



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

P. O. Box 68
Penasco, New Mexico 87553
(575) 587-2255
FAX (575) 587-1626

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 30, 2012

Herman Manzanares
PO Box 742
Abiquiu, NM 87510

Dear

Your **2012 Annual Operating Instructions for the Flechado Allotment** is attached. Please review your grazing permit and become familiar with permit requirements before the grazing season.

Priority for maintenance should be placed on water developments and fences. All existing water developments should be functional prior to livestock entering the allotment. All assigned allotment fences must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment, and during the grazing season.

As discussed, we need to stay in touch. We need to discuss what management works and what changes need to be made to accommodate changing range conditions.

Thank you beforehand for helping the community by promptly reporting forest fires to the Carson NF Dispatch at 758-6208 and the Camino Real RD at the number listed above.

We look forward to working with you this season. If you have any questions regarding the Annual Permittee Instructions, please do not hesitate to contact Melvin Herrera or Sean Kelly.

SINCERELY,

TAMARA S. MALONE
Camino Real District Ranger



FLECHADO ALLOTMENT #453
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2012

The annual meeting for the Flechado Allotment was held on May 22, 2012, at the Camino Real Ranger District, Peñasco, New Mexico with Herman Manzanares attending. Melvin Herrera and Sean Kelly represented the Camino Real Ranger District.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit for Herman Manzanares.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittees discussed possible drought conditions, current snow depth and water content on the allotment and the outlook on predicted weather patterns for this coming grazing season. The Southwest Region is experiencing continued drought, however the mountainous Flechado Allotment is less affected and is classified as being in moderate drought at the time of this letter. Any non-use this grazing season will be considered resource protection non-use. Forest Service and the Permittee remain optimistic about grazing within the range of permitted numbers this year. The 2009 Environmental Assessment of grazing on the allotment took drought into consideration and included management changes and several range improvements to improve and maintain conditions.

Table 1-Permittee Permitted and Authorized kind and number

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized Number and kind
Herman A. Manzanares	100 -131 cow/calf	72 cow/calf, 3 bulls

Table 2- Season of use

2. Season of Use	
06/1 - 9/30	(122 days)

Table 3-Pasture Rotation Estimated time and actual use

3. Pasture Rotation Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual use	utilization %
Osha, Flechado, Gathering	06/16 – 08/15	61 days		
Siemental	08/16 – 09/05	21 days		
La Jara	09/06 – 09/24	19 days		
Riparian/Gathering	09/25 – 09/30	6 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Flechado allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed, and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions. Range improvements, i.e. Fences, will be maintained prior to moving to a different pasture, and those for the entry pasture will be inspected during the range readiness monitoring.

4. Maintenance of Improvements

Improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittee going on to the allotment.

5. Other Items of Discussion

During the 2011 grazing season there were 100 head authorized which is the lower end of the range of permitted numbers. Utilization was greater than the guidelines of 40% in some key areas of three pastures, Flechado, Osha, and Riparian. The key areas around Apache pass was estimated to be 50% for both Flechado and Osha pastures, however the utilization estimates for other portions of those pastures were within guidelines. Riparian stubble height was measured in Apache canyon, and averaged 5.5 inches, which is within guidelines. Management changes were discussed for 2012, which could improve the cattle distribution.

The Permittee is concerned that the Riparian fence, which maintenance is assigned to the Forest Service, is in disrepair. There is a need for reconstruction and maybe even redesign to facilitate annual maintenance. There are often instances of unscheduled cattle use in the Riparian pasture, which attracts the attention of concerned citizens.

Recreational users continue to cause problems with gates being left open, off road travel on closed roads, and fences being cut. Most problems are caused by ATV users. Permittee asked for spring loaded or gravity closing gates to automatically close gates in specific areas. He also requested Law Enforcement attention at those gates. Forest Service suggested signage could help, if the need and dates for the gate are explained. Permittee could change this gates.

The Permittee is concerned with the dead and down logs on the allotment that are restricting cattle movements. Forest Service gives permission here in these annual operating instructions for him to cut about a ten foot path through the dead and down north of the Apache subdivision. Forest Service also expects and hopes for the public to take more of the wood from the thinning project in that area.

There are Secure Rural Schools funds to contract fence construction around the North side of the Apache Subdivision, and to split the Osha pasture in half from the Angel Fire Boundary to the Tienditas boundary, in the vicinity of the Tres Hermanos Ranch. Those projects are covered in the 2009 Environmental Assessment.

There is another EA being completed for construction of another segment of fence along the South side of the Apache Subdivision. The construction could start in 2013.

The elk enclosure in the riparian pasture was discussed and the permittee again expressed his expectation that it be removed within a few years. Monitoring efforts will continue this year.

A new wood area was thinned out south of Hwy. 64 on the Flechado pasture. The public will be allowed to access the forest to retrieve firewood. Access to gates will be monitored and used in conjunction with the AOI to lessen the impact to cattle grazing. There is a concern over gates being used and allowing livestock to get out onto the highway. FS may be able to lock the gates or otherwise deal with the gate issue whenever the pastures will be grazed in fuelwood areas.

Utilization guidelines for 2012 are 40% of available annual forage in key use areas, and 4 inches stubble height in riparian zones. Forage utilization will be measured in key use areas.

The grazing fee this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

Permittee and FS will look at range together to determine range readiness and on-date.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. A decision is expected to be signed by the Forest Supervisor during this grazing season. Permittees stated that they need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required maintenance on fences and other range improvements, checking that gates are closed, checking on cattle health and location, and placing salt and mineral supplements. Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees.

The Allotment Management Plan was reviewed with the Permittee and now becomes part of the Permit.

The Forest Service has been informed by the State Livestock Inspector that Trichomoniasis (Trich) testing is required for bulls that graze on public lands in New Mexico.

Copies of the 2003 Raish and McSweeney research paper were handed out to permittees. Economic, Social, and Cultural Aspects of Livestock Ranching on the Española and Canjilon Ranger Districts of the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests: A pilot Study.

Grazing Instructions for 2012 are the same as in 2011. Salt away from roads and streams; use herding, salt, fences, and water sources to disperse cattle across the pastures to use the available forage; avoid overuse in key areas.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2012:

1. Move drinkers further upland in both pastures from Apache Spring.
2. Harden the water gaps in the Flechado pasture with bricks the Forest Service acquired.
3. Develop the water source below the Tres Hermanos ranch near where the road crosses the new fence line that will split the Osha pasture.
4. Stock trail E of Sec. 34 private property needs to be cut out.
5. Reconstruct the Osha and Flechado division fence from Apache subdivision to Apache pass.
6. Reconstruct fence between private land and Flechado pasture to provide a division between the Flechado and Osha pastures.
7. Clean out spring between Apache and Bull passes.
8. Spring development at Palo Flechado Pass.
9. New trough for Siemental.
10. Remove old trough from Bull spring.

Forest Service would like at least 2 weeks notice prior to any proposed change in management (either season or numbers) so that they can go look at the allotment with the permittee.

