



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern Region 3  
Carson National Forest  
Tres Piedras  
Ranger District

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2013  
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)  
SANTOS ALLOTMENT (00636)  
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT

LIST OF SANTOS ALLOTMENT MEMBERS:

Ganados Del Valle Corporation c/o Antonio Manzanares

Prepared By:

Anna Dominguez  
Anna Dominguez  
Rangeland Management Specialist

3-27-13  
Date

Approved By:

Chris Furr  
CHRIS FURR  
District Ranger

3/28/13  
Date

**Introduction**

The Santos Operating Instructions meeting was held on March 5, 2013 at the Tres Piedras Ranger District. The Representative of Ganados Del Valle Corp., Antonio Manzanares attended the meeting. Wayne Yonemoto and Anna Dominguez represented the U. S. Forest Service.

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) is a decision document that is made part of the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. The AOI includes guidance criteria described below that addresses annual resource conditions, livestock numbers, period of use, pasture rotations, monitoring and range improvement projects. The 2003 Rangeland Management Action Plan for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests continues to be program guidance. The objectives of this strategic action plan continue to be a high priority and emphasize collaboration, rangeland health, and rangeland monitoring and permittee involvement.

The SPI definition that indicates the end-of-drought is for the SPI values to be positive 1.0 (or higher) for the past 12 months. The SPI for the past 12 months January thru December is described as extremely Dry (-2.99 to -2.00) so the end of drought has not occurred. SPI values of negative 0.70 or less for the past month signal drought conditions. The SPI for the past 1-month thru January described as Near Normal (-0.74 to +0.74), so 1-month drought conditions are present. Within the District, during the periods of December 2011 to January 2013, there were various areas of favorable normal to above normal precipitation as well as areas of below normal precipitation. Also, below normal to normal to above-normal temperatures occurred.

The livestock grazing fee for 2013 grazing year is \$1.35/HM (Cattle) and \$0.27 /HM (sheep). The authorized use for the current grazing season is as follows:

**Santos permittee information and Authorized Use (Term Permit/Annual Authorized Use)**

Santos/636	900 e/l Permitted Season 4/11-6/5, 56 days, 1657 HM, 497 AUM.	2013 Authorized use is 900 e/l Permitted Season 4/11-6/5, 56 days, 1657 HM, 497 AUM. Credit from 2012 has been applied	2013 Actual use
Ganados Del Valle Corp. c/ Antonio Manzanares			

Initial range readiness inspection will determine the adaptive management in response to resource conditions. Initial Range readiness was completed the first week of April 2013. Range inspections will be conducted throughout the season of use to adjust with the current resource condition.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Allotment. Tres Piedras District range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time that livestock enter or leave the Carson NF.

Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in writing for all of the permitted numbers (total nonuse), or part of the permitted numbers (partial nonuse). Verbal applications will not be accepted. If a permittee is approved for "total nonuse", the permittee is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

### **Review of 2012 Monitoring Data**

The forage production of the 2012 growing season was low to moderate due to sporadic erratic rains. Permittee took non-use for resource protection and will be credited for the 2012 authorized use payment in 2013. Long term range data was collected by reading the Parker transects in 4 areas of the Santos allotment. Santos range condition is fair to low fair. 2012 stunted production in combination with wild ungulate and excess use contributed to utilization at 40% at the end of the season throughout the allotment.

### **2012 AOI Compliance**

1. The low production in the spring influenced non-use of Santos allotment in 2012.
2. A temporary surface cattle guard was placed on FR 557 by USFS.
3. Parker transects were read in 2012 to complete data requirement for the Environmental Assessment.
4. Excess use occurred in the Santos allotment due to numerous unauthorized roads without cattleguards and gates left open by public land users.
5. Dormant winter use in December 2012 was requested by permittee but denied by USFS. The EA has not been completed. Temporary use of adjacent Servilleta allotment was authorized:  
2011 grazing year 1/10- 2/29, 800 sheep, 1341 HM  
2012 grazing year 3/1 to 3/15, 789 sheep 389 HM  
A total of 1730 HM was used during the dormant season in Servilleta allotment
6. Permittee completed and provided necessary documentation to renew expired permit in December 2012.

### **2012 Actual Use**

In November 2011 Antonio Manzanares requested to use Santos allotment during December to address the excess use that occurs from TCLP. Mr. Manzanares request was denied due to the Environmental Assessment process that was occurring. Antonio Manzanares was authorized temporary use of the adjacent Servilleta allotment from 1/10 to 3/15 during the dormant season. Ganados Del Valle Corp. took non-use during the 2012 Santos permitted season due to the drought conditions negatively influencing forage production.

