

**2011 – 2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
TCLP ALLOTMENT 650
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECITVES

The TCLP Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on September 23, 2011 at Tres Piedras Ranger District. TCLP attending permittees were, Jake Vigil and Thomas Griego. Forest Service representatives were Chris Furr, and Anna Dominguez.

The Annual Operating Instructions are a 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 TCLP Allotment.

Permittees were advised to review the terms and conditions as stated on their permits that were completed after the NEPA decision in 2003.

II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Weather Report

2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest will be referenced during the 2011-2012 grazing season. The plan stresses communication, permittee involvement, monitoring, range administration, and references the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) that addresses adaptive management during near normal, drought and drought recovery conditions. The SPI index is a quantitative reference for drought conditions. Permittees are recommended to have a drought contingency plan.

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 and 12 month SPI through the end of September, 2009.

1-month SPI through the end of September, 2011 is +0.75 to +1.24 (moderately wet)

12-month SPI through the end of September, 2011 is -1.99 to -1.25 (very dry)

2011 growing season had high fluctuations in moisture and temperatures. The late monsoons in the fall finally allowed for water collection the dirt tanks. Numerous Range readiness inspections were completed on 9-6-11, 9-11-11 and 9-16-11 in response to resource conditions. 2011-2012 resource conditions will determine adaptive management actions with the objective to maintain/improve forage resources (proper use).

TCLP Fire Contingency Plan

2011 drought conditions influence fire potential throughout the **Carson Forest**. One Wild fire occurred on the TCLP allotment during 2011. The Arroyo wild fire, NM-CAF-1155T, occurred on 7-23-11 and burned 30 acres in low elevation grassland, Pinon Juniper fuel type. The Fire complexity was a type 3. Fall range monitoring reflected positive effects of wild fire with abundant annual forb vegetation growth.

2011 permittee list has been updated with current brand and ear marking information addressing communication, identification and notification in preparedness of fire evacuation. During 2011-2012 grazing, ecological review will:

1. Identify routes of fire escape
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 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 influence fire evacuation strategy.

- **Vibora**, due to cover type, elevation increase, prevailing wind direction, HWY 64, rural community protection
- **East and West Solo**, due to cover type, elevation increase, prevailing wind direction, HWY 64, rural community protection
- **Mojino, Aguaje, and Martinez**, due to cover type, HWY 64, prevailing wind direction
- **North and South Noria**, due to cover type, rural community protection

Report wildfires to: Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (575) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (575) 758-6208 or (575) 758-6209.

Summary of 2010-2011 grazing season with adaptive management for 2011-2012

2010-2011 summary references permittee management evaluated on the 10-11 analysis worksheet.

2010-2011 Authorized use

TCLP permittees agreed to a 10% reduction in c/c and nonuse in e/l. Additional voluntary reduction occurred totaling 23% in cattle and 55% total AUM. Staggered herd entry occurred from the cleanout of Jawbone Allotment. 2011-2012 recommended authorized use is in the range of 30-20% to adjust to resource conditions and improve in rotation schedule.

- **Aguaje/ Mojino** were used together until the boundaries are complete. Improvement in herd management is still a deficiency in the surrounding allotments of Santos and Tres Orejas. 2011-2012 objectives are to use both pastures for 55 days in the fall and moving to the Vibora to change rotation. 45 days are tentatively scheduled for the spring.
- **Martinez, North Noria and South Noria** were allowed be used together due to water availability from 1/8/11 to 4/5/11. Rotation into the Vibora was very weak and majority of the cattle stayed in these pastures resulting in estimated utilization not meeting 40% standard. Lack of private fences influenced cattle in the Carson community. 2011-2012 objectives are to follow tentative scheduled days.
- **Vibora**, 4/6-6/15 had a weak rotation. Fall 2011 conditions of good vegetation vigor supported change in rotation which permittees agreed to in November 2011. Wild fire occurred in Vibora.
- **East and West Solo pastures** priority of Amador well prioritization of use was completed. Conversion of Sheep to cattle was calculated referencing Comanche decision Notice. Permittee reported non-use at the 2011 TCLP AOI.

