

**3-15-12 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
JAWBONE ALLOTMENT 649  
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT**

**I. INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES**

The Jawbone Annual Operating Instruction meeting was held on March 15, 2012 at Tres Piedras Ranger District from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Jawbone attending permittees were, Jake Vigil, Thomas Greigo and Chad and Cody Rush. Forest Service representatives were Wayne Yonemoto and Anna Dominguez.

The Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made 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>, located under, Natural resources, Range, District, Allotment. Annual Operating Instructions contain items that are guidance criteria addressing proper use of the Jawbone allotment. Permittees were advised to review terms and conditions stated on their permits. NEPA decision was completed 9-30-2008 for Jawbone allotment.

**II. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

**A. WEATHER**

2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forest will be referred to during 2012 grazing season. The plan stresses communication, permittee involvement, monitoring, range administration, and reference to the Standard Precipitation Index addressing adaptive management during near normal, drought and drought recovery conditions. Permittees are recommended to have a drought contingency plan.

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) will be used to define drought conditions following the 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. SPI values are available from the Western Regional Climate Center at [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://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 February 2008.

1-month SPI through the end of January 2012 is -0.74 to +0.74 (near normal)

12-month SPI through the end of January 2012 is -1.24 to -0.74 (moderately dry)

2012 precipitation patterns will determine adaptive management actions with the objective to maintain/improve forage resources. Weather conditions influence insect infestations of Mormon crickets. Livestock rotation is adjusted in response to insect infestations/densities in Hopewell and La Manga pastures addressing resource protection.

On February 29, 2012 a letter from the Carson Forest Supervisor was sent to initiate drought dialogue with permittees.

**B. Jawbone Fire Contingency Plan**

Drought conditions influence fire potential throughout the Carson Forest. Jawbone Allotment Fire Contingency Plan consists of:

- Permittee contact information and livestock identification addressing communication preparedness.
- The following are elements of the fire contingency plan evolve with adaptive management.
  1. Routes of fire escape, typically following key areas (grasslands)
  2. Dirt tank maintenance prioritization in reference to erosion control
  3. Identifying natural ignitions locations to consider allowing natural burns to occur with monitoring
  4. Strategically identify areas in which fire breaks can be completed to support habitat improvement using fire to produce resilient mosaic ecologies.
- The following are USFS and permittees estimated fire potential per pasture based on vegetation inventory, topography, lightning activity and prevailing wind. The main strategy for emergency evacuation of livestock is to open all gates and lay down all snow fences so that cattle are free to move away from smoke and/or fire.

**Jawbone Allotment ecological description as it pertains to fire contingency plan for livestock management**

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Ecological description/ % cover</b>	<b>*Fire potential *% slopes *Evacuation routes *lightning potential</b>
<b>Hopewell *6,239 total acres</b>	Full grazable acres *2,772.5 acres *642 upland meadow acres, 23% *258 riparian acres, 9.3% Potential grazable acres *1,898.5 acres No grazing capacity acres *1,567 acres	*Moderate to low fire potential due to historical burns influence on grasslands * Moderate % slope. *Grasslands are evacuation routes. *low-moderate lightning fire potential
<b>*La Manga *4,951 total acres</b>	Full grazable acres *3,300 acres *228.4 upland meadow , 6.9% * 207.6 riparian acres 6.2% Potential grazable acres *1483 acres No grazing capacity acres *168 acres	*Moderate to low fire potential due to historical burns influence on grasslands *Low % slope. *Grasslands are evacuation routes. *low-moderate lightning fire potential

<p><b>*Gavilan</b> <b>*2,631 total acres</b></p>	<p>*1,611 acres *88.6 Upland meadow 5.4% *59.4 Riparian acres 3.6%</p> <p>Potential grazable acres *642 acres</p> <p>No grazing capacity *377 acres</p>	
<p><b>*Broke Off</b> <b>*4,639 total acres</b></p>	<p>*2,517 acres *181.8 upland meadow 7.2% *125.7 riparian acres 4.9%</p> <p>*1,274 acres</p> <p>*847 acres</p>	<p>*High fire potential due to ecological types *Moderate to high % slope. *Grasslands are evacuation routes. *Moderate lightning fire potential</p>

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

**C. Review of Jawbone 2011 grazing season**

**2011 Authorized use:** Jawbone permittees authorized livestock was agreed to on 5/5/11 addressing adaptable management to resource conditions. Permittees were billed at a 10% reduction. Voluntary personal preference reduction resulted in a total reduction of 15% in cattle and 80% reduction in sheep.