**North West area sections 20, 21, and 29**  
2012 non-use by permitted sheep.

**North East area sections 27, 26, 34 and 35**  
2012 non-use by permitted sheep.

**South East area sections, 3,2,10 and 11**  
2012 non-use by permitted sheep.

**South West area sections 33, 39**  
 2012 non-use by permitted sheep.

**Tentative Rotation Schedule**

Tentative rotation is as follows (actual dates will be based on the range readiness determination):

Tentative Rotation Schedule (4/11-6/5, 56 days, 900 e/l, 1657 HM, 497 AUM).

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Tentative Dates (# of Days)</b>	<b>Days (min to max)</b>	<b>Actual Use</b>	<b>Reason for Adjustments</b>
North West area sections 20, 21, and 29	4/11-4/17 (7)	3-7		
North East area sections 27, 26, 34 and 35	4/18-5/8 (21)	14-24		
South East area sections, 3,2,10 and 11	5/9-5/22 (14)	3-14		
South West area sections 33, 39	5/23-5/29 (7)	3-7		
North West area sections 20, 21, and 29	5/30-6/5 (7)	3-7		
<b>Total</b>	(56 days) Range readiness determines the authorized entry date; utilization determines the exit date	26-56		

**Monitoring**

Please contact Tres Piedras RD with any questions regarding monitoring and whether you wish to participate in the annual monitoring of your allotment. Your participation is encouraged.

The following monitoring assessments, evaluations and methods may be conducted on the allotment:

Weather updates (SPI and temperature)

Soil moisture depth

Water availability

Reading paired annual production/utilization cages with supporting photos and documentation, Rapid Assessment Method, Cover/Frequency, Parker 3-Step, Grazing Response Index, Ocular Estimate Method by Class, Ocular Utilization Estimate by Weight, Photo Point, and Range Trend Plot.

Key site map of the Allotment

Key forage list showing community type, species list and stubble height

Range readiness stubble ht. /utilization guidelines

Grazing season monitoring stubble ht. /utilization guidelines  
 End of season stubble ht. /utilization guidelines  
 Range readiness documentation  
 Watershed health indicators

**Utilization Guidelines**

Within each area, grazing utilization would occur at 20% to 40% of the annual available forage (not to exceed 40%) and would be assessed at the end of the growing season.

There are no riparian areas in the Santos allotment. When proper use levels are reached within the area, sheep will be moved to the next scheduled area unless other management considerations require sheep removal before proper use levels are reached.

**Key Forage Species**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Key Forage Species</b>	<b>Stubble Height</b>
<b>North West area sections 20, 21, and 29</b>	Crested wheatgrass	4 - 6"
	Western wheatgrass	4 - 6"
	Blue gramma	1.5 - 3"
	Sand dropseed	4 - 6"
<b>North East area sections 27, 26, 34 and 35</b>	Crested wheatgrass	4 - 6"
	Western wheatgrass	4 - 6"
	Blue gramma	1.5 - 3"
	Sand dropseed	4 - 6"
<b>SE area sections, 3,2,10 and 11</b>	Needle and thread	4-6"
	Western wheatgrass	4 - 6"
	Blue gramma	1.5 - 3"
	Sand dropseed	4 - 6"
<b>South West area sections 33, 39</b>	Crested wheatgrass	4 - 6"
	Western wheatgrass	4 - 6"
	Blue gramma	1.5 - 3"
	Sand dropseed	4 - 6"
	Needle and thread	4 - 6"

A 3 day period will be allowed to remove stray(s) authorized livestock from the area/allotment. Regular herding and riding management practices are important to achieve proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the optimal duration of the grazing period. Salting practices are also described in the sheep operator instructions at the end of this AOI.

**AOI Objectives**

- Replacement of temporary cattle guard on FR 551 with a permanent cattle guard with Archeological clearance approval, cattle guard sills are purchased and scheduling for excavation by Forest Service road crew. (2012 Decision Notice, Tres Piedras District Range Improvement EA)
- Maintain fence responsibility in North West area.
- As Santos allotment permittee, you are authorized to drive (in your work truck vehicle) off of the Forest Service developed roads further than 300 ft. during the performance of your maintenance responsibilities. In addition, ATV transport of materials is allowed.

During conditions (moist soil) when your vehicle tires will cause increasing soil surfacedisturbance and greater negative impacts, you are not authorized to drive beyond or off of the established Forest Service roads or trails. This authorization will expire on 6/30/2013 or may change to an earlier expiration date depending on Forest conditions, fire restrictions, seasonal closures or limited accessibility.

**Permittee Management Concerns (Also refer to the Project Section)**

1. Excessive unauthorized roads without cattle guards contributing to excess use by TCLP cattle in Santos allotment.
2. FR 551 high erosion minimizing access with hauled water
3. Green fuel wood harvesting contributing to unauthorized road development

**Annual Authorized Use Request Form**

Credits from the 2012 will be applied to the current bill of 0% reduction in numbers. 2013 Actual use will be determined at Range readiness. A 0% reduction was agreed to by permittee at the 2013 AOI with a possibility of requesting non-use in writing due to drought conditions.

**Range Improvement Projects and Maintenance**

Range improvement projects maintenance labor/costs are the responsibilities of the permittee. Term permit assigned projects such as, allotment boundary fences, earthen dam stock tanks, must be maintained prior to permittee entry onto the allotment. When allotments are in non-use the permittees are still required to maintain their assigned improvements.

**Previous Projects Completed:**

Temporary cattle guard installation FR 551	2012
Removal of 1 mile of fence for the crested wheatgrass planting.	2008

The following are improvements which require special attention during the current grazing season.

**2013 Project Priority:**

- Maintain fence responsibility in North West Section
- Replacement of temporary cattle guard on FR 551 with a permanent cattle guard with Archeological clearance approval, cattle guard sills are purchased and scheduling for excavation by Forest Service road crew. (2012 Decision Notice, Tres Piedras District Range Improvement EA)

**Future Projects**

D-6 Range EA installation of corral on FR 551	Proposed/Discussed
Road maintenance on FR 551 for hauling water	Discussed

**Excess Use and Unauthorized Use**

Permittees are encouraged to notify the Tres Piedras Ranger District of any known violation by permittees (excess use) or non-permittees (unauthorized use). Grazing permit holders who graze

more livestock than authorized will receive a Notice of Non-Compliance, charged an excess use grazing fee, and the term permit may be suspended or cancelled in whole or part

**National Environmental Policy Act Status for Grazing Permit Issuance**

Direction for management on the allotment is being documented in this AOI and is in conformance with the Allotment Management Plan (AMP). An environmental assessment was completed in 3-20-1998 and an AMP in 11-16-04. Santos is undergoing another environmental assessment anticipated to be completed in 2013. Open and positive communication is encouraged. Please contact the range personnel if you have any questions or wish to discuss allotment management objectives, or Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

**Travel Management**

USFS Travel Management Plan was discussed. The travel management rule requires each Ranger District to designate those roads trails and areas open to motor vehicle use. Range permittee guidelines will be developed and will be included in the AOI in the future.

A second travel management meeting was held in Tres Piedras on March 21, 2007 (The first travel management meeting was held in Tres Piedras July 11, 2006). Attendees provided Comments to the USFS regarding roads or trails that should remain open or closed; and access routes to range improvements that are needed within the allotment. A Scoping letter (dated February 2, 2009) was mailed to the public.

**Actual Use Information  
Santos Allotment  
Grazing Season**

**Attachment 1**

Area	Scheduled Livestock Number & Class	Scheduled Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
<b>North West area sections 20, 21, and 29</b>	900 e/l	4/11	4/17			
<b>North East area sections 27, 26, 34 and 35</b>	900 e/l	4/18	5/8			
<b>SE area sections, 3,2,10 and 11</b>	900 e/l	5/9	5/22			
<b>South West area sections 33, 39</b>	900 e/l	5/23	5/29			
<b>North West area sections 20, 21, and 29</b>	900 e/l	5/30	6/5			

Number of Head counted on: \_\_\_\_\_.

Number of head lost: \_\_\_\_\_.

Additional Comments:

**Table 1**

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

**Utilization Information  
SANTOS Allotment  
Grazing Season**

**Attachment 2**

Area	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
<b>North West area sections 20, 21, and 29</b>					
<b>North East area sections 27, 26, 34 and 35</b>					
<b>SE area sections, 3,2,10 and 11</b>					
<b>South West area sections 33, 39</b>					





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### **Appendix**

#### **Grazing Permittee Instructions for Sheep Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District**

1. Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season.
2. Only livestock branded as shown on your application are permitted to enter the National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) and the permittees will agree to the counting locations, date, and time. Entering the allotment before your authorized entry date is not allowed until livestock are counted.
3. A Crossing Permit is required whenever livestock enter the National Forest. Crossing the District to/from a grazing allotment is only allowed within the authorized season.
4. Livestock found on other unauthorized allotments or in areas without prior authorization will result in the issuance of a Notice of Noncompliance that may impact your term permit.
5. The Annual operating Instructions (AOI) pasture rotation dates are tentative. Therefore, you must consult with the District Office two weeks before the AOI tentative scheduled rotation dates for discussion and approval of the actual move dates and any AOI adjustments.

#### **Management on the Range**

1. The management objective is to obtain proper use throughout the grazeable portions of the range according to the management requirements of the Carson Forest plan.
2. Use the open herding system of handling sheep for better effect on the range and the sheep. The herder should hold the lead sheep instead of pushing the rear, and train the sheep to spread out and graze contentedly, instead of following the natural tendency of certain leaders in the band to move ahead too rapidly. Practice the open herding system of grazing in order to minimize the trailing and driving directly to and from water sources. Trailing and bunching the sheep should be avoided as much as possible. The herder would bed the sheep in a different location each night, except under exceptional circumstances, and never bed the sheep at camp (which is moved every 7 days). Reusing the bed grounds contributes to the spread of disease and parasites. Proper use will be determined by the percent of forage used within key area sites. With proper livestock distribution, a uniform pattern of use would occur. Utilization levels would vary between 20% and 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.

3. Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Sheep should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage.
4. When proper use levels are reached within each pasture, livestock grazing must end and livestock must exit. An early allotment exit would result in a partial refund/credit of the grazing payment. The grazing of more than one pasture at a time must be approved by the District Ranger.

### **Camp Operation**

1. Move camps at least every 7 days. Locate camps to avoid contaminating water supplies. Remove trash and garbage. Leave the camp site clean and use good sanitation practices. Bury all human waste and locate latrines at least 100 feet from surface water.

### **The Herder**

1. The herder will be expected to deal with unexpected emergencies and make day to day decisions. The herder should report conditions and observations that are vital to the sheep operation. The herder must know the allotment boundary and various property boundaries within the allotment in order to avoid unauthorized use or excess use. When applicable, information on adjoining bands of sheep and their routing/bedding will be shared with permittees and their herders.

### **Salting**

1. Salt must be placed in each pasture prior to cattle entering the pasture. Salt shall be located at least 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles away from streams, spring, earthen dam stock tanks and other sources of water in order to improve the livestock distribution within the pasture. Salt must be placed to minimize damage to vegetation and soil, within the tree line instead of the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

### **Range improvement projects**

1. Range Improvement Projects assigned in your Term Grazing Permit require annual maintenance that is to be completed prior to placing livestock in the pasture unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before the entry date and interior fences must be maintained before cattle enter the pasture.
2. Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent material. Particular attention, labor and time must be given to gates within the allotment to make certain that they are serviceable and can be opened and closed easily. The FS does not furnish materials or cost-share for maintenance projects.
3. All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after livestock leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.

4. Construction of new improvements or reconstruction of existing projects must have the approval of the District Ranger. During the AOI meeting and throughout the year suggestions for proposed projects are accepted.

### **Special Attention Items**

1. Written authorization from the District Ranger is required for vehicle travel in road closure areas. All cross-country travel where allowed must not cause ruts or down-cutting in the soil surface. Cross-country vehicular travel when the ground is wet is prohibited. This written authorization is only for vehicle travel necessary for your livestock operation on you allotment. Prudent use of this authority is asked when and where general public use is concentrated. All permittees are encouraged to stay off roadways closed to vehicular travel during hunting seasons.
2. All temporary camps and corrals made or used by permittees or their riders will be cleaned up (left in a sanitary condition) and all materials/trash will be removed from the sites. Temporary camp/corral locations should be discussed with the FS prior to setting up the camp.
3. Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or stock will be allowed.
4. Ear tags will be provided initially to new permittees on allotments that are tagged. After initial allocation of tags, 10 percent will be provided per grazing season.
5. Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year).
6. Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.

**Report wildfires to: Tres Piedras ranger station at (575) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (575) 758-6208 or (575) 758 6209.**

If you have any questions please contact the Tres Piedras Ranger District office.