

**File Code:** 2230  
**Date:** June 27, 2012

**Annual Operating Instructions 2012  
Vaqueros Allotment # 360**

Dear Permittee,

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

**A. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS & SEASON OF USE**

The following numbers and classes of livestock will be permitted to graze the Vaqueros allotment this year.

**Table 1. Livestock numbers and season of use.**

Permittee/Assoc	Permitted	Season	Authorized
Espinosa Ranch	51	05/16 – 10/31	Non-use
Mr. and Mrs. Gallegos	20	05/16 – 10/31	Non-use
Mr. and Mrs. Moreno	20	05/16 – 10/31	20
Paul Velasquez	166	05/16 – 10/31	100

**B. GRAZING SYSTEM** Grazing Schedule and Pasture Sequence:

**Table 2. Grazing schedule and pasture sequence  
Paul Velasquez**

Pasture	Dates
American	05/16 – 09/30
Mestenas	05/16 – 09/30
Vaqueros	10/01 – 10/31



**Table 3 A. Grazing schedule and pasture sequence**  
**Jesus Moreno**

Pasture	Dates
Devils	05/16 – 09/30
Vaqueros	10/01 – 10/31

Distribute cattle to the extent water and forage availability will allow. To attain the prescribed minimum average leaf lengths at the end of the season, it will be necessary to maintain good livestock distribution throughout the grazing season.

**C. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

**The following fence maintenance will be completed this year:**

**Espinosa Ranch – Maintenance of the West Boundary Fence # 3611, and Cabresto Mesa Fence # 3214. See attached maps for the segments that you are responsible for.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Gallegos – Maintenance of the West Boundary Fence # 3611, and American Mesa Fence # 3603. See attached maps for the segments that you are responsible for.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Moreno – Maintenance of the West Boundary Fence # 3611, and American Mesa Fence # 3603. See attached maps for the segments that you are responsible for.**

**Paul Velasquez – Maintenance of the East Boundary Fence # 3610, American Mesa Fence # 3603, the Roundup Fence # 3601, and Ruben Canyon Fence # 3617. See attached maps for the segments that you are responsible for.**

Continue with routine maintenance on existing improvements as assigned in permit. Insure that any pieces of old plastic pipe, old fence wire, or any discarded materials involved in range improvement maintenance is cleaned up and removed from Forest lands. Any range improvement maintenance that involves physical ground disturbance must have prior approval from the District Ranger. Please contact the Roy Hudgeons with any questions you may have regarding this issue.

**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**

**Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (MSO PAC’S)**

The Vaqueros allotment contains one MSO PAC. It is critical that use levels within this PAC be closely monitored. A maximum forage use level within MSO PAC’s has been set at 30%. If use becomes a concern within the PAC, livestock must be promptly moved away from this area.

**MONITORING**

Grazing intensity is a critical factor in managing the Vaqueros allotment. 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. Key forage species have been identified for the Vaqueros allotment. A maximum forage use level of 30-40% has been set for the Vaqueros allotment. 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.**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>KEY SPECIES</b>	<b>STUBBLE HT.</b>
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.

#### **H. Appeal Rights**

*This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to the closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).*

A Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, 208 Cruz Alta, Taos, New Mexico 87571, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with the Jicarilla District Ranger, 664 E. Broadway Bloomfield, NM 87413.

If you have any questions or concerns about the management of the Vaqueros 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