**Rotation:** Staggered herd entry into Gavilan with time to allow for pairing up before push into Broke off. Push to Broke off was delayed because Tio Grande boundary fence was not up. Broke off for 30 days, La Manga for 32 days, Gavilan used again in the push to Hopewell~ 10 days, and finally Hopewell for 25 days. Poor clean out of La Manga and Broke off high labor in cleaning out pastures.

**Utilization standard:** Late monsoons lifted the fire closures 8-4-11 and allowed forage to grow. The 40% utilization of cool and warm season grasses was met on all pastures at the end of the growing seasons.

**Livestock Adaptable management in response to /Utilization standard-forage and water conditions/Grazing Response Index-elk use/Fire/vegetation vigor:** Adaptable management cooperation with Jawbone permittees occurred in 2011, with the authorized livestock number process. Permittees hired rider to rotate livestock in all pastures to address the 20-40% utilization standard and allowed vegetation to maintain and estimated low 2.3 vigor in the fluctuating droughty growing season. Permittees cooperated in obtaining national Forest entry/activity permits during the forest closures.

**Water quantity and quality:** Water in quantity and quality typically is not an issue on the high elevation allotment. It is estimated that 80% of water was available 2011. Rincon Negro continues to be a watering point in need of maintenance.

**Grazing response Index- elk use:** Overall forage production was stunted due to drought conditions especially in the open meadows. In forage utilization inspections, prior to livestock entry, utilization appeared to be 20%. Defoliations of grass occurred 2 times in all pastures by all ungulates. All pastures appear to have moderate 40-55% intensity based on annual forage production which was stunted due to drought conditions. Jawbone forage production experienced fluctuating weather therefore had some opportunity to grow.

**Weather/Fire summary:** Dry windy conditions influenced the Carson Forest closures from type I-III from 6/9/11 to 8/4/11. Late weak monsoons began in mid to late July. The forest was in type III closure to the public from 6/9/11 to 6/29/11, 21 days. 1 fire occurred in Jawbone allotment in the Buckhorn pasture that was lightning started.

**Vegetation vigor:** Moderate Average, 3 for the allotment in production and vigor.

**Priority Maintenance completed:** materials for fence repairs were issued.

#### D. 2012 Jawbone Allotment Management Objectives for USFS

- Complete AMP
- Enter Hopewell pasture, adjust rotation schedule with availability of water, adjust authorized livestock to water and forage resource conditions following tentative rotation pattern within the estimated Days/HM/AUM.
- Inform USFS of actual livestock entry date to allow for opportunity to count livestock.
- Inform USFS of actual use recorded on updated AOI
- Complete the GRI documenting 2012 grazing season.
- Complete priority maintenance responsibility.

#### E. 2012 Jawbone Allotment Adaptable Management Options

##### **2012 Authorized use/Rotation/Utilization standard**

2012 authorized recommendations addressing utilization standard are: Complete 2012 annual authorized use request forms considering 2011 drought recovery and current resource conditions with 10% reduction. Management objective of following tentative deferred rest rotation, within the Tentative days and AUM's described in the AOI. Rotation would be: Hopewell, La Manga, Broke off.

##### **Water quantity and quality**

Adapt rotation and livestock herding to water quantity and quality. A water availability map completed to identify adaptable management adjustments following the tentative rotation.

##### **Livestock Adaptable management in response to / Utilization standard—forages and water conditions/ Grazing Response Index-elk use/ Fire/ vegetation vigor**

Continuation of high adaptable management in response to resource conditions will require high permittee support to the new rider. New rider will have to learn the boundaries, watering points, high fence priority areas, salting strategy for livestock herding, riparian areas, and community association livestock behavior. It is Jawbone permittees responsibility for reporting actual use.

1. Adjustments in stocking rate
2. RR inspection in all pastures to project rotation in reference to forage and water.
3. Conservative authorized livestock to meet permittees objective of seasonal use.
4. Strategically placement of salt to meet 20-40% utilization
5. Complete AOI and GRI as tools to evaluate actual use.
6. Complete priority maintenance list as a evaluating tool for water quality/quantity in consideration of rotation.

**Priority Maintenance:** Complete maintenance on Rincon Negro dirt tank. Establish potential grazable acre monitoring points.

