



2012

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs)

JARITA MESA ALLOTMENT # 00202

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT

Jarita Mesa Livestock Grazing Association	Griego Ranch c/o Thomas L., David & Donald Griego
Gabriel J. Aldaz	Joe Gurule Jr.
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	Diego R. Jaramillo
Jeffrey D. Chacon	Lorenzo A. Jaramillo
Sebedeo R. Chacon	Leonard Torrez or Leonard Torrez, Jr.
Timoteo, Candelaria & Isaac Chacon	Elive Valdez Estate
Joseph D. Gallegos	Jerry, Floyd & Ernesto Valdez
Isaac & Juan Giron	Pena Ranch c/o Bertram I., Henry A., Michael T., & Harold E. Pena
Arthur and Isabel Rodarte	

Kelly Garcia

Acting District Ranger, El Rito

May 9, 2012

Date

Annual Operating Instructions (AOI's)

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions (AOI's) are in reference to the annual meeting you had with Diana Trujillo, Estevan Gallegos, and Ezequiel Rael on March 28, 2012. The authorized ear tag color for 2012 is "purple".

Permitted / Authorized

Permittee Name	Permitted*		Authorized *		Remarks
	#	Season	#	Season	
Jarita Mesa Livestock Grazing Association	16 bulls	5/1 – 10/31	16 bulls	5/7 – 10/31	
Gabriel J. Aldaz	6 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	6 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Alfonso Chacon Jr.	45 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	20 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	<i>Voluntary partial non-use for resource protection.</i>
Jeffrey D. Chacon	7 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	7 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Sebedeo R. Chacon	104 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	108 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Timoteo, Candelaria & Isaac Chacon	9 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	9 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Celina or Joseph D. Gallegos	5 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	5 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Isaac & Juan Giron	25 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	22 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Joe Gurule Jr.	3 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	3 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Griego Ranch c/o David, Donald & Thomas L. Griego	57 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	62 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Diego R. Jaramillo	22 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	22 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Lorenzo A. Jaramillo	33 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	35 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Pena Ranch c/o Bertram, Henry, Michael & Harold Pena	33 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	37 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Rodarte, Arthur & Isabel	23 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	21 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	<i>Voluntary partial non-use for resource protection.</i>
Leonard Jr. & Leonard Torrez	5 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	5c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Elive Valdez Estate	25 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	25 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
Jerry, Ernesto or Floyd Valdez	10 c/c	5/1 – 10/31	10 c/c	5/7 – 10/31	
TOTAL	412 c/c 16 bulls	5/1 – 10/31	397 c/c 16 bulls	5/7 – 10/31	

* Permitted numbers shown represent an 18% reduction that will be implemented over a 5 year period starting with the 2012 grazing season, therefore authorized numbers may be higher than the permitted number.

Range readiness inspections will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing. Dates for range readiness inspections has been scheduled for April 27, 2012 & May 4, 2012. You are

welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be departing the El Rito Ranger District at 9:30 a.m.

All permittees must be in good standing with the Association and in compliance with the permit in order to let cattle onto Forest Service property.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Jarita Mesa 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.

Any nonuse of a term grazing permit must be requested in written form. 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 submitted within 1 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

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

Table 1 – Pasture Rotation

Maton De Encino Pasture*		05/7 – 06/01
Comanche/La Tetilla*		05/7 – 06/15
Jarita Pasture*		06/01 – 08/01
Kiowa Pasture		08/02 – 10/31

* Maton de Encino, Comanche and Jarita Pastures are to be grazed consequetively.

The routing schedule described above can be changed by the District Ranger when unforeseen circumstances, such as lack of water or overuse occur within the pasture. You may propose changes of pastures outside of the above routing schedule in coordination with this office. A written justification should be submitted by the permittee to this office before a proposal to change the above routing 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. Recommendations of the New Mexico Range Improvement Task Force and Cooperative Extension Service at New Mexico Statue University are encouraged and will be considered by the District Ranger in making such a determination.

Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is mandatory. A five-day grace period will be allowed to remove stray(s) permitted livestock from the pasture/allotment.

FORAGE UTILIZATION

Forage utilization will be measured in established key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Jarita Mesa Allotment. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range conditions are being evaluated.

Utilization guidelines for the Jarita Mesa allotment are conservative levels of 31-40% use of grazable forage. Utilization will be measured throughout and at the end of the grazing season in key areas.

Riparian stubble heights will be maintained at four inches throughout the grazing season. When riparian areas have been grazed down to four inch stubble height then cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

Within the Jarita Mesa Allotment the key forage species are:

Table 2 – Forage Utilization Guidelines

Pasture Name	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Maton de Encino, Comanche & La Tetilla Pastures	Western Wheat	4 – 6”
	Blue Grama	2 – 2.5”
	Carex	4 – 6”
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 6”
Jarita Pasture	Arizona Fescue	6 – 8”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 6”
	Carex	4 – 6”
Kiowa Pasture	AZ/Thurber Fescue	6 – 8”
	Kentucky Bluegrass	4 – 6”
	Carex	4 – 6”
Riparian Areas	Mt. Muhly	4 – 6”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 6”
	Sedges	4 – 6”

2011 END OF SEASON MONITORING

Table 3 – Monitoring Data

Pasture	Species	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
Kiowa (Clark)	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	50%
Kiowa (Clark)	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	50%
Kiowa (Varela Meadow Key Area)	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	70%
Kiowa (Varela Meadow Key Area)	Ferber Fescue	20-40%	70%
Jarita (Cipriano)	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	70%
Jarita (Cipriano)	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	70%
Jarita (Sawmill Key Area)	Arizona Fescue	20-40%	50%
Jarita (Sawmill Key Area)	Kentucky Bluegrass	20-40%	50%
Maton De Encino			

(P/J Convert))	Blue Grama	20-40%	50%
Maton De Encino (P/J Convert)	Western Wheatgrass	20-40%	50%
Comanche (Key #1)	Blue Grama	20-40%	50%
Comanche (Key #1)	Western Wheatgrass	20-40%	50%
Comanche (Key #2)	Blue Grama	20-40%	30%
Comanche (Key #2)	Western Wheatgrass	20-40%	30%
Comanche /La Tetilla	Blue Grama	20-40%	30%
Comanche/La Tetilla	Western Wheatgrass	20-40%	30%

Distribution of livestock needs to improve on the allotment as some areas of the allotment are receiving excessive use. At the end of the 2011 grazing season utilization was once again exceeded by at least one key species in each of the key grazing areas. The only key grazing area that did not exceed utilization guidelines was the Clark key area in the Kiowa pasture.

Proper fence maintenance, salt dispersal, range riding and monitoring by the permittees can change the numbers for the better. Adjustments in authorized livestock and season of use will be made in 2013 if distribution and management of livestock again results in excessive utilization.

MONITORING

Monitoring will be conducted in key areas using a combination of monitoring techniques including, but not limited to, paired cages, photo points, Rapid Assessment Method, and permittee monitoring. 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 conservative grazing intensity of 31-40% 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 over grazing in these key areas.

Permittees and the Range Improvement Task Force are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service Range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made. Dates for range readiness inspections have been set for **April 26, 2012**. Other monitoring dates are tentatively scheduled for **June 22, August 9, and October 18, 2012** for “End of Season” monitoring. We will be meeting at the El Rito Ranger District Office at 9:30 a.m. on each of the dates scheduled. Monitoring dates are subject to changes due to weather, fire danger, or unforeseen circumstances. Please contact Ezequiel Rael or Estevan Gallegos with any questions regarding monitoring. Your participation is welcome and encouraged.

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization standards. Once allowable use is achieved, livestock must be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment. The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture.

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.

Distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will also be evaluated.

Distribution is the key to achieving proper livestock management on the allotment and to providing 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 project has been approved for completion:

- Reseeding of brushhogged area on the Maton de Encino pasture

FENCE MAINTENANCE

All assigned fences and water developments must be maintained and determined to be in good functioning condition prior to the entry date. An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate. Permittees failing to fulfill maintenance responsibilities will result in cattle not being authorized to enter the allotment.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts for fence maintenance you may obtain 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 Jarita Mesa Allotment was completed in 2010. An Allotment Management Plan for the Jarita Mesa Allotment will be completed in 2011 and will provide management direction for the next 10 years.

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.

ATTACHMENT 1

**ACTUAL USE INFORMATION
JARITA MESA ALLOTMENT**

2012 GRAZING SEASON

Actual Use Table 1

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
Maton de Encino	241 c/c + bulls	5/07	5/31			
Comanche/La Tetilla	156 c/c + bulls	5/07	6/15			
Jarita	397 c/c* + 16 bulls	6/01	08/01			
Kiowa	397 c/c + 16 bulls	08/02	10/31			

* Cattle authorized to graze on the Comanche pasture will join the rest of the herd on June 15.

Number of Head counted on _____.

Number of head lost: _____.

Actual Use Table 2

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

Additional Comments:

ATTACHMENT 2

**UTILIZATION INFORMATION
JARITA MESA ALLOTMENT**

2012 GRAZING SEASON

Utilization Table 1

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
Maton de Encino					
Comanche/La Tetilla					
Jarita					
Kiowa					

