

**Annual Operating Instructions**  
Hermosa Allotment  
Black Range Ranger District, Gila National Forest  
**2003 grazing season**

**1. PASTURE USE SCHEDULE**

We have renewed the non-use Memorandum of Understanding for the Hermosa Allotment for a five-year period. This new MOU will expire in 2007.

**2. UTILIZATION STANDARDS**

Currently, there is no authorized livestock use on the Hermosa Allotment, therefore, no utilization standards.

**3. KEY AREA MONITORING**

Although there are no cattle authorized to graze the Hermosa Allotment during the 2003 season, this office will conduct monitoring of the allotment as schedules allow. The purpose of these monitoring inspections will be to determine compliance with the non-use MOU, detect trespass livestock from adjacent areas, and to assess general resource conditions of the allotment.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology.

**4. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that existing range improvements remain functional. This includes boundary fences and interior pasture fences. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance, however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

No new range improvements are planned for the Animas Allotment for the 2003 grazing season. If at any point during the year you determine a need for additional range improvements, or materials to maintain/reconstruct existing improvements please contact Shane Shannon, Range Technician, to coordinate the project.

**5. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

The following restrictions will be implemented so that management remains in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The instructions below relate to

threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species as well as range/watershed conditions.

- No salt or mineral block may be placed in protected and restricted Mexican spotted owl habitat from February 1 to August 31, and no concentrations of livestock (i.e., corral use, traps, or large gatherings of livestock).
- Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat before earth-disturbing maintenance is authorized.

## **6. OTHER INSTRUCTIONS**

The permittee must obtain permission from the District Ranger, before conducting earth-disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc.

**Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the Forest without written clearance from this office.**

Salt must be located at least ¼ mile from water, and preferably on ridges and/or areas of low use. Do not place salt blocks in the same location as the previous year, and locate blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Supplemental feeding, other than mineral or supplement block, is not authorized on the National Forest.

The Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Pat 3, Section 8. These instructions comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. They also comply with the Endangered Species Act found in the Biological Assessment for the Hermosa Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the Annual Operating Instructions.

**This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).**

**A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, at 3005 E. Camino Del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Maria T. Garcia, District Ranger, Black Range Ranger District at 1804 Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 89701.**

We appreciate your cooperation in the management of the Hermosa Allotment. If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact Jeff Rivera, Rangeland Management Specialist (505)894-6677. Thank you.

Sincerely,

MARIA T. GARCIA  
District Ranger