



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)
SAN ANTONE ALLOTMENT (00609)
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
TRES PIEDRAS RANGER DISTRICT

LIST OF SAN ANTONE LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

Jasper Casias Sr.
Felix Jr. & Gary Lee Gallegos
Andrew J. Garcia
Maclovio & Ernest Garcia
Donald & Lorraine Larsen
Aniceto Lucero
Los Hermanos Lucero
Valdez Land & Livestock, LLC
Virgil F. & Joshua C. Valdez

Prepared By:

/s/Wayne Yonemoto
Wayne Yonemoto
District Range Staff

Apr. 12, 2013
Date

Approved By:

/s/Chris Furr
CHRIS FURR
District Ranger

Apr. 12, 2013
Date

Introduction

The San Antone Annual Operating Instructions meeting was held on February 8, 2013 at the Conejos Peak Ranger District. San Antone Grazing Association members that attended the meeting included Andrew Garcia, Maclovio Garcia, Aniceto Lucero, Virgil Valdez, Jasper Casias, Felix Gallegos and Jessica (Angelo) Valdez. Anna Dominguez and Wayne Yonemoto 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, rangeland monitoring and permittee involvement.

The livestock grazing fee is \$1.35/HM (Cattle).

The dry weather pattern condition includes the following. Within the area, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 3-month forecast is for increased chances of below normal to normal precipitation, Feb. through Apr., 2013, as well as, increased chances of normal to above- normal temperatures.

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 February, 2012 thru January, 2013 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 is described as Near Normal (-0.74 to +0.74), so 1-month drought conditions are partially present. Within the District, during the periods of Oct. to Dec., 2012 and Jan. to Feb., 2013, there were various areas of favorable normal to above normal precipitation but also areas of below normal precipitation. Also, below normal to normal to above-normal temperatures occurred.

The authorized eartag color is blue. All authorized cattle will be eartagged correctly with the authorized letter/number. The authorized use for the current grazing season is as follows:

Member Information and Season of Use (Term Permit/Annual Authorized Use Request Form)

Member Name	Permitted (c/c; 5/17 – 10/16)	Authorized (c/c, 5/17 – 10/16) Permitted # or 15% to 20% Reduction (20% Reduction Shown)	Eartag Letter	Remarks
Jasper Casias Sr.	55	49	J	
Felix Jr. & Gary Lee Gallegos	90 Felix (50) Gary (40)	90 nonuse = 10.5% reduction of 861 c/c	A	
Andrew J. Garcia	256	229	C	
Maclovio &	18	16	G	

Ernest Garcia				
Donald & Lorraine Larsen	50	45	D	
Aniceto Lucero	6	5	T	
Los Hermanos Lucero	54	48	L	
Valdez Land & Livestock, LLC	305	273	R	
Virgil Valdez	27	24	V	
San Antone Livestock Assoc	29 bulls	26 bulls		
Total	861 c/c (4331 HMs, AUMs); 29 bulls (146 HM, 219 AUM); 153 days; 890 head;	With 90 c/c nonuse; 771 c/c total; 689 c/c and 23 bulls @ 20% reduction; 89.4% of each member's c/c number was used for authorized number. Feb./Mar. conditions may indicate 15% to 20% reduction in the May entry numbers.		

Range readiness inspections will determine the final authorized livestock number and whether range vegetation and soils meet the criteria for grazing. Range readiness is tentatively scheduled for May 13, 2013.

Compliance with New Mexico Statewide Regulations, 21.30.6 NMAC, Bovine Trichomoniasis, effective June 17, 2005, becomes a term and condition of the United States Forest Service term grazing permit. We ask that you comply with the NM State Trichomoniasis regulations.

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 monitoring information in the Allotment Study file was reviewed. The forage production improved after the July, August precipitation (normal to above normal). Participants discussed areas of below average to average production and average to above average production, livestock distribution management and utilization. All pastures had a majority of grazeable acres at below average to average production. Utilization guidelines 20% to 40% (end of season) in each pasture was met. FS monitoring indicated end-of-growing season utilization: Ursulo – 20%; Wheatgrass - 30%; Nutritas – 40%; Tanques - 40%; Hondo - 30%; Oso- 35%; Chino – 20%. FS inspected the riparian at the Rio San Antonio (Ursulo); Rio San Antonio (Nutritas); Rio Nutrias

(Nutritas/Tio Grande Units); Lola Creek/Oso Creek (Oso) and all of these areas met the riparian guidelines.