Weather condition/ opportunity for forage production and Vigor

2010-2011 winter precipitation was low. Spring precipitation was sporadic with cold growing temperatures. The 2011 May/June precipitation was below normal and the monsoon season occurred in late July and August. Warm and cool season forage production varied between below-moderate to moderate. Elk use in the summer was minimal due to lack of water and forage.

Deferred Maintenance

Deferred maintenance management objectives of equip project completion of pipelines, drinking tanks, and corral was met in 2011. Installation of priority cattleguards on FR 551 continue into 2011-2012 grazing season.

Grazing response Index

Grazing response index will be updated on the 2011-2012 Spreadsheet for elk use during the spring growing conditions of March-June.

Utilization Standard

The Ocular Estimated Method, Key Herbaceous Species, Form R3-2200 is used to determine that 20-40% utilization standard was met at the end of the 2011 growing season. It is estimated that 5 of eight pastures met the 40% utilization standard. Three of the pastures had extended use due to water distribution. 2011-2012 objective is to improve pasture rotation to meet the 20-40% utilization standard.

2011-2012 Range Readiness

Inspection of range readiness was completed on 9-2011. Evaluation of resource conditions met requirements for livestock entry on permitted date of 10/1/10.

2011 Grazing Fee and Annual Authorized Use Request

The livestock grazing fee is \$1.35 c/c and \$.27 e/l on National Forests.

2011 unauthorized use of National Forests is \$2.24 for livestock and \$.45 for sheep and goats.

TCLP cattle permittees completed their 2011 annual authorized use forms reflecting 20% reduction in permitted cattle numbers in adjustment to resource conditions. If non-use permittees request use at a later date authorization will be 20% of permitted numbers.

Sheep permit is taking non-use until the El Rito Comanche Environmental assessment is completed.

The 2011-2012 authorized livestock and grazing season are no guarantee that grazing can occur for the tentative rotation. Resource conditions may require alterations in rotation or possible early off date.

The annual grazing season begins March 1. Grazing fees are dependent on factors such as, private grazing land lease rates/beef cattle prices/livestock production cost which can influence an increase or decrease. The table below reflects the two authorized use process required for TCLP permittees.

Table 1-TCLP 2011-2012 permitted/authorized data. HM and AUM formula used in adaptable management is: # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) = HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for cow/calf) = AUM.

<i>TCLP Permittees Grazing season begins March 1. TCLP grazing season falls in two different billing years therefore is described in this manner due to management objectives.</i>	<i>2011-2012 Authorized season, 20% of permitted numbers</i> *10/1-2/28, 320 c/c, 151 days, 1589 HM, 2097 AUM *3/1-6/15, 320 c/c 107 days, 1126 HM, 1486 AUM Total 197 c/c, 258 days, 1669 HM, 2203 AUM, 43% reduction in c/c	<i>2011-2012 actual season, days, numbers, and HM/AUM</i>
<i>Griego Ranches</i> * 125 c/c 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 625 HM, 825 AUM. * 125 c/c 3/1-6/15, 107 days 440 HM, 581 AUM *Total 125 c/c, 258 days, 125 c/c, 1065 HM, 1406 AUM	*10/1-2/28 100 c/c, 151 days, 496 HM, 655 AUM *3/1-6/15, 100 c/c 107 days, 351 HM, 464 AUM Total 100 c/c, 258 days, 847 HM, 1119 AUM	
<i>ROG, Inc.</i> *95 c/c, 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 805 HM, 1063 AUM. * 95 c/c, 3/1-6/15, 107 days, 334 HM, 441 AUM. *Total is 95 c/c for 258 days, 805 HM, 1063 AUM	Non-use	
<i>Jake Vigil</i> *121 c/c, 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 605 HM, 799 AUM. *121 c/c, 3/1-6/15, 107 days, 426 HM, 562 AUM *Total is 121 c/c for 258 days, 1031 HM, 1361 AUM	*10/1-2/28 97 c/c, 151 days, 481 HM, 635 AUM *3/1-6/15, 97 c/c 107 days, 341 HM, 450 AUM Total 97 c/c, 258 days, 822 HM, 1085 AUM	

