

SANTA BARBARA ALLOTMENT #403

Carson National Forest
Camino Real Ranger District

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2013

The annual meeting for the Santa Barbara Allotment was held on March 22, 2013, at the Camino Real district office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Attending were Manuel Griego, Octavio Griego, Joe Griego, Estevan Lopez, Andie Sanchez, Pete Contreras, Charlie Sanchez, and Anthony Esquibel from the Santa Barbara Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera and Tammy Malone represented the Camino Real Ranger District.

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

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 conditions. Any non-use this grazing season will be considered resource protection non-use. Forest Service and Permittees remain optimistic about grazing within the range of permitted numbers this year. The 2008 Environmental Assessment of grazing on the allotment took drought into consideration and included several range improvements to improve and maintain conditions.

Table 1-Permitted and Authorized kind and number

1. Permittee	Number and Kind	Authorized number and kind
Santa Barbara Grazing Association	115 cow/calf & 7 bulls to 192 cow/calf, 11 bulls	143 cow/calf, 11 bulls
Pete A. & Gloria M. Contreras	(10 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Lloyd, Anthony, & Norman Esquibel	(25 cow/calf)	(29 cow/calf, 2 bull)
Dorothy K. Gonzales	(18 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Joe G. & Helen Griego	(7 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Manuel A. Griego	(7 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Octavio Griego	(12 cow/calf)	(16 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Estevan R. Lopez	(10 cow/calf)	(11 cow/calf, 1 bulls)
Rutilio A. Martinez Estate	(10 cow/calf)	(8 cow/calf)
Clarence R. Romero	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Joseph Oliver Rodarte	(4 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Lee and Betty Maestas	(30 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Andie R. Sanchez	(27 cow/calf)	(30 cow/calf, 3 bulls)
Charlie F. & Brenda M. Sanchez	(23 cow/calf)	(27 cow/calf, 2 bull)

Table 2. Season of use.

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

Table 3-Pasture Rotation

3. Pasture Rotation				
Pasture	Dates	Time	Actual use	Utilization%
Santa Barbara (hayfield)	06/01 - 6/04	4 days		
Santa Barbara (bottoms)	06/05 – 6/10	6 days		
West Fork	06/11 – 06/25	15 days		
Middle/East Fork	06/26 – 07/31	36 days		
Indian/Jicarita	08/1 – 08/20	20 days		
Osha/Bear Mtn/Comales	08/21 – 09/19	30 days		
Santa Barbara (bottoms and hayfield)	09/20 – 09/30	11 days		

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Santa Barbara 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 permittees. Assigned allotment boundary fences, pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained prior to entry into each pasture. Range improvements for the Bottoms and West Fork pastures will be inspected at the same time as Range Readiness.

5. Other Items of Discussion

The 2012 season went well overall. End of year monitoring reflected riparian stubble height was greater than 4 inches and utilization on the allotment in several pastures was within the utilization guidelines of 40 percent in key areas as monitored by Forest Service employees. Some pastures were not monitored due to snow conditions. Distribution of livestock needs to improve as many areas of the allotment are receiving little or no utilization. Distribution of livestock is key to sustainable grazing and requires diligent riding from all members. Implementing the recently approved NEPA analysis should help address this issue.

Permittees were successful in building the West Fork drift fence last fall. There were leftover materials there that may be available for the fence in the middle fork if needed.

The Middle Fork drift fences were not constructed in 2012 as planned due to no one bidding on the contract. The funds were carried over to 2013, but may be unavailable due to government sequestration and budget constraints. A group of kids may be available to do the work with some oversight by the permittees this season as materials should be on site, with the exception of the metal gates.

The division fence between the Knob allotment and the Santa Barbara allotment in the vicinity of Ripley Point and Indian Creek was also maintained last year. The fence may need to be extended to the north where part of an old buck and pole fence has rotted out in some 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 forage areas.

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

The Grazing Instructions for 2013 were discussed and 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 Camino Real Ranger District again encourages permittees to cut the hay meadow prior to Canada thistle setting its seed early in the fall. There continues to be a visible reduction in the amount of Canada thistle in the last few years.

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 Camino Real Ranger District will provide replacement tags this year as needed.

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 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 specifying certain dates and locations on a case by case basis under short-term authorization.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2013:

1. Drift fencing to separate the Bottoms from the Middle/East and West Fork pastures.
2. Gate for the trail head of the Jicarita trail.
3. Ripley point fence done with heavy maintenance but may need extending to the north.
4. Wing fences that cross Rio Santa Barbara at the top and bottom of campground was done last season.
5. Thinning (Cañada Honda)
6. Prescribed burns (Approved in Decision Notice)

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

/s/ Tamara S. Malone
District Ranger

5/29/2013
Date