested wheatgrass range was ready by

5/8/2010 and the cattle were allowed on the Forest. On 9/7/2010 the average upland herbaceous cover height was greater than four inches except in two key areas. There was less than four inches upland herbaceous cover height in the key area at the intersection of Forest Roads 639 and 155, and at the key area below the Tafoya ranch. The Association President was contacted and he informed the Forest Service that the permittees had already started taking the cattle home at that time.

Water hauling may have to be done this year due to dry conditions. FS mentioned that FSA (Farm Service Agency) was looking into a program which may be able to help with water hauling costs. The FS is also looking into being able to blade these roads early to help with ease of water hauling.

**The new guidelines** from the 2009 environmental assessment are described below and may apply more this year in light of the moderate drought.

**The earlier grazing season** of 5/1 - 9/15 is in effect to take advantage of the early green up of Crested wheatgrass. Range readiness will depend on the roads drying up adequately and sufficient production of Crested wheatgrass, which would be about 6 inches average height.

**Within riparian areas:** strive to maintain an average 6 inch herbaceous cover height throughout the grazing season and 35% end of season utilization.

**Within upland meadows,** strive to maintain an average 4" herbaceous cover height throughout the grazing season to provide cover for wildlife prey base and sensitive species (voles etc). Monitoring should trigger movement of livestock seasonally and will be taken into consideration for planning next year's grazing season. **Within non-revegetation, non-riparian areas:** strive to achieve an average 40% end of season utilization to maintain/improve the vigor of the plants.

**Within Crested Wheatgrass revegetation stands** west of the highway, utilization guidelines can be adjusted to 60% use.

Movement of livestock to meet these guidelines may be within a pasture to other key areas, or to the next scheduled pasture depending on pasture conditions.

Basic 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.

Forage utilization and herbaceous cover heights will be measured in key areas.

Permittees will continue with the monitoring of their allotment in key use areas. They mentioned that the herbaceous cover height of less than four inches in the key area below the Tafoya ranch is partly due to unauthorized grazing. The Forest Service committed to monitor for that and requested timely reports of unpermitted cattle in the area.

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

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.

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

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2011:

1. Construction of gathering corral at the intersection of S.R. 76 and F.R. 155. The Forest Service has recycled field fence for this.
2. Wing corral will be repaired in cooperation with Rio Chiquito permittees.
3. Spring development at Turkey plot needs new pipeline and trough.
4. Road to Trick tank #2 needs blading.
5. Trick tank construction in Canada Ancha pasture.
6. Reconstruct the Canada Abeyta pasture trick tank.
7. Install a cattle guard at the bottom of section 11 on the road coming into Canada Abeyta pasture from Truchas.
8. Identify and develop new water source between Canada de Los Alamos and La Joya.

Permittees mentioned that Tanks number 5 and 2 needed new matting as the old one was weathered. They also mentioned that one of the trick tanks had sustained damage to the apron by wind.

The fence along the Trampas River boundary will be maintained as needed between the Trampas and Rio Chiquito associations to prevent cattle from mixing.

Permittees acquired a new storage tank to add to the Trick Tank #3. It is in place but still needs to be hooked up to the existing system in a way that it could store the overflow from the first storage tank.

The Camino Real Ranger District will provide tags to permittees as needed.

Permittees agreed to have members of the Rio Chiquito association utilize the Canada Ancha area, as requested, same as last year. This area has been utilized by Presciliano Sandoval and Joyce Sandoval as they have water on private land and there is no water on the pasture. Eventually when the proposed trick tank is constructed in the pasture the Trampas association will be able to use that pasture.

The Camino Real Ranger District 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.