

**ANGOSTURA ALLOTMENT #405
Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District**

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2013

The annual meeting for the Angostura Allotment was held on May 10, 2013, at the Camino Real district office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Ernesto Hurtado represented the Angostura de Caballos Cattle Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permits for the Angostura Grazing permittees.

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittee 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, so any non-use would be considered resource protection non-use. Forest Service and Permittees 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 new guidelines to improve and maintain conditions.

Table 1- Permittee, Permitted and authorized kind and number.

1. Permittee	Permitted Number and Kind	Authorized number and kind
Angostura de Caballos Cattle Association	4 bulls	4 bulls
Sara and Ernesto Hurtado	67 cow/calf to 73 cow/calf	67 cow/calf
Estevan R. & Suzanne Lopez	9 cow/calf to 10 cow/calf	9 cow/calf

Table 2- Season of use

2. Season of Use	
06/01 - 9/30	(122 days)

Table 3- Pasture Rotation

3. Pasture Rotation				
Pasture	Estimated Dates	Estimated Time	Actual Use	Utilization%
Agua Sarca/Loring	06/01 - 06/30	30 days		
Lower Alamitos	07/01 - 07/10	10 days		
Upper Alamitos	07/11 - 08/10	31 days		
Dropout	08/11 - 09/10	31 days		
Lower Alamitos	09/11- 09/30	20 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Angostura 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 entry into each pasture.

4. Maintenance of Improvements

The entire cost of 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 permittees going on to a particular pasture on the allotment. Range improvements for the first pasture in will be inspected at the same time as range readiness.

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2012 grazing season went well on the Angostura allotment. Production on the allotment was adequate last season. Utilization levels were within guidelines in key areas and riparian areas exceeded the four inch stubble height guidelines. Several cattle spent a lot of time last season on private land owned by the permittee.

Range monitoring by the permittees on the allotment is continuing and encouraged.

The Grazing Instructions for 2013 are the same as in 2012. 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.

Utilization guidelines for 2013 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 for this year is \$1.35 per head month for cattle.

Permittees and the Camino Real Ranger District will look at the range together to determine range readiness and on-date.

The Forest Service contacted the State Livestock Inspector, who confirmed that Trich testing is indeed required for bulls that graze on public lands in New Mexico.

The Forest Service discussed ongoing efforts with the Travel Management Rule. A decision is expected to be signed by the Forest Supervisor in the very near future. Permittees stated that they need to use ATV's and motor vehicles for performing their required improvement maintenance and other duties such as checking that gates are closed, checking cattle distribution, monitoring, and placing of salt and mineral supplements. Forest Service should be able to accommodate with a written letter issued to the permittees on a case by case basis under short-term authorization.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2013:

1. Prescribed burning.
2. Loma Linda fence maintenance

The Camino Real Ranger District will provide replacement tags as needed.

In the future some prescribed burning will be planned to occur on the allotment.

FS reminded permittees that they are responsible for calling to arrange livestock counts before on-date.

The Camino Real Ranger District 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.

/s/ Tamara S. Malone
District Ranger

6/03/2013
Date