

**CAPULIN ALLOTMENT #451**  
Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2013**

The annual meeting for the Capulin Allotment was held on March 8, 2013, at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico. The Capulin Grazing Association was represented by Robert A. Martinez, and Erminio Martinez. Melvin Herrera and Tamara Malone represented the Forest Service.

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

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittees discussed ongoing 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 this grazing season will be considered resource protection non-use. Forest Service and Permittees remain optimistic about grazing permitted numbers this year.

**Table 1 - Permittees, Permitted and Authorized Kind and Number.**

<b>1. Permittees</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and Kind</b>
<b>Capulin Grazing Association</b>	<b>55 c/c and 4 bulls</b>	<b>49 c/c and 4 bulls</b>
Erminio and Roberto Martinez	18 cow/calf	29 c/c 2 bulls
Robert A. Martinez	24 cow/calf	14 c/c 2 bull
Eleanor Cardenas	13 cow/calf	6/c

**Table 2 - Season of use.**

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

**Table 3 - Pasture Rotation**

<b>3. Pasture Rotation</b>				
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Estimated Days</b>	<b>Actual Use</b>	<b>Utilization %</b>
OK Canyon	06/01 – 06/30	30 days		
Baca	07/01 – 07/31	31 days		
Casita de Piedra	08/01 – 08/31	31 days		
Capulin Canyon	09/01 – 09/30	30 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Capulin 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.

#### **4. Maintenance of Improvements**

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittees. Assigned allotment boundary fences, division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to the permittees going on to a particular pasture. Range improvements for the first pasture in will be inspected at the same time as range readiness.

#### **5. Other Items Discussed**

The 2012 grazing season went well overall due to permittees cooperation. End of year utilization was within the allowable guidelines. Maintenance of range improvements was adequate.

Permittees did a good job in grazing lighter in the OK pasture by taking advantage of other areas within the other pastures. An increase in prairie dog activity in the Ok pasture by the corral has caused deteriorated range conditions. There was also an increase in recreationists and fuelwood gatherers in the Ok canyon with many individuals trampling the open meadow above the corral adding to the overall condition of the meadow.

Permittees would like to continue a working relationship with Taos Pueblo and asked that Tammy contact Arthur Butch with USDA to help in improving working relationships. There were no issues with cattle getting onto the Pueblo last year, but there are continuing issues with maintenance of the division fence and access by the Pueblo to do the maintenance. Forest Service plans on going out to the allotment and looking at multiple road issues this spring.

Permittees are encouraged to continue their monitoring program for their allotment.

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.

Permittees are concerned with the increased fuelwood gatherers in the area leaving trash on the allotment. They also had concerns with new roads being created and thereby increasing the risk of gates being left open and cattle getting onto the highway. They requested that we coincide fuelwood projects with their grazing schedule so as to not allow the public in the east side of the allotment until later on in the season when the cattle have been moved to the west side of the allotment.

Solomon springs, as well as some springs in the Capulin pasture, need new black water pipe. Forest Service informed the permittees that it is available and they need to call with the lengths, so FS employees can go through the stockpile. Permittees said they would want access to go behind the locked gates. This can be accommodated.

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 sometime soon. 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 on a case by case basis under short-term authorization.

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

Forest Service will work with the NM Dept. of Transportation in possibly installing a culvert of the highway by the Ok corral. Continued maintenance of highway right of way fences will also be discussed.

Permittees mentioned that Dr. Citrulo (adjacent landowner) would like to install a pipe fence between him and the FS and would like to work on a possible MOU.

Permittees and FS will look at the range together to determine range readiness and on-date, and tentatively agreed on May 23, 2013 for an inspection.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2013:

1. The first dirt stock tank in OK pasture needs material added to the dam and rocks placed to discourage cattle trailing over the dam.
2. The highway cattle guards at Capulin and OK may both need cleaning
3. Salomon spring needs a new trough and maybe a smaller enclosure.
4. Relocate Capulin gathering corral. This may take NEPA to accomplish.
5. Fence along private land next to highway west of Roberto Spring. Most has been completed by private landowner, but may need some additional fencework to complete.
6. Need to put in a trough above Shadow Mountain. May need to check with archeology.
7. Need to replace some troughs in Casita de Piedra pasture.
8. A new spring development about 1/8 mi past the green gate behind the monastery. This is a new development and would require new NEPA.

NEPA is scheduled a few years out for the Capulin allotment. Forest Service explained Section 18 review versus Environmental Analysis. Permittees were advised to begin thinking about their issues.

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.

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.

/s/ Tamara S. Malone  
District Ranger

5/29/2013  
Date