

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
11/03/03

Allotment Name: Agua Fria

Permittee: Williams Ranch, Jim Williams

Permit Number: 06-996

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 230 cattle 1/1 to 2/28
230 cattle 3/1 to 4/1
230 cattle 6/16 to 12/31

2004 Annual Validation: 140 cattle 6/25/04 to 5/15/04
150 cattle 7/01/04 to 8/31/04
150 cattle 10/15/04 to 2/28/05

Grazing System:

The current grazing system for this allotment is a 3 pasture deferred rotation system that incorporates adjacent private land pastures into the rotation to optimize recovery periods. Private lands and NFS lands are managed as a single ranch unit. The system was developed by Jim Williams (Permittee), Kirk Gadzia (Quivira Coalition) and John Pierson (Range Staff) and has been functioning in this manner for 5 years.

Pasture Rotation: 2004

Middle Pasture	1/1/04 to 1/31/04	140 cows	Allowable Use 40%
Private Pastures	2/01/04 to 3/27/04	140 cows	
East Pasture	3/28/04 to 5/15/04	140 cows	Allowable Use 40%
Private Pasture	5/16/04 to 7/8/04	150 cows	
West Pasture	7/9/04 to 8/30/04	150 cows	Allowable Use 40%
Private Pasture	9/01/04 to 10/15/04	150 cows	Allowable Use 40%
Middle Pasture	10/16/04 to 12/15/04	150 cows	Allowable Use 40%
East Pasture	12/16/04 to 12/30/04	150 cows	Allowable Use 40%

Grazing Restriction:

No restrictions apply to this grazing allotment.

Allowable Use: The allowable use guidelines identified in the 1995 environmental assessment and decision notice are incorporated in this annual operating plan.

Standard - Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition, which will promote satisfactory range vegetation condition.

Guideline - Allowable use is 40% on grasses. No more than 25% of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings heavily hedged [This allowable use for riparian plants is from the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook dated 4/88].

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. 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. These areas are the existing cluster transects sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period to determine actual grazing use. I encourage you to participate in these key area utilization surveys. Estimated forage use determinations will be consistent with the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization on the uplands or 25% of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings in Largo Creek are heavily hedged, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

All three pastures were monitored in 2003. Utilization was recorded at 40% in the East pasture from winter use. Utilization recorded for 2003 growing season was 10% for C1 and C2. The Middle pasture was monitored at 30% for 2002 dormant season and 0% during the growing season. Growing season monitoring was conducted prior to livestock entering the pasture. The West Pasture was monitored at C7 with a 10% utilization recorded. Jim, the District appreciates your proactive management on the allotment and cooperation in complying with allowable use guidelines.

Actual use:

Actual use for the 2003 grazing season was 809 AUM's. The 10 year average is 1051 AM's. I appreciate your effort and hard decisions made in taking care of the country through the mitigation of livestock numbers during the continued drought conditions this past grazing season.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2004, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

Range developments:

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

Other Information:

1. John discussed the accomplishment of pinon/juniper thinning on the allotment by Largo Creek. Slash piles is scheduled to be burned February – March 2004.

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

John D. Pierson (For)
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

1/23/04
Date