**Noted changes in AOI:** New information is the riparian acres per pasture.

**F. 2012 Range Readiness**

2012 range readiness inspection is scheduled for 6/11/11 at 9:00 A.M. at Tres Piedras District Office. Please make every effort to attend and evaluate range conditions to estimate adaptive management adjustments.

**G. 2012 Grazing Fee and Annual Authorized Use Request**

The livestock grazing fee for grazing year 2012 is \$1.35 c/c and \$.27 e/l on National Forests. 2012 unauthorized use of National Forests is \$2.24 for livestock and \$.45 for sheep and goats.

The 2012 authorized livestock and grazing season are no guarantee that grazing can occur for the tentative rotation. Low resource conditions may require alterations in rotations or removal of livestock from the allotment.

**Table 1-Jawbone 2012 permitted/authorized data/Actual data. HM and AUM formula is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month) =HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for 1000 lb cow/calf, .3 is the coefficient or e/l) =AUM.**

<i><b>Total c/c and e/l Permitted livestock, 3796-4747 HM 2084-2607 AUM</b></i>	<i><b>2012 11% reduction with permitted season</b></i>	<i><b>2012 Actual season, days, numbers, and HM/AUM</b></i>
<i>Greigo Ranches 100-125 c/c 6/16-9/30, 107 days 351-440 HM 463-581 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c=113 c/c, 107 days, 398 HM, 525 AUM,</i>	
<i>Chad and Krystina Rush 67-84 c/c 6/16-9/30, 107 days 235-295 HM 311- 389 AUM</i>	<i>X bulls + X c/c=76 c/c, 107days, 267 HM, 352 AUM</i>	

<p><i>Jake Vigil</i>  97-121 c/c  6/16-9/30, 107 days  341-426 HM  450- 562 AUM</p>	<p><i>X bulls + X c/c=102 c/c, 107 days, 359 HM, 473 AUM</i></p>	
<p><i>Brock and Tandi Canty</i>  70-88 c/c  6/16-9/30, 107 days  246-310 HM  325-409 AUM</p>	<p><i>X bulls + X c/c=79 c/c, 107 days, 278 HM, 366 AUM</i></p>	
<p><b>Total Permitted cattle</b>  335-418 c/c  6/16-9/30, 107 days  1178-1,470 HM  1,555-1,940 AUM</p>	<p><i>370 c/c, 107 days, 1301 HM, 1718 AUM, 11 % reduction in numbers</i></p>	
<p><i>Lonell, Leon in c/o</i>  <b>Leona Crowther</b>  445-556  7/1-9/15, 77 days,  1,126-1,408 HM  337-422 AUM</p>	<p><i>556 e/l=77 days, 1408 HM, 422 AUM. No % reduction on authorized numbers but is expected to take a reduction during the grazing season.</i></p>	
<p><b>Total permitted livestock</b>  2,304-2,879 HM  1892-2362 AUM</p>	<p><i>2789 HM, 2140 AUM, 10% reduction in AUM</i></p>	

## H. Tentative Rotation Schedule

All allotment rotation plans are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as lack of water, low forage production and insect infestations. Range Readiness inspection will confirm availability of water and adjust 2011 tentative rotation schedule if needed. The pastures currently have minimum-goal-maximum days, HM and AUM. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock addressing utilization standard of 40% of annual production.

Table 2-2012 Jawbone Pasture rotation. HM and AUM formula is # of livestock x # of days / 30.416667 (average days in a month)=HM. HM x 1.32 (coefficient for 1000 lb cow/calf, .3 is the coefficient or e/l) =AUM.

<i>Tentative rotation of pastures</i>	<i>Range of days and estimated carrying capacity</i>	<i>2012 Authorized 6/16-9/30, 107 days, with 370 c/c, 11% reduction in c/c, 0% reduction in e/l, 10% reduction in total AUM. Min-GOAL-Max Tentative scheduled days HM AUM</i>	<i>2012 Actual use</i>	<i>Livestock herding days per pasture</i>	<i>Number of salt blocks</i>
<b>Hopewell</b>	40---90 days X---1509 HM	6/16-7/25, 370 c/c 30--40--50 days 364-486-608 HM 481-642-802 AUM  9/25-9/30, 370 c/c Trailing ---6 days Trailing---73 HM Trailing----96 AUM			
<b>La Manga</b>	20---40 X--- 1136 HM	7/1-9/15, 556 e/l 25---40---77 days 456-731--1407 HM 137-219-422 AUM			
<b>Gavilan</b>	10-20 X----668 HM	9/4-9/24, 370 c/c 10--15--21 days 121--182-255 HM 161--240--337 AUM			
<b>Broke off</b>	30---60 days X----1403 HM	7/26-9/3, 370 c/c 20---40--50 days 243-486--608 HM 321-642--802 AUM			
<b>Summary</b>					

## I. Monitoring references and Utilization standards

The following list describes priority monitoring data of the Jawbone allotment addressing proper use.