2012 AOI Compliance

1. All pastures met the utilization guidelines of 20% to 40% utilization measured at the end of the growing season.
 2. Inspected areas met the riparian guidelines for the 2012 grazing seasons in the Oso, Ursulo and Nutritas pastures.
 3. Improved livestock distribution by salting/herding to decrease use in the Chino lake area; the Laguna Larga area; the Alire tank area; the Ursulo Llano tank area; and the riparian areas.
- Note: This year, Tanques was not used as a trailing pasture.

2012 Actual Use

Actual Use: 749 c/c; 26 bulls; 775 total, 5/26 – 10/13, (141 days); Actual 23% reduction (Total 749 c/c is 3472 HM; total 26 bulls is 121 HM; 3593 HM. But due to staggered entry dates by various members, total is less, 3454 HM. Staggered entry dates resulted in 3% increased reduction (3454 HM/3593 HM) instead of 20% reduction with single 5/26 entry date.

- Ursulo – 708 c/c, 5/26 – 6/29 (35 days)
- Wheatgrass – 749 c/c, 6/30 – 7/28 (29 days)
- Nutritas – 749 c/c, 7/29 – 8/18 (21 days)
- Tanques – 749 c/c, 8/19 – 8/28 (10 days)
- Hondo – 749 c/c, 8/29- 9/20 (23 days)
- Oso – 749 c/c, 9/21 – 10/8 (18 days)
- Chino – 749 c/c, 10/9 -10/13 (5 days; available water low)

Tentative Rotation Schedule

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on the range readiness determination):

Tentative Rotation Schedule (5/17 – 10/16, 153 days)

Pasture	Tentative Dates (# of Days)	Days (min to max)	Actual Use	Reason for Adustments
Chino	5/17 – 6/10 (25)	12 -25		
Wheatgrass	6/11 - 6/25 (15)	12 - 22		
Nutritas	6/26 - 7/13 (18)	12 - 20		
Tanques	(5 to 7)	trailing		
Hondo	(33)	22 - 35		
Oso	(28)	20 - 28		
Ursulo	(28)	15 - 28		
Total	(153) Range readiness determines the authorized entry date; utilization determines the exit date	113 - 153		

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 update (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 pasture, 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.

Utilization guidelines in the riparian areas includes leaving 4 inches of stubble height of the annual available forage at the end of the growing season. When proper use levels are reached within the pasture, livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture unless other management considerations require livestock removal before proper use levels are reached.

Key Forage Species

Pasture	Key Forage Species	Stubble Height
Chino/Wheatgrass/Nutritas/Ursulo	Western wheatgrass	4"
	Kentucky bluegrass	4"
	Crested wheatgrass	4"
	Mt. muhly	4"
	Sand dropseed	4"
	Junegrass	2.5"
Tanques/Hondo/Oso	AZ/Thurber fescue	6"
	Kentucky bluegrass	4"
	Needle and thread	4"
	Mt. muhly	4"
Riparian	Kentucky bluegrass	4"
	Carex	4"

Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is required. A 3 day period will be allowed to remove stray(s) permitted livestock from the pasture/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 cattle operator instructions at the end of this AOI.

AOI Objectives

- Rotate pastures to vary the cool and warm growing season rest and allow the opportunity for cool and warm season growth.
- Monitor the pasture grazing time (days) in order to improve forage vigor.
- Maintain or improve the riparian green zone forage.
- Improve livestock distribution when initially entering the pasture by moving small groups throughout the pasture, to various salt locations with rider representation from all the members. Also, herd/move livestock within the authorized pasture every few days.
- Minimize grazing use in the Tanques to 5 to 12 days and in the Nutritas to 15 to 20 days.
- Continue to minimize livestock excess use within the Stewart Meadows enclosure.
- Prevent excess use by San Antone cattle into the Sublette allotment by meeting allotment boundary maintenance responsibilities.
- As San Antone allotment Association members, 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. Aspen fence stays may be removed from allotment areas adjacent to the maintained pasture fences. In addition, ATV transport of materials is allowed. During conditions (moist soil) when your vehicle tires will cause increasing soil surface disturbance 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 6/30/13 or may change to an earlier expiration date depending on Forest conditions, fire restrictions, seasonal closures or limited accessibility.

