

**El Caso
Quemado Ranger District
2012 Annual Operating Instructions
(01/27/12)**

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permitted	From	To	Permit
393 Cattle	04/15	10/15	Term

2012 Annual Authorization:

Authorized	From	To	Permit
354 Cattle	05/01/12	10/15/12	Term

2012 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Start Date	End Date	Number	Allowable Use
El Caso	05/01/12	07/01/12	354	40%
*Baca	07/01/12	09/01/12	354	40%
*Pine Lake	09/01/12	10/01/12	354	40%
El Caso/ Lower Largo Box Trap	10/01/12	10/15/12	354	40%

* These pastures may be switched within the rotation depending on dening locations of wolf packs.

As discussed on 01/27/12 and addressed in numerous letters dating back to 2007, you are expected to stock up to 90% of the permitted numbers on a consistent basis. I will not approve future requests for Personal Convenience (P-C) non-use, until you have demonstrated the willingness to consistently stock the allotment to at least 90% of its capacity (no less than three consecutive years). At which time, a valid reason for returning to a P-C non-use status may be considered. Please notify Monte or Sara no later than two weeks prior to coming on to the El Caso Allotment with cattle as they need to verify livestock numbers. In addition, please provide Monte with copies of the Bill of Sale for purchased livestock.

Grazing Restriction:

Grazing restrictions apply to portions of Porcupine, West Armijo, and Leslie-Sawmill pastures. Although these pastures will not be used during the 2012 grazing season; restrictions which apply to them were kept in the AOI in case of possible amendments requiring changes to the rotation. A map displaying these areas was provided to you with your permit; if you need a new map please contact the District office.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31 and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps, or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is permitted. The purpose of these restrictions is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Furthermore, cattle are not allowed in the Quemado Lake Campgrounds and spill way area. This recreation area is fenced to exclude cattle from campgrounds where forest visitors are camping and fishing. If cattle are observed within campgrounds in the recreation area, you will be notified to promptly remove them.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

The Decision Notice dated 09/01/95 set guidelines for allowable use levels of key forage species at 40%.

Utilization Monitoring

Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use, and determine utilization percentage at that time. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the El Caso Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2012 Monitoring Dates:

Pasture	Monitoring date
El Caso	06/21/12
Baca	08/22/12
Pine Lake	09/25/12
El Caso/ Lower Largo Box Trap	10/12/12

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Utilization Monitoring:

Due to the allotment being in P-C Non-Use during the 2011 grazing season, utilization of key areas was not measured. However utilization in owl PAC's were monitored with the utilization measurements shown below.

Pasture	Date	PAC #	Use %
West Porcupine	07/15/11	030609005	1
Agua Fria Rincon	07/20/11	030609003	6
West Porcupine	07/20/11	030609008	6

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2012 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option.

Range developments:

As addressed in the 2011 AOI and again in the letter dated 8/24/11, all improvements are to be maintained to standard even during P-C non-use. Pasture fences in the scheduled rotation will be spot checked by District personnel prior to cattle entering pastures. All other improvements are also subject to be inspected.

Actual Use:

Since the allotment was in P-C non-use during the 2011 grazing season, actual use was calculated at 0 AM's.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to contact Monte Topmiller or Sara Marta at (575) 773-4678

J/Janice S. Stevenson
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

2-8-12
Date