

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2012

Black Range Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Animas Allotment #203



Reviewed By: /s/ Steve Dobrott
Permittee

Date: 04/25/2012

Approved By: /s/ Larry D. Cosper
District Ranger

Date: 04/25/2012

Black Range Ranger District

2012 Annual Operating Instructions

Animas Allotment

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document your discussion with Larry Cosper and Shane Shannon on April 25 , 2012 at the Black Range Ranger District Office.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Turner Ranch Properties, L.P.	120 Cattle Cow/Calf	9/1-11/30

This is year #1 for total non-use (by livestock) for the Animas Allotment for a 10-year period ending December 31, 2021 which was approved through the term grazing permit signed on April 23, 2012.

KEY AREA MONITORING

Although there are no cattle authorized to graze the Animas Allotment during the 2012 season, this office may conduct monitoring of the allotment as schedules allow. The purpose of these monitoring inspections will be to determine compliance with the non-use agreement, detect trespass livestock from adjacent areas, and to assess general resource conditions of the allotment.

District personnel will contact you 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.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that existing range improvements remain functional. This includes boundary fences and water facilities. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

No new range improvements are planned for the Animas Allotment for the 2012 grazing season. If at any point during the year you determine a need for additional range improvements, or materials to maintain/reconstruct existing improvements please contact Shane Shannon, Range Technician, to coordinate the project.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

No special management Provisions.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The permittee must obtain permission from the District Ranger, before conducting any 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.**

The Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. These Instructions comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. They also comply with the Endangered Species Act found in the Biological Assessment for the Animas Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the Annual Operating Instructions.

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Kelly Russell, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, at 3005 E. Camino Del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry Cospers, District Ranger, Black Range Ranger District at 1804 Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 89701.