Management Actions (2008 EA):

Short term Actions

- Range in livestock numbers, entry dates, exit dates and AUMs
- 552 c/c, 18 bulls to 861 c/c, 29 bulls; 1841 to 5936 AUMs; 107 to 153 days (5/17 – 6/1 to 9/15 – 10/16)
- Deferred/Rest Rotation Grazing System – 7 pasture deferred/rest rotation; 3 pasture (Chino, Ursulo, Wheatgrass) entry rotation (Range Readiness entry date for Chino and Wheatgrass is usually later than Ursulo. For example, if Wheatgrass entry date is May 24 (7 days later than May 17), then there is a reduction of 5% of days/AUMs).
- Oso – rest 1 year in 7 years; limit days to 20 – 28; herd away from Lola Creek/Canada del Oso riparian (once each day)
- Tanques – limit days to 12 to 15.
- Nutritas – limit to 20 to 23.
- Ursulo – herd away from Rio San Antonio riparian.
- Hondo, Tanques, Nutritas – herd away from riparian areas
- Projects – 3 to 5 years: Ursulo - New pit tank in NW area (1200 to 1400 cu. yds.); Reconstruct pasture boundary fence, 3 miles (Ursulo/Wheatgrass)
- Riparian project – Ursulo Rio San Antonio watergap fence (0.7 mi.)
- 20% to 40% utilization monitoring guidelines
- All pastures - Salt areas in uplands (0.5 to 1.0 mile from water sources).
- *Astragalus ripleyi* – after inventory; management prescription of periodically grazing after seed development (May through June, 5/1 to 6/30); Tecolote - rest 1 of 4 years; possibly rest other pastures (Corral, Placitas, Lucero Lakes, Brokeoff) 1 of 6 to 8 years.

Pasture	TEU	Acres
Ursulo	650	197
Chino	545	486
Wheatgrass	650	104
Nutritas	545	352
Tanques	545	31
Oso	545	1095

Long term Actions

- Riparian project – Oso spring exclosure (10 to 20 acres)

Adaptive Management Actions Table (Short term – 1 to 5 years; Long term – 6 to 10 years)

Short term Actions

- Riparian additional actions - BMPs of herding, more riders, salt placement; reduce AUMs
- Upland meadows additional actions – Delay entry; reduce AUMs; exit early.

Adaptive Management Actions Table

Long term Actions

- Riparian additional actions – Projects - Install exclosures
- Upland meadows additional actions – Similar to short term, including increased severity of AUM reduction or period of use reduction.
- Additional EA in future – Prescribed burns/new water sources.

2008 EA Decision Notice includes:

- A range of 552 cow/calf and 18 bulls up to 861 cow/calf and 29 bulls for a period up to 153 days will be authorized. The lower number represents the livestock number that has been authorized during past drought periods. The maximum livestock number is the number that can be supported once the desired conditions for vegetation, soils, and water resources have been reached.
- The range of entry dates will be from May 17 to June 1 and the range of exit dates will be from September 15 to October 16. The grazing period within each pasture will be based on climate conditions, current growing conditions, and the need for plant regrowth following grazing by all ungulates.
- Grazing management will be a rotation system that includes deferment or rest. Three pastures (Ursulo, Chino and Wheatgrass) will be available for allotment entry to provide increased options for cool season grass growth/rest and pastures may be rested as needed.
- Depending on the vegetation type and current range conditions, a conservative stocking rate with an allowable utilization range of 20% to 40% will be used.
- The following improvements will be constructed/reconstructed within 3 to 5 years for improved livestock distribution: 1) Ursulo new pit tank; 2) Ursulo/Wheatgrass fence reconstruction (3 mi.)
- Once surveys for Forest Service sensitive plant species, *Astragalus ripleyi* (milkvetch), are completed on the allotment, and the extent of the population is known, the timing of livestock use

will be adjusted to maintain plant composition and diversity, if needed. The grazing system and season of use may already meet milkvetch needs.