<p>Total *341 c/c, 10/1-2/28, 151 days, 1701 HM, 2246 AUM * 341 3/1-6/15-16, 107 days, 1200 HM, 1584 AUM Total 341 c/c, 258 days, 2892 HM, 3817 AUM</p>	<p><i>197 c/c, 258 days, 1669 HM, 2203 AUM, 43% reduction</i></p>	
<p>Arturo Valdez *720 e/l, 1/15-2/28, 45 days, 1065 HM, 320 AUM. *720 e/l, 3/1-4/15, 46 days, 1089 HM, 327 AUM. *Total is 720 e/l for 91 days, 2154 HM, 647 AUM</p>	<p><i>Non-use, requesting conversion calculations from sheep to cattle and seasonal adjustment with El Rito, Comanche allotment. 70-88 c/c, 91 days, 70 c/c , 91 days, 209 HM 276 AUM 88 c/c, 91 days, 263 HM, 347 AUM</i></p>	
<p>TCLP Total Permitted 5055 HM, 4477 AUM</p>	<p><i>67% reduction in total permitted HM/AUM</i></p>	

2011-2012 Tentative Rotation Schedule

All allotment rotation plans are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as lack of water or low forage production/availability. 2011 Range Readiness inspection confirmed availability of water and forage authorizing TCLP livestock. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock to address the utilization standard of 40% of annual production. The pastures currently have minimum-**goal**-maximum days, HM and AUM which is a management approach during wet conditions when there is adequate water in all pastures. Drought to drought recovery conditions in the past five years have influenced rotation of dormant season use pastures to be combined. Also, lack of cattleguards and numerous unauthorized roads on the allotment boundary and internal pasture fences do not support pasture rotation. Development of pastures without boundary control, (cattleguards and unauthorized roads/opened gates) is non-effective and negatively effects rotation schedule.

2011 TCLP inspections reflected late monsoons concentration in the Vibora pasture resulting in highest forage vigor on the allotment. Permittees were asked to consider changing the rotation entry into Vibora and utilizing the forage production and utilizing the new pipeline. Permittees were not in full agreement due to unpredictable winter weather and livestock behavior. They did agree to consider moving livestock into the Vibora in late November. TCLP longterm management objective is to alter the rotational pattern of use.

Table 2-2011-2012 Pasture rotation. HM and AUM formula which is used in adaptable management is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) =HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for cow/calf) =AUM. Application of AUM is a scale of reference for adaptable management in response to resource conditions mostly influenced by climate.

<i>Tentative rotation of pastures</i>	<i>Permitted Minimum-Goal-maximum Days HM AUM</i>	<i>2011-2012 20% reduction in c/c numbers 197 c/c authorized, 10/1-6/15, 258 days. Tentative rotation</i>	<i>2011-20012 Actual use</i>	<i>2011-2012 Carson Forest standard of utilization at end of season</i>
<i>Mojino</i>	<i>30-50-92 days 336-560-1031 HM 443-739-1360 c/c AUM</i>	<i>27 days 174 HM 229 AUM 10/1/11-10/27/11, 27 days</i>		
<i>Aguaje</i>	<i>30-50-70-92 days 336-560-784-1031 HM 443-739-1034-1360 c/c AUM</i>	<i>28 days 181 HM 239AUM 10/28/11-11/24/11, 28 days</i>		
<i>Vibora</i>	<i>40-50-62-70-78 days 448-560-695-784-874 HM 591-739-917-1035-1153 c/c AUM</i>	<i>70 days 453 HM 598 AUM 11/25/11-2/2/12, 70 days</i>		
<i>South Noria</i>	<i>46-58-60-75-80 days 515-650-672-840-896 HM 679-858-887-1108-1182 c/c AUM</i>	<i>58 days 375 HM 495 AUM 2/3/12-3/31/12, 58 days</i>		
<i>North Noria</i>	<i>10-20 days 112-224 HM 147-295 c/c AUM</i>	<i>20 days 129 HM 170 AUM 4/1/12-4/20/12, 20 days</i>		
<i>Martinez</i>	<i>3-5-10 days 33-56-112 HM 43-73-147 c/c AUM</i>	<i>10 days 32 HM 42 AUM 4/21/12-4/30/12, 10 days</i>		
<i>Mojino</i>	<i>30-50-92 days 336-560-1031 HM 443-739-1360 c/c AUM</i>	<i>23 days 148 HM 195 AUM 5/1/12-5/23/12, 23 days</i>		
<i>Aguaje</i>	<i>30-50-70-92 days 336-560-784-1031 HM 443-739-1034-1360 c/c AUM</i>	<i>22 days 142 HM 188 AUM 5/24/12-6/15/12, 22 days</i>		
<i>East Solo</i>	<i>46 days, 1088 HM, 326 e/l AUM</i>	<i>Non-use</i>		
<i>West Solo</i>	<i>45 days, 1065 HM, 319 e/l AUM</i>	<i>Non-use</i>		

