

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(2/18/03)

Allotment Name: San Antone

Permittee: Mangus Ranch L.L.C.

Permit Number: 61174

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 129 Cattle/Cow/Calf Term 04/16-10/15
28 Cattle /Cow/Calf Private Land 04/16/-10/15

2002 Annual Validation: 129 head Cow/Calf – 4/16/02 – 10/15/02
28 head Cow/Calf – 4/16/02 – 10/15/02

Grazing System: This allotment utilizes a three pasture seasonal deferred grazing system from April 16 thru October 15.

Pasture Rotation: 2003

Baca Pasture	4/15/03	-	6/10/03	30% allowable use
Central Pasture	6/11/03	-	7/25/03	30% allowable use
South Pasture (west)	7/16/03	-	9/10/03	30% allowable use
South Pasture (east)	9/11/03	-	10/15/03	40% allowable use

Grazing Restriction: None apply at this time.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods. The following Standards and Guidelines will be applied to the San Antone Allotment:

Standard:

Forage use by grazing ungulates (cattle and wildlife) will be maintained at or above a level which will promote satisfactory range and watershed condition and assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species.

Guideline:

Key forage monitoring areas will be utilized to for utilization monitoring. These areas are identified on the attached map. Forage utilization guidelines in each upland key area are 30% during the growing season (4/15 – 10/15) and 40% during the dormant season (10/15 – 4/15). No more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings are heavily hedged in riparian areas containing woody riparian plants yearlong (for example willows and cottonwoods).

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas: Key forage utilization monitoring will continue on areas that have been identified on the attached map. These areas are the existing cluster and pace transect sites. Within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture, those key

areas will be visited by the Forest Service to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period to determine actual grazing use. I urge you to participate in these key area utilization surveys. Estimated forage use determinations will be consistent with the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

	<u>6/08/02</u>	
P-1	Baca Pasture	40% use
P-5	Baca Pasture	14% use
C-1	Baca Pasture	10% use
C-2	Baca Pasture	16% use
	<u>7/17/02</u>	
C-1	Baca Pasture	30% use

The 40% use recorded at C-1 was due to a broken fence immediately north of P-1, and cattle were trailing past the transect and grazing in that opening. Livestock were removed from the allotment on _____ and while the area is a favorite with elk, we still recorded a use of only 30% at C-1.

San Antone Canyon showed heavy use (60 – 70% by ocular estimate) during 2002. However, there were only a few head in that area, since the livestock were moved off the National Forest early while still in the Baca Pasture. The use exhibited in this Canyon is attributed mainly to elk because they had a tendency to “camp” there day and night due to the drought of that season.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability is 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. In addition to maintenance of range improvements you discussed other improvements that you would like to have in the future:

1. Permittee plans to repair the southwest one half of fence #4049. He has agreed to reconstruct the southwest one half of fence #4049 during 2004.
2. Permittee plans to reconstruct approx. three quarters to one mile of fence at the north end of fence no. 4271. He will reconstruct it from the northwest corner, south past the first gate and then tie it into a rocky bluff on the mountain as soon as possible after that. The main idea is to keep livestock from going around the northwest fence corner and into the Escondido Allotment.
3. Permittee will flag location for pipeline north from Rincon Well into the Baca Pasture and on thru said pasture to Baca Storage Tank. The Forest Service will then inspect the flagged line to see whether the area can be cleared archeologically. If clearance is provided, the line will then be installed in such a manner that it will gravity feed all the way. If tied into Baca Storage, we will be able to pump water back uphill towards Rincon Well if said well should ever experience weakness during a drought year. This will be a multi-year project.

Permittee believes 100 psi pipe would be sufficient, however, whenever possible he would like to have it in 1000 ft. coils. He would like to use couplings for attaching the different pieces of hose instead of fusing the hose ends together with a fusing machine.

Forest Service will provide approximately three miles of pipe, submersible water pump, water troughs and necessary paperwork for the project during 2003.

4. Permittee will reconstruct the east/west fence towards Dry Lakes Windmill from Mangas Work center. Forest Service will provide materials.
5. Permittee will tie fence in towards the east from Mangas W.C. Forest Service will provide materials.
6. Develop plan for water developments up high on both sides of San Antone Canyon, either springs or reservoirs. These will be identified during spring of 2003 by permittee and district range conservationist, Joe Giron.
7. Develop plan to construct interior management fences on either side of San Antone Canyon to provide management for the riparian area. The permittee and Joe Giron will develop this plan. Forest Service will provide labor and materials due to the fact that the pasture created by these fences will be a riparian pasture instead of a management pasture.
8. Thinning is needed in the Middle and Baca Pastures. Areas need to be mapped out by the permittee and Joe Giron.

Actual Use:

The actual use during 2002 was 245 AM's. The ten year average is 800 AUM's.

Other Information:

1. The environmental assessment for the San Antone allotment was scheduled for 2003, however it is unlikely that this will be accomplished due to our current backlog on the District. If you have further questions or concerns please contact John on this subject.

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

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

cc: so