Permittee Management Concerns (Also refer to the Project Section)

1. Inspect pastures to establish exit dates during the season.
2. 2011 - Only 10 strays on the allotment from adjacent allotments discovered at the Ortiz corral gather. This was the lowest number of strays that they could remember.
3. If a Rio San Antonio riparian enclosure is constructed in the future, south of the Ursulo riparian trailway, the Association would want to be authorized periodic grazing within the new enclosure and not have grazing excluded as in the Stewart Meadow Wildlife Viewing Area.
4. Change fence maintenance responsibility at the fence corner area (Tanques/Nutritas/Olguin/Canon Largo), from San Antone Assoc. to Lagunitas Assoc.
5. Change fence maintenance responsibility at the southern area from FR 87 cattleguard south to FR 93, from Lagunitas Assoc to San Antone Assoc. (Proposed by Lagunitas Assoc.)
6. T-bone private fence is not maintained in the northern area (Ursulo)
7. In 2010, 27 calves, 14 cows, 2 bulls were lost mostly to theft after 10/1/10. Problems of theft in Wheatgrass, Nutritas, Tanques. Association requests LEO patrols in the fall.
8. Members thought the NMDG&F bear release was high but numbers were similar to previous years of less than 20 (Released in the Cruces Basin Area/FR 87). Mt lions were not released in the District. (2011 - members reported 6 bears were released Jun. 5 to Jul. 5. Bears ate 2 cows.)
9. Oso corral would be locked by the Association and signed (Administrative Use Only).
10. NM Game & Fish Dept. funding for the repair of fence damage caused by elk

Annual Authorized Use Request Form

Credits from the previous year, if applicable, would apply to the current bill (15% to 20%) reduction in numbers and/or days if Feb./Mar./Apr. continues to be dry). The final livestock numbers and entry date would be determined after drought field inspections/range readiness inspections. Therefore, additional billing may be required after the first billing. (2012 Credit: 2 HM)

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, pasture boundary fences, cattleguards, earthen dam stock tanks, pit tanks and other structural improvements 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:

Rebuilt fence on north rim of Stewart Meadows; Maintained Oso/Nutritas fence; Repaired waterlot fence at Oso/Nutrias Casias tank; 40 T-posts installed at Oso/Hondo fence	2012 - Completed
Nutritas/Tanques letdown fence – tree fall removed.	2011 - Completed
Nutritas/Oso fence – heavy maintenance,	2011 - Completed

installed 30 T-posts	
Oso/Hondo fence - heavy maintenance, installed 30 T-posts, tree fall removed	2011 - Completed
Hondo spring cleaned out	2011 - Completed
Repaired fence (0.75 mile) at gravel pit by Tanques/Lagunitas; Maintained fence (1.8 miles) at T-bone private south to the river in Ursulo.	2010 - Completed
Repaired Wheatgrass Ranchos tank; repaired FR 78 culvert to Chino in Wheatgrass; repaired Alire tank dam; repaired Casias tank (cleanout, dam, canal); Maintained/install 54 T posts at Oso/Hondo Southern corner.	2010 - Completed
Install metal gates at various locations (Wheatgrass/Nutritas; Wheatgrass/Oso) Assoc. purchased 9 gates (10 ft.); Installed 20 ft. FS gate at Chino north fence trailway.	2010 - Completed
Oso Corral – Maintenance & Reconstruct; 3 Corner Fence Gates – Install 2 gates	2010 - Completed
Wheatgrass/Nutritas/Oso Fence – Maintenance & Reconstruct	2010 – Completed 1.8 miles; need to install 80 T posts
Tanques/Nutritas Fence - Maintenance	2009 - Completed 1 mile
Ursulo/Wheatgrass Fence – Maintenance & Reconstruct	2008 – Completed 1.0 mile (From Laguna Larga to Chino)
Northern Chino Fence – Maintenance & Reconstruct	2007 – Completed 3.5 miles (From western bluff to the NE corner to southern Chino/Ursulo boundary)

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

2013 Project Priority:

- Maintain Chino Lake ditch canal; maintain Chino Joe tank; maintain Nutritas Southwest Casias tank
- Repair tagging corral
- Construct SE Chino tank (need Cultural clearance)
- Install 54 T posts at Wheatgrass/Nutritas fence
- Add 4th top wire to 3-strand fence (Chino/Ursulo, 2.2 mi.)
- Maintain Nutritas/Olguin and Tanques/Canon Largo boundary @ 20 acre private area.
- Reconstruct fence (2 miles) west from Nutritas/Wheatgrass corner

