

**EAST FERNANDEZ ALLOTMENT #457**

Carson National Forest  
Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2013**

The annual meeting for the East Fernandez Allotment was held on April 12, 2013, at the Forest Supervisors office in Taos, New Mexico. The Permittees attending were Larry and Jose Mondragon. Melvin Herrera, John Miera and Tamara Malone represented the Forest Service.

These annual operating instructions are hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permits on the East Fernandez Allotment.

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, so any non-use this grazing season will be considered resource protection non-use. Forest Service and Permittees remain optimistic about grazing this year.

**Table 1- Permittee, Permitted and Authorized number and kind.**

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and Kind</b>
Jose M. Mondragon	6 cow/calf	6 cow/calf
Larry E. Mondragon	7 cow/calf, 1 bull	7 cow/calf, 1 bull

**Table 2 - Season of Use**

<b>2. Season of Use</b>	
06/20 - 09/30	(102 days)

**Table 3 - Pasture Rotation**

<b>3. Pasture Rotation</b>				
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Estimated Time</b>	<b>Actual use</b>	<b>Utilization %</b>
East Fernandez	06/20 - 09/30	102 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the East Fernandez allotment which means that the season of use, numbers grazed and rotation schedules may be adjusted throughout the grazing season based on resource conditions. Assigned range improvements, i.e. fences, will be maintained prior to moving to a different part of the allotment.

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

The entire cost of improvements maintenance is the responsibility of the permittee. 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 the allotment.

#### **5. Other Items of Discussion**

The 2012 grazing season went well and use was within the utilization guidelines. Forage production was good and vigor of plants looked good throughout the allotment. Distribution of livestock throughout the allotment was good.

There was an issue last grazing season with livestock going across the golf course in Valle Escondido. Permittees have discussed the issue with the golf course manager and have agreed to work together this grazing season to avoid any similar issues.

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 monitored in key forage areas. Permittees are responsible for monitoring the allotment, and ensuring adequate distribution.

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.

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

Permittees and FS 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 FS would like to have copies of the test results on bulls.

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. Many of the roads on this allotment will be closed. 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 Camino Real District will provide tags to permittees as needed.

The East Fernandez Allotment went through a Section 18 review of their current Environmental Analysis last year. The District Ranger has determined that the current NEPA will be implemented and reviewed in two to three years. Permittees will continue to work on boundary fence between their allotment and the Olla Ranchos allotment.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2013:

1. Gathering corral near Valle Escondido. Permittees have a real need for this corral and it may also benefit the permittee on Tienditas.
2. Water developments on East side; earth tanks near La Chosa, new drinker at Mascarenas spring, and repairs at Tecolote spring.

3. Fence to keep cattle out of Valle Escondido and cattleguard.

Water development on the allotment is an important concern to the permittees. FS can provide a green Powder River water trough to replace the drinker at Mascarenas 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.

/s/ Tamara S. Malone  
District Ranger

6/12/2013  
Date