United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
Canjilon Ranger District
P. O. Box 469
Canjilon, New Mexico 87515
(575) 684-2489
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2012

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)

Canjilon Allotment #00101

Sociedad De Los Vaqueros De Canjilon

Carson National Forest

Canjilon Ranger District

/s/ Juan Martinez (Acting)
District Ranger

4/19/2012
Date

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AUTHORIZATION

You are permitted to graze 469 head of cattle for the grazing season 5/1 – 10/31 and 22 bulls 05/01-10/31 and 11/01 – 01/29.

Table 1 - Association - Permitted & Authorized Use

Number of Cattle Permitted	*Number of Cattle Authorized*	*Pasture*	*Grazing Period*
469	238	Mesa Montosa	05/05 – 05/30
469	0	Mesa Juan Domingo/Mesa Del Medio	Rest
469	462	Upper Lopez	05/31 – 06/30
469	462	Lower Lopez	07/01 – 08/03
469	462	Montoya	08/04 – 10/01
469	462	Fuertes	10/02 – 10/31
22 Bulls	22	Bull Pasture	11/01 – 01/29

The turn out date for the 2012 grazing season is **May 5th**. The lack of water in Mesa Juan Domingo and Mesa del Medio forces all authorized cattle to be turned out to the Mesa Montosa pasture. There is not enough water for all permitted cattle in Mesa Montosa. Some permittees have agreed to not put all there cattle on the forest on the scheduled turn out date. This will help alleviate the lack of water and not force a later turn out date. All cattle must be turned out on top of Mesa Montosa.

Table 2 - Permitted & Authorized Use By Permittee

Permittee	*Number of Cattle Permitted*	*Number of Cattle Authorized*
Baca, Paul	29	22
Salazar, Carlos and Lorrie	51	51
Garcia, Augustine	49	49
Leyba Brothers	79	79
Leyba, Leo	28	28
Martinez, Albert	57	57
Morales, Moises	84	84
Salazar, Victor	70	70
Assoc. Bulls	22	22
Totals	469	462

Dry conditions may cause utilization rates to be reached sooner than the planned dates. Please ensure that you help in moving the cattle. It's critical that utilization rates are maintained as a part of drought management. Movement decisions will be made in cooperation with you based on the utilization of key forage species in key areas as outlined in the Annual Operating Instructions.

You must continue salting practices to draw the cattle away from meadows and water sources. It is in your best interest to fully distribute your cattle throughout the entire range. The Forest Service monitors

at the key areas and if these areas are fully used then you will be moving your cattle ahead of schedule and perhaps headed home sooner than your off date. You should also move your salt blocks to reduce impacts to salt grounds.

The rotation schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when an unforeseen circumstance such as lack of water or overuse occurs within the pasture. You may propose changes of pastures outside of the above rotation schedule in coordination with this office. A written justification should be submitted by the permittee ten days prior to the proposed change to this office before a proposal to change the approved rotation schedule will be acted upon by the District Ranger. The decision made by the District Ranger will be based upon the condition of the range, recommendations of the range staff, and the needs of the permittees.

If you decide to move your cattle off of the grazing allotment early or put on reduced numbers resulting in less head months grazed than the amount paid for, you may want to apply for a credit/refund of unused grazing fees. In order to do so, you will need to apply in writing for the credit within two weeks of incurring the credit/refund or by November 1, 2012, whichever comes first. This keeps the numbers accurate and allows for Ranger approval and more accurate accounting of grazing fees the following season.

All cattle should be moved off the allotment by the last day of the grazing season. Anticipate moves in advance and plan accordingly. The last day of the grazing season is not the day to open gates and allow cattle to drift home. We understand that a few cows will be hard to catch. We ask that you make a concerted effort and let us know if you have any cows left on the grazing allotment after the end of the grazing season.

ALLOWABLE USE

The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers are indicated in Table 1 and Table 2 of this Annual Operating Instructions. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are met or exceeded. To achieve the desired allowable use, it is important to have proper livestock distribution. It is in your best interests to periodically distribute your cattle to areas that they typically under utilize to more efficiently use forage in these areas as they drift back into areas they prefer (key or critical areas). The maximum overall allowable use for the entire grazing season is:

Pinyon juniper woodland and grassland – 20-40%

Ponderosa pine, aspen and mixed conifer – 20-40%

2012 ALOTMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Authorized reductions in time and numbers of livestock may influence flexibility of livestock management in the deferred rotation system.