Monitoring references and Utilization standards

The following list describes priority monitoring data of the TCLP allotment that addresses proper use.

1. SPI and weather forecast
2. TCLP AOI, forage height requirements, water availability for livestock entry
3. Fence conditions and water availability
4. Elk utilization prior to livestock entry date and during TCLP grazing season
5. 40% utilization guideline and 4” riparian area stubble height

Drought conditions followed by elk selective grazing can stunt forage production affecting permitted grazing time and contribute to estimated ocular % utilization and 4" riparian area stubble height. Permittees are recommended to have a contingency plan due to drought and elk utilization.

Riparian standard is 4" stubble height of the annual available forage. There are very few riparian areas identified in TCLP and are limited to arroyos. Updated maps are necessary to clearly identify riparian areas to address 4" stubble height requirement. It is stressed that stubble heights and percent utilization are two different ecological concepts. Stubble height is related to the effect of grazing and the physiological response of vegetation creating residual to protect soil from wind and water erosion.

TCLP allotment has a late fall/ winter /spring/early summer grazing season.

Approximately half of the grazing season is utilization of dormant forage. Utilization descriptions are obtained from the "Utilization study Data-Ocular Estimate Method, Key Herbaceous Species, Form R3-2200-OEH." Ocular reference at cages will calibrate % utilization estimation considering opportunity for growth.

1. **0-5% utilization**, Rangeland shows no evidence of grazing use: or rangeland has appearance of negligible grazing, (production/vigor, 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, (production/vigor, 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, (production/vigor, 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), (production/vigor, 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, (production/vigor, 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, (production/vigor, Low 1)/(opportunity to grow was no chance).

Table 3-TCLP key species requirements

<i>Pastures</i>	<i>Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures</i>	<i>Range Readiness 9-16-11</i>	<i>Range Inspection dates</i>	<i>Estimated production/vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave 3 Low moderate 2 Low1</i>
	Mojino			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Western Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5”</i> <i>Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8”</i> <i>6-8” w/sporadic seedheads</i> <i>1.5”-2.5” w/ sporadic production and seedheads</i> <i>6” to 8” w/sporadic seedheads</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Western Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5”</i> <i>Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Western Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5”</i> <i>Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8”</i> <i>6-8” w/sporadic seedheads</i> <i>1.5”-2.5” w/ sporadic production and seedheads</i> <i>6” to 8” w/sporadic seedheads</i>		
	Aguaje			
<i>Cage</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Western Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5”</i> <i>Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8”</i> <i>6-8” w/sporadic seedheads</i> <i>1.5”-2.5” w/ sporadic production and seedheads</i> <i>6” to 8” w/sporadic seedheads</i>		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Western Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5”</i> <i>Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Crested Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Western Wheatgrass 6+”</i> <i>Blue gramma 1.5”</i> <i>Sand dropseed 8”</i>	<i>8”</i> <i>6-8” w/sporadic seedheads</i> <i>1.5”-2.5” w/ sporadic production and seedheads</i> <i>6” to 8” w/sporadic seedheads</i>		