1. 2011 Jawbone evaluation analysis worksheet
2. 2011 Jawbone AOI, SPI, Water availability, Range readiness stubble heights, estimated elk utilization prior to livestock entry date, actual use, production/vigor of forage.
3. 2011 working deferred maintenance list
4. Production cages, Parker, and permittee key areas reviewed with methods listed on the Tres Piedras Monitoring

**Estimated ocular utilization descriptions are for permittee reference at the end of the growing season. Descriptions are obtained from the “Utilization study Data-Ocular Estimated Method, key herbaceous species, Form R3-2200-OEH.” Reference to cages will calibrate % utilization estimation.**

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

**Table 3-Jawbone key species requirements**

<b>Key areas</b>	<b>Pasture Key Species requirements for entering pastures</b>	<b>Range Readiness 6/11/12</b>	<b>Range readiness estimated production/vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</b>	<b>End of season utilization 10/16/12</b>	<b>Estimated production/vigor High 5 Moderate High 4 Moderate ave. 3 Low moderate 2 Low 1</b>
<i>Hopewell -c/c</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12"+ heading out Arizona fescue 8"+ heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<i>Broke off c/c</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12"+ heading out Arizona fescue 8"+ heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				
<i>La Manga/Gavilan e/l and c/c</i>	<i>Thurber's fescue 12"+ heading out Arizona fescue 8"+ heading out Kentucky bluegrass Panicle fully open</i>				

Utilization is not to exceed 40% of annual forage production at the end of the year. Riparian utilization standard is 4" stubble height of the annual available forage. Through the completion of NEPA, maps will be updated for future reference to riparian areas on the Jawbone allotment.

**Stream miles located within the Jawbone Allotment for riparian management**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Total stream length</b>	<b>Length of stream on Forest Service land within the Jawbone Allotment</b>	<b>Length of stream on private land in holdings within the Tusas Allotment boundary</b>
Rio Vallecitos (headwaters to confluence with the Rio Tusas)	35 miles	2 miles (Hopewell Pasture)	2.0 miles
Little Tusas (headwaters to confluence with the Rio Tusas)	14 miles	.5 miles Buckhorn Pasture)	.5 miles
Canado Tio Grande	10 miles	.5 miles (La Manga)	.5 miles

**III. PRIORITY MAINTENANCE**

Priority maintenance assigned in your Term Grazing Permit requires annual maintenance to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture. Maintenance of existing infrastructure is priority over new construction, new construction or reconstruction must have the approval of the District Ranger. Priority maintenance is allotment boundary fences maintained prior to livestock entry into a pasture or neighboring allotment pasture. Interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.

The cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order 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 priority maintenance list. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger.

The priority maintenance list is documents travel management and prioritization of maintenance which are listed on the AOI in project status section below.

**A. 2012 Project Status**

<b>2012 Project</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Description/size</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Date issued</b>	<b>Date installed</b>
Negro tank maintenance					
Hopewell Recreation fence					
Jawbone/Tusas boundary fence in Broke off re-design					

## B. Travel Management Rule

Travel Management Plan was discussed in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and continues into 2012. The travel management rule requires each 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 2011 to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be part of allotment planning in the future. More information is available on the Carson NF web page at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/Carson/recreation/travel\\_mgmt/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/Carson/recreation/travel_mgmt/index.shtml)

Permittees can provide comments to USFS regarding:

- Roads or motorized trail that you would like to see remain open as part of the designated system
- Roads or motorized trail that you would like to see closed
- Access routes you believe are necessary to access range improvements and descriptions of how you have been accessing these improvements
- 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 your range-related facilities.

/s/ Chris Furr  
CHRIS FURR  
District Ranger

5-25-12  
Date

Attachment: Appendix

## 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.

## **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 livestock 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 you 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 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 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 you 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.