2. Management goal is to improve consistent communication/documentation of actual use to USFS. USFS is requesting records of actual use, are to be submitted to the USFS at the end of the 2012 grazing season.

3. Maintain or improve current range condition of the Canjilon grazing allotment by fence maintenance, herding, riding, salting, and good stewardship practices.

4. It is highly recommended that the 2012 rotation schedule follow a one herd deferred-rest grazing system.

5. The Canjilon permittees will allow only the numbers, kind and class of livestock on the allotment during the period specified in Part 1 hereof or the annual Bill for Collection, including any modifications made as provided for in Section 8 (c). Part 3 item 4. Permittees will notify the District Ranger at least 5 days before livestock enter National Forest Service lands.

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Canjilon Allotment. We will be monitoring levels of use during the grazing season at key grazing areas to ensure that utilization levels are within utilization guidelines at the end of the grazing season. Grazing Association directors and permittees are invited to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while these range condition evaluations are being made. Within the Canjilon Allotment the key grass species will be:

Table 3 - Key Forage Species

Pasture Name	***Key Forage Species***	***Utilization Guidelines***	***Stubble Height***
Mesa Juan Domingo, Mesa Montosa and Lopez	Western Wheatgrass Blue Grama Galleta Crested Wheatgrass	20-40% For all Species	3”-4” 1.5”-2” 2”-3” 3”-4.5”
Montoya and Fuertes	Arizona Fescue Kentucky Blue Mountain Muhly	20-40% For all Species	6”-7” 2”-4” 3”-5”

Distribution of livestock needs to improve on the allotment as some areas of the allotment are receiving little use while others are receiving excessive use. A key grazing area is a portion of rangeland selected because of its location, grazing or browsing value, or use to serve as a monitoring and evaluation point for range condition, trend, or degree of grazing use. Key areas reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the rangeland and guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part. Key grazing areas are primarily riparian areas, meadows and oak type habitats. The intent of monitoring in key grazing areas is to maintain good to excellent range conditions in key areas while accommodating the needs of wildlife. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure proper distribution of livestock to achieve a light to moderate grazing intensity of 20-40% by weight of annual available forage in key grazing areas. It will be important in the 2012 grazing season that cattle be rotated on time and distributed evenly to prevent repeated over utilization in key areas.

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MONITORING

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to ensure that proper use levels are not exceeded. If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, actions will be taken to limit additional forage use. We are especially concerned with use levels in riparian areas and canyon bottoms where cattle tend to concentrate use on palatable feed. We have identified key areas to be monitored on this allotment. The primary grass species on this allotment and approximate stubble heights associated with 20-40% use are as outlined in table 3.

Forage use level should be monitored periodically by permittees to aid in determining when livestock should be moved between pastures. Forest Service personnel will be monitoring within each grazed pasture during the scheduled grazing period. If use within that key area is approaching allowable stubble heights then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns. This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or moved from the pasture.

The Forest Service may conduct inspections on the grazing allotment during the on-going grazing period as time and personnel availability allows. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated. The range readiness inspection will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. The permittees are encouraged to participate in these inspections.

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of existing range improvements is critical to the proper management of your allotment. In order for rotation schedules to work, all fences must be in good condition. All fences, in the pasture you will be using first and any fences on your neighbors allotments first pasture, must be up and functioning. Then, before you move your cattle to the next pasture, the fences in that pasture must be maintained and in good condition prior to cattle being allowed to enter the pasture. As you know the livestock grazing program has come under the scrutiny of the public. It is important that we demonstrate the ability to manage your livestock. This means that the cattle should be in the pastures scheduled for grazing during the times they are scheduled to be there.

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SPECIAL MITIGATION MEASURES

In order to conform with Amendment of Forest Plans and the final U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Biological Opinion for Ongoing Livestock Grazing Activities on Allotments" which determine a No Affect and/or May affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect on your allotment, the following conditions must be met

Forage Utilization:

Forage use by grazing animals will be maintained at or above a condition which assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species. In order to attain this standard, the above site specific key areas and key forage utilization standards have been developed for the Canjilon Allotment.

Mineral Supplements/Salt Blocks:

Mineral supplement/Salt block sites will be regularly rotated to reduce trampling and grazing impacts to vegetation.