

**TRAMPAS ALLOTMENT #401**  
 Carson National Forest  
 Camino Real Ranger District

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2013**

The annual meeting for the Trampas Allotment was held on February 11, 2013, at the Camino Real District office in Peñasco, New Mexico. Attending were Jake Lopez, Edward Lopez, Patsy & Isidoro Chavez, Estevan Velarde, Max Cordova, Leonard Romero, Jose Sandoval, Eddie Randy Tafoya and Margaret Velarde from the Trampas Grazing Association. Melvin Herrera, Reuben Velasquez and Tamara Malone represented the Forest Service.

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

The Camino Real Ranger District and the permittees discussed anticipated 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 by the association 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-Permitted and Authorized kind and number**

<b>1. Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Number and kind</b>	<b>Authorized Number and kind</b>
<b>Trampas Grazing Association</b>	<b>70 cow/calf, 3 bulls to 124 cow/calf, 6 bulls</b>	<b>97 cow/calf, 5 bulls</b>
Raymond M. Chavez Estate	(7 cow/calf)	(13 cow/calf)
Melvin Cordova	(4 cow/calf)	(21 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Frutoza, Jake, & Edward Lopez	(25 cow/calf)	(19 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Tommy Martinez	(10 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Jose F. Martinez	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Viola Sanchez McTeigue Estate	(7 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Leonard L. Romero	(11 cow/calf)	(14 cow/calf, 1bull)
Orlando Sanchez, Jr.	(12 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Mr & Mrs. Jose D. Sandoval	(9 cow/calf)	(10 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Eddie Randy Tafoya	(9 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Irene Velarde Valdez	(4 cow/calf)	(0 cow/calf)
Elias Estevan Velarde	(7 cow/calf)	(12 cow/calf, 1 bull)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maestas	(10 cow/calf)	(8 cow/calf)

## 2. Season of Use

05/1 - 9/15 (138 days) or 05/16 – 9/30 depending on range readiness. Crested wheatgrass production for adequate grazing capacity will dictate the on date, provided the ground is dry enough to handle the vehicle and cattle traffic on the pastures.

Table 2-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>
Lower Entrañas #4 & Entranas (Rio Chiquito allotment)	05/1 – 05/20	20 days		
Lower Entrañas #3 and Canada Abeyta	05/21 – 06/05	15 days		
Lower Entrañas #2	06/06 – 06/15	15 days		
Lower Entrañas #1	06/16 – 06/30	20 days		
Trampas River	07/1 – 09/15	77 days		
Canada Ancha (Pres and Joyce of Rio Chiquito allotment)	05/15-09/30	138 days		

Canada Abeyta will be used in conjunction with Lower Entrañas #3, and rotation dates are flexible depending on resource conditions through the grazing season. Melvin Cordova will graze his livestock between private land and the Canada Abeyta and Canada Ancha of the allotment.

Adaptive management will continue to be applied to the management of the Trampas 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 permittee. Assigned allotment boundary fences, pasture division fences, stock tanks, springs, cattleguards, and other range structural improvements must be maintained for the entry pasture and each subsequent pasture prior permittees moving to the next pasture. The range improvements for the Lower Entrañas # 4 pasture will be inspected at the same time as Range Readiness. Permittees will not be allowed on the allotment until the improvements in the Lower Entranas # 4 and Entranas in Rio Chiquito allotment are maintained and inspected.

## 5. Other Items Discussed

The 2012 grazing season went well after a rough start in the pastures west of the highway. Permittees had to haul water early on in the season. Permittees went on with less than full permitted numbers and there was excellent cooperation between permittees and the District. The number of livestock grazed last season (80c/c 3 bulls), allowed for grazing within the allowable use levels for most of the allotment. There was below average production due to drought conditions in the pastures west of the highway but production was average in the Trampas River pasture. Distribution of livestock was good last season. Permittees did a good job of maintenance of range improvements.

The season of use, utilization guidelines, and herbaceous cover height guidelines from the 2009 environmental assessment were again in effect last year. The Crested wheatgrass range was ready by 5/5/2012 and the cattle were allowed on the Forest.

**The guidelines** from the 2009 environmental assessment are described below and may apply more this year in light of the continued drought.

**The earlier grazing season** of 5/1 - 9/15 is in effect to take advantage of the early green up of Crested wheatgrass. Range readiness will depend on the roads drying up adequately and sufficient production of Crested Wheatgrass, which would be about 6 inches average height.

**Within riparian areas:** strive to maintain an average 6 inch herbaceous cover height throughout the grazing season and 35% end of season utilization.

**Within upland meadows,** strive to maintain an average 4" herbaceous cover height throughout the grazing season to provide cover for wildlife prey base and sensitive species (voles etc). Monitoring should trigger movement of livestock seasonally and will be taken into consideration for planning next year's grazing season. **Within non-revegetation, non-riparian areas:** strive to achieve an average 40% end of season utilization to maintain/improve the vigor of the plants.

**Within Crested Wheatgrass revegetation stands** west of the highway, utilization guidelines are up to 60% use.

Movement of livestock to meet these guidelines may be within a pasture to other key areas, or to the next scheduled pasture depending on pasture conditions.

Basic 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. Permittees should use no more than 5 days to clean out the pastures after the move date.

Forage utilization and herbaceous cover heights will be measured in key areas.

Permittees should continue monitoring their allotment in key use areas. In the past the herbaceous cover height of less than four inches in the key area below the Tafoya ranch is partly due to unauthorized grazing. The Forest Service can monitor for that and requests timely reports of unpermitted cattle in the area.

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.

Forest Service will meet with NM DOT to discuss continuing maintenance of highway right of way fences.

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

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 to the general public. 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 authorizations.

Permittees and FS will look at range together to determine range readiness and on-date. Maintenance of assigned range improvements will also be inspected.

Priority for Range Betterment work for 2013:

1. Construction of gathering corral at the intersection of S.R. 76 and F.R. 155. The Forest Service has recycled field fence for this.
2. Wing corral will be repaired in cooperation with Rio Chiquito permittees.
3. Spring development at Turkey plot needs new pipeline and trough.
4. Road to Trick tank #2 needs work on drainage. Permittees may work on this after Forest Service does archaeological clearance.
5. Identify and develop new water source between Canada de Los Alamos and La Joya.
6. Trick tank construction in Canada Ancha pasture.
7. Reconstruct the Canada Abeyta pasture trick tank.
8. Install a cattle guard at the bottom of section 11 on the road coming into Canada Abeyta pasture from Truchas.

Permittees mentioned that Tanks number 5 and 2 needed new matting as the old one was weathered. A new liner is available to be installed in Tank #5.

The fence along the Trampas River boundary will be maintained as needed between the Trampas and Rio Chiquito associations to prevent cattle from mixing.

The Camino Real Ranger District will provide tags to permittees as needed.

Permittees agreed to have members of the Rio Chiquito association utilize the Canada Ancha area, as requested, same as last year. This area has been utilized by Presciliano Sandoval and Joyce Sandoval as they have water on private land and there is no water on the pasture. Eventually when the proposed trick tank is constructed in the pasture the Trampas association will be able to use that pasture. Permittees also requested that consideration be made on being able to utilize part of the Rio Chiquito allotment (Entranas Pasture) as they did two years ago. This will be discussed at the Rio Chiquito meeting.

New officers were elected. Jake Lopez will serve as president, Isadoro Chavez will be secretary/treasurer, and Leonard Romero was elected vice-president for the association.

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

5/08/2013  
Date