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 Creek Allotment #00102

Pacomio and Jose Mondragon

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

CANJILON RANGER DISTRICT

District Ranger

Date 4/19/2012

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Authorization

You are permitted to graze 759 head of sheep for the grazing season of 6/16 to 10/31. You are authorized to graze the following in 2012:

Table 1 – Permitted and Authorized Use

Number of Sheep Permitted	Number of Cattle Authorized	Pasture	Grazing Period
759	60	Canjilon Creek	06/16 – 10/31

As a reminder you're still permitted for sheep grazing. Until the Forest Service completes the necessary Environmental Assessment (EA) on the allotment we cannot guarantee that you will be allowed to graze each year during this transitional period. The EA is scheduled to be completed by the middle of September 2012. We want the cattle scattered throughout the allotment and away from the riparian areas. You can do this with a rider and you can also use salt as a tool to draw cattle away from the riparian areas.

Dry conditions may cause utilization rates to be reached sooner than the planned off dates for a pasture. 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 and based on the utilization of key forage species in key grazing areas of each pasture.

You must continue salting practices to draw the cattle away from the meadows and water sources. It is in your best interest to fully distribute your cattle throughout the entire range. We monitor at the key grazing areas and if these areas are fully used then you will be moving your cattle ahead of schedule and perhaps headed home sooner than the off date. You should also move your salt blocks often to reduce impacts to salt grounds.

The grazing schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when circumstances such as lack of water or overuse occur within a pasture. You may propose changes of pastures outside of the above rotation schedule in coordination with the District Range Staff and District Ranger. A written justification needs to be submitted by the permittee ten days prior to the proposed change before the change 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 permittee.

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 within two weeks of incurring the credit/refund or by November 1, 2012, whichever occurs 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. The last day of the grazing season is not the day to open gates and allow cattle to drift home. Anticipate moves in advance and plan accordingly. 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.

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Allowable Use/Forage Utilization Standards

The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers are indicated in Table 1 of this AOI. 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. The maximum overall utilization standards for the entire grazing season are:

Grassland – 20 to 40%
Ponderosa Pine, Aspen, and Mixed Conifer – 20 to 40%

Proper forage utilization is a critical factor in livestock management on the Canjilon Creek Allotment. Key forage species and the stubble heights associated with the utilization standards have been determined for the allotment and are as follows:

Table 2 – Key Forage Species

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Utilization Guidelines	Stubble Height
Canjilon Creek	Arizona Fescue Thurber Fescue Kentucky Bluegrass Red Top Sedges	20 – 40% For All Species	6” – 7” 6” – 7” 2” – 4” 4” – 6” 3” – 5”

Monitoring

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to ensure that proper utilization levels are not exceeded. If key forage species 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 utilization levels in canyon bottoms and riparian areas where cattle tend to concentrate use on palatable feed. Key grazing areas have been identified on this allotment in each pasture. We will be monitoring utilization at these areas during the grazing season.

Forage utilization levels 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 key grazing areas is approaching allowable stubble heights then the remaining key areas will 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 inspection on the grazing allotment during the on-going grazing period as time and personnel availability allows. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, cattle numbers, forage utilization levels, salting/supplement practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated.

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A range readiness inspection will be conducted prior to cattle entering the allotment in order to determine if vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. Permittees are encouraged to participate and will be contacted prior to the inspection to allow permittee participation to occur.

Improvement Maintenance

Maintenance of existing range improvements is critical to the proper management of the 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 must be up and functioning. Any fences your neighbor is counting on in his first pasture that you are responsible for as part of this allotment must be up and functioning as well.

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 cattle should be in the pastures scheduled for grazing during the times they are scheduled to be there.

Special Mitigation Measures

In order to conform to Amendment of Forest Plans and the final U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Biological Opinion for Ongoing Livestock Grazing Activities on Allotments" which determines 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 allotment.

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

The Forest Service is requesting record of actual use which is to be submitted to the Range Staff at the end of the 2012 grazing season.