



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
El Rito Ranger District

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2012
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs)

CANO ALLOTMENT # 00206

Gallegos Ranch
Fred Archuleta

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT

Kelly García

Acting District Ranger

June 1, 2012

Date

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions are in refernce to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael and Diana Trujillo on March 26, 2012 and are herby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit. The authorized eartag color is "green". The authorized use for the 2012 Grazing Season on the Cano Allotment is as follows:

Table 1 – Permittee Information and Season of Use

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Eartag #	Remarks Includes a reduction in numbers
	#	Season	#	Season		
Gallegos Ranch	62 c/c	6/1 – 10/15	62	6/1 – 10/15	G1 - 62	
Fred Archuleta	38 c/c	6/1 – 10/15	38	6/1 – 10/15	A1 - 38	<i>Permit Waiver of 10 c/c to Gallegos Ranch in process</i>
TOTAL	100 Head	6/1 – 10/15	100	6/1 – 10/15		

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Cano Allotment. The El Rito Range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest.

Nonuse applies only to animal numbers. Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (Total Nonuse), or part of the permitted numbers (Partial Nonuse). Verbal applications will not be accepted. If a permittee elects to request “total nonuse” he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

Season dates are dependant on range readiness inspections. Dates for range readiness inspections have been scheduled for May 24, 2012. You are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 am.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Cano Allotment. The El Rito range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest. A five-day grace period will be allowed for removal of stray(s) permitted cattle from the allotment.

If a permittee elects to request “total non-use” he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

ROTATION SCHEDULE

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on range readiness):

Table 2 - Rotation Schedule for Cattle Herd

Jose Maria Pasture	06/01 – 08/31
Canovas Pasture	09/01 – 10/15

FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Forage utilization will be measured in predetermined key areas. We will need your assistance for locating and setting up these key areas. The Forest Service will contact the permittees later in the spring and summer to set these key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Cano Allotment. Monitoring will be conducted using Vegetative Utilization Monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

Utilization guidelines for the Cano allotment are light to moderate or 20 - 40% use of grazable forage. Utilization will be measured at the end of the growing season in the key areas.

Riparian Stubble Heights will be maintained at four inches throughout the grazing season. When Riparian areas have been grazed down to a four inch stubble height. Cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

MONITORING RESULTS FROM 2011

Pasture	Species	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
Canovas	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	35%
Canovas	Thurber Fescue	20-40%	35%
Jose Maria	Thurber Fescue	20-40%	45%
Jose Maria	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	45%

At the end of the 2011 grazing season utilization was near the utilization guidelines in key grazing areas in the Canovas pasture. Utilization in the Jose Maria pasture was higher than guidelines. In 2012, the rotation schedule will revert back to the two pasture rotation to allow the Jose Maria pasture to recover fully. There continues to be localized areas with moderate grazing pressure where distribution can be improved. 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. 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 monitoring be conducted on schedule and that the cattle be rotated on time and distributed evenly to prevent over grazing in these key areas. See Monitoring section below for scheduled monitoring dates.

MONITORING

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use and movement of livestock. Permittees are encouraged and invited to participate in these inspections. The dates scheduled for monitoring on the Cano allotment this season are: July 13, August 24, and “End of Season” monitoring scheduled on October 10, 2012. The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture. Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is encouraged. Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization guidelines. If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified 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 removed from the pasture. Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated. Regular herding and riding practices are the key to achieving proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the fullest use of the grazing season. Salt must be placed out of bottoms, away from water, roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

The following projects were discussed for the Cano Allotment:

Replace the existing cattleguard between the Cano and the Salvador Complex Allotment. Sam Gallegos will install. Timbers for the cattleguard box are at the district office.

Permittees would like to meet in the field with FS personnel to look at possibly improving spring developments.

Permittee would like FS to remind Salvador Complex permittee to repair fence North of FR 559.

Permittees continue to have issues with fence maintenance assigned to permittees on adjacent allotments. Permittees requested that FS personnel contact the permittees and ensure that they have maintained their fences prior to entry date.

It is important that you inspect and maintain the assigned fences and water developments in the “*entry pasture*” to a good functioning condition prior to the entry date. All other pasture fences and waters must be maintained prior to livestock movement into the next scheduled pasture(s).

In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify the range personnel so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts while you are maintaining your fences on your allotment, you can get authorization to cut these materials by obtaining a Free Use Permit from the range personnel at the El Rito office.

ALLOTMENT STATUS

At the present time direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOIs.

An Environmental Assessment for the Cano Allotment was completed in 2006. An Allotment Management Plan for the Cano Allotment was completed in 2007 and provides management direction for the allotment.

Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

**ACTUAL USE INFORMATION
CANO ALLOTMENT
2012 GRAZING SEASON**

Attachment 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on Off	Date	Date on	Date Off	
Jose Maria	100	06/01	08/31			
Canovas	100	09/01	10/15			

Number of Head counted on:

Number of head lost: _____.

Table 1

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

Additional Comments:

UTILIZATION INFORMATION

CANO ALLOTMENT

2012 GRAZING SEASON

Attachment 2

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
Jose Maria					
Canovas					
Jose Maria					

