

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/17/02)

Allotment Name: Alamocita

Permittee: Ken and Lorraine Pearson

Ranch Manager: Marvin Cromwell

Permit Number: 06-606

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 50 Cattle Cow/Calf 3/1 – 2/28

2003 Annual Validation: 47 Cattle Cow/Calf 3/1 - 2/28

Grazing System:

Yearlong, three pasture, deferred grazing rotation. The North and Canyon pastures are only suitable during the spring, summer and fall seasons, March 16 to November 15. The South Pasture is suitable for dormant season use, November 16 to March 15. The North and Canyon Pastures can be utilized alternately each year during the spring and summer.

Pasture Rotation 2003:

| Pasture | Period of use | Livestock #'s | Allowable Use by species |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| North | 3/16/03 – 06/15/03 | 47 cattle | Blue Grama 40% |
| Canyon | 6/15/03 – 11/01/03 | 47 cattle | Blue Grama 40% |
| South | 11/02/03 – 03/15/04 | 47 cattle | Blue Grama 40% |

Grazing Restriction: The following grazing restriction will apply as it did in 2002. Please refer to the attached map.

No salt, mineral or supplement feed may be placed within Alamocita and Spike canyon within Township 3 south, Range 14 west sections 29 and portions of sections 24, 28 and 36, from February 1 to August 31. No concentration of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed. Stock tank cleaning must be approved in advance prior to any activities.

The purpose of these restrictions is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

The 1995 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the allowable utilization by grazing animals.

Standard:

Forage utilization by grazing animals will be maintained at a level which will promote satisfactory range/watershed condition/trend and assures recovery and continued existence of threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species of plants and animals.

Guideline:

Key forage utilization monitoring areas are the locations identified on the attached map. Forage utilization guidelines for each key forage area is 40%.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

| | | |
|---------------|-----|---------|
| South Pasture | C-3 | 23% use |
| North Pasture | P-3 | 42% use |
| North Pasture | P-4 | 10% use |

Monitoring results indicated slight overuse on P3 within the North pasture. Although you are meeting the allowable use guidelines within the key areas, the District has observed heavy use within the canyon bottoms in Alamosa canyon and lower Spike canyon. In order to achieve compliance with the allowable use guidelines, you need to recognize this heavy use within these drainage bottoms and distribute livestock use to the available forage within the uplands.

Actual Use:

The actual use for 2002 was 381 AM's. Your 10 year use is 394 AM's.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2003 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option

Range developments:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

The following improvement maintenance was identified for 2003 grazing season:

1. Repair water lot fence at Spike Tank.
2. Cross fences need to be made into 4-wire fences.
3. Alamosa and Spike Canyon spring will be redeveloped.
4. Deadfall trees on fence #4289 will be removed prior to cattle entering the North pasture.

The following new improvements will be implemented this grazing season:

1. Trick tank at the head of Barn Canyon.
2. Wagontongue earthen dam.
3. Barn Canyon earthen dam.

Other Information:

Joe Giron will meet with Marvin on 6/01/03 to assess the condition of the allotment. If conditions are not favorable due to drought or heavy use your Annual Operating Instruction will be amended to reflect the change in management this year.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

/s/ Janice S. Stevenson
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

3/13/03
Date