	Martinez			
<i>Cage</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”	Forage production very stunted		
<i>Parker</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”	Needs to be located or established		
<i>Permittee</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Sand dropseed 8”	Forage production very stunted		
	North Noria			
<i>Cage</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Indian rice grass 4”	Forage production very stunted		
<i>Parker</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Indian rice grass 4”	Needs to be located or established		
<i>Permittee</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Indian rice grass 4”	Forage production very stunted		
	East Solo			
<i>Cage</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Needle and thread 4”?	Forage production very stunted		
<i>Parker</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Needle and thread 4”?	Needs to be located or established		
<i>Permittee</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Needle and thread 4”	Forage production very stunted		
	West Solo			
<i>Cage</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Needle and thread 4”?	6” 1.5-2” with seed heads 4” with seed heads		
<i>Parker</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Needle and thread 4”?	Needs to be located or established		
<i>Permittee</i>	Western Wheatgrass 6+” Blue gramma 1.5” Needle and thread 4”?	6” 1.5-2” with seed heads 4” with seed heads		
	Vibora			

<i>Cage</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5” <i>Needle and thread</i> 4”? <i>Sand Dropseed</i> 8”	6” 1.5-2” with seed heads 4” with seed heads 8” with seed heads		
<i>Parker</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5” <i>Needle and thread</i> 4”? <i>Sand Dropseed</i> 8”	<i>Needs to be located or established</i>		
<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Western Wheatgrass</i> 6+” <i>Blue gramma</i> 1.5” <i>Needle and thread</i> 4”? <i>Sand Dropseed</i> 8”	6” 1.5-2” with seed heads 4” with seed heads 8” with seed heads		

III. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Deferred maintenance assigned in Term Grazing Permit requires annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to livestock entry. Livestock management emphasizes assigned maintenance for boundary and interior allotment fences that must be maintained before the livestock entry date.

The cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working condition 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 are responsible for maintenance of allotment improvements referred to in the deferred maintenance list. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger.

A working deferred maintenance list will be completed by the FS/permittee as a management tool addressing the following management objectives:

- **Update/correct I-web data deferred maintenance numbers for future merge with Arc-GIS**
- **Pasture attributes (boundary and interior fences, dirt tanks, water storage tanks, pipelines, cattleguards, and corrals) are organized according to type; documenting access, condition, and prioritization maintenance needs and responsibility**
- **Develop maintenance strategies with seasonal conditions. For example, in dry seasons prioritize critical dirt tanks that need to be cleaned out.**
- **Specific Assignment of boundary and interior fence responsibility**

2011-2012 TCLP management priorities

- Completion of operating well and pipeline
- Installation of cattleguard on allotment boundary with Santos addressing excessive use.
- Ordering of gate closure signs to address excessive unauthorized use.
- Reseeding in NE section of Aguaje pasture.
- No trash dumping signs along FR 557 and 97, Dump site cleanup.

- Illegal Fuel wood harvesting is continuing and permittees are requesting law enforcement patrols in the area.
- Unauthorized road closures or cattle guard installation along HWY 285 in the Solo pastures
- Pattern of use map to strategically place salt and prioritize fence maintenance to address public safety along HWY 285 and 576.

Travel Management Rule

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed in 2007. 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 2009 to designate those roads, trails and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be part of the allotment planning in the future. More information is available on the Carson NM web page at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/blue_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 on working deferred maintenance list
- 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.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Range managers were informed in January, 2007 that if an allotment has a current grazing permit NEPA document, then appeal language is not needed on the AOI. Allotments with current NEPA operate within the guidelines of the NEPA Decision Notice. Therefore; appeal language has been omitted from TCLP 2009-2010 AOI. The opportunity to appeal management was when the NEPA Decision Notice was issued. If the allotment subsequently has a new permittee, appeal rights still follow the NEPA/Decision Notice.

/s/Chris Furr _____
CHRIS W. FURR
District Ranger

3.2.12
Date

Attachment: Appendix

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 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 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.

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.

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