

**Quemado Ranger District**  
**2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions**  
(03/05/04)

**Allotment Name:** East Apache Creek  
**Permit Number:** 06-1191  
**Permittee:** Ysidoro Mendoza  
**Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:** 113 adult cattle 1/1 to 12/31  
**2004 Annual Validation:** 113 adult cattle 2/1/04 to 5/30/04  
113 adult cattle 10/1/04 to 1/30/04

**Grazing System:**

The grazing system consists of a 3 pasture deferred grazing system with the 4 smaller pastures being utilized for animal husbandry and livestock movements. This system was developed to:

- 1.) Maximize growing season rest during the summer months of July 1 to September 30.
- 2.) Obtain uniform distribution patterns during dormant plant season;  
Keep overall utilization within resource capabilities by utilizing all pastures in each year.

**Pasture Rotation: 2004**

Southeast	8/15/04 to 10/15/04	Allowable use 30%
	10/16/04 to 12/31/04	Allowable use 40%
Highway 1, 2, & 3 and Southwest, 1, 2 & 3	1/01/04 to 2/28/05	Allowable use 40%
Red Steer	3/01/05 to 4/15/05	Allowable use 40%
	4/16/05 to 6/30/05	Allowable use 30%
North/Middle	7/01/04 to 8/15/04	Allowable use 30%

**Grazing Restriction:**

Livestock use will occur between October 1 and May 30 each year. Water points are to be used in conjunction with associated pastures.

Riparian area use on woody plants is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings. The riparian areas include Whiskey Creek, Red Steer Canyon, Apache Creek, Banta Spring, Owl Spring Canyon and the Tularosa (Chaddick) trap.

**Allowable Use:**

allowable use during the growing season (April 15 – October 15) is 30% and 40% during the dormant season (October 16 – April 14). No more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings are heavily hedged in riparian areas containing woody riparian plants (for example, willows and cottonwoods).

**Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:**

Forage utilization monitoring will occur on areas identified on the map sent to you on 1/16/03. Monitoring will be conducted 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/paced transect sites. 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.

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 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.

Key riparian areas include:

- 1.) Whiskey Creek in the North Pasture.
- 2.) Red Steer Canyon in the middle pasture.
- 3