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**Annual Operating Instructions 2012
Bancos Allotment # 310**

Dear Permittee,

This letter details your 2012 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bancos grazing allotment as discussed in your annual operating meeting.

A. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS & SEASON OF USE

The Bancos allotment will be in non-use this year.

Table 1. Livestock numbers and season of use.

Allotment	Permitted	Class	Season	Authorized
Bancos	50	Cow/Calf	05/16 –10/31	Non-use

B. GRAZING SYSTEM Grazing Schedule and Pasture Sequence:

Table 2. Grazing schedule and pasture sequence.

Pasture	Dates
Chicosa	Non-use
Lion	Non-use
Lynch	Non-use
Mule	Non-use

C. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

The following maintenance will be completed this grazing season:

Maintenance of existing range improvements. All assigned range improvements must be maintained even during periods of non-use.

Insure that any pieces of old plastic pipe, old fence wire, or any discarded materials involved in range improvement maintenance be cleaned up and removed from Forest lands.

Any range improvement maintenance that involves physical ground disturbance must have prior approval from the District Ranger.

D. SALTING AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

Salt and supplemental feed will be used as a range management tool to draw livestock into areas of little or no use. This normally does not include areas adjacent to water or canyon bottoms. Salt should be checked and moved periodically to avoid potential overuse.

E. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land, and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of extreme fire danger, branding fires will be prohibited or else be allowed by permit only.

All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only with prior approval of the District Ranger.

F. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

MONITORING

Grazing intensity is a critical factor in managing the Bancos allotment. Even though the allotment will be in non-use we will continue to monitor grazing utilization from horses. Forest Service personnel will be using a variety of accepted methods to monitor key grazing areas. Permittees are invited and encouraged to participate in monitoring visits.

A maximum forage use level of 30% has been set for the Bancos allotment. Key forage species have been identified. Maintenance of the appropriate minimum average leaf lengths on key species will result in conservative use levels.

Table 3. Monitoring location, key species, and stubble height.

LOCATION	KEY SPECIES	STUBBLE HT.
All Key Areas	Western Wheat	4 - 5 in.
	Blue Grama	2 - 2.5 in.
	Galleta	3 - 4 in.
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 - 5.5 in.

G. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The drought conditions we have experienced in the past few years have returned over the 2011/2012 winter as well as the spring and summer months. We can only speculate at this point whether the monsoon moisture patterns will return this summer. Please ensure that you have a contingency plan for management of your livestock if drought conditions continue this summer. This year may be the year that we have to pull cows off early. If conditions warrant, we will need to work closely together to amend your annual operating instructions in order to meet rangeland resource objectives.

Our mutual goal should be to protect the long-term productivity of the range resource while considering the needs of your livestock operation. I strongly encourage you to closely monitor forage use levels using the guidelines in the Special Management Concerns described above. It is important that we communicate effectively to address proper grazing management and avoid emergency situations.

If you have any questions or concerns about the management of the Bancos allotment for the 2012 grazing season, please contact Roy Hudgeons at (505) 632-2956.

Sincerely,

/s/ Anthony Madrid

ANTHONY MADRID
District Ranger
Jicarilla Ranger District
Carson National Forest