Future Projects

Nutritas – Reconstruct riparian gap fence north of Rio San Antonio	Discussed
Stewart Meadow trail gap fence – 3 areas, 1/8 mile	Discussed; partially completed
Maintain Wheatgrass/Ursulo fence (3.5 mi.)	Discussed; partially completed
Remove abandoned enclosure fence at Hondo tank	Discussed
Reconstruct Wheatgrass/Chino fence from the tagging corral to the corner near Laguna Larga	Discussed
Maintain ditch canal to Chino Lake	Discussed for 2013 completion (\$3000 to \$4000)
Ursulo – cleanout Llano tank and tank south of Laguna Larga	Discussed
Reconstruct 1.0 mile of southern Oso fence	Discussed
New cattleguard installation on FR 93 southwest of Shawcroft corral	Requires EA location amendment; cultural clearance completed
New Ursulo pit tank; reconstruct 3 mi. fence @ Ursulo; 0.7 mi. watergap fence at Ursulo Rio San Antonio; Oso spring enclosure (10 – 20 acres)	2007 EA
Laguna Larga horse pasture @ partially completed top rail enclosure	Discussed
Nutritas/Oso – cleanout/repair tank and repair enclosure	Discussed
Oso horse holding fence maintenance	Discussed
Repair watergap fences @ San Miguel/Oso boundary.	Discussed - San Antone maintenance; AOI objective section; project requires continual repair

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 2008 and an AMP was prepared. 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. Scoping letter (dated February 2, 2009) was mailed to the public.

ACTUAL USE INFORMATION

**San Antone Allotment
Grazing Season**

Attachment 1

Pasture	Scheduled Livestock Number & Class	Scheduled Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
Chino		5/17				
Wheatgrass						
Nutritas						
Tanques						
Hondo						
Oso						
Ursulo			10/16			

Number of Head counted on: _____.

Number of head lost: _____.

Additional Comments:

Table 1

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

**Utilization Information
San Antone Allotment
Grazing Season**

Attachment 2

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
Chino					
Wheatgrass					
Nutritas					
Tanques					
Hondo					
Oso					
Ursulo					



Appendix

Grazing Permittee Instructions for Cattle Operators on Tres Piedras Ranger District

Review the term grazing permit and become familiar with the terms and conditions prior to the grazing season. 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. 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.

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. 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

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. Obtaining the best distribution of cattle on mountain ranges is made difficult because of their natural tendency to gather in openings, watering sites, drainages, riparian areas and meadows. 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% to 40% (percent dry weight) in pasture key areas, and within the overall pasture's pattern of use.

Riding, herding and good salting practices will help. Frequent movement of salt within slight to light use areas is required to improve the pattern of use. Cattle should be moved to less utilized areas and heavier use should be avoided in the bottoms/meadows/openings that contain more desirable herbage. 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. All cattle on the allotment would be handled as one herd. Moves between pastures may be handled as drifting moves where gates to the next successive pasture may be opened 2 days before the agreed scheduled move date. The exit pasture that the cattle are leaving must be cleaned-out within 3 days after the scheduled date for moving.

Salting

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, springs, 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 in the middle of openings, in drainages/riparian or near roadways. Regular salt ground sites must not be established.

Range Improvement Projects

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.

Acceptable maintenance means returning the improvement to its original functioning working order and using the equivalent materials. 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.

All lay-down fences should be let-down no later than October 20, or as soon as possible after cattle leave the allotment and adjoining allotments.

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

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 your 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.

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.

Riders will be permitted 4 horses or mules per rider for work within the allotment. No untrained horses, colts or other unrideable stock will be allowed. Eartags 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.

Please notify the District Ranger with any observations of stray livestock on the National Forest Lands (regardless of the time of year). Move any dead animals to rest no closer than 300 feet from water or roadways.

Report wildfires to: Tres Piedras Ranger Station at (505) 758-8678 or Carson Dispatch at (505) 758-6208 or (505) 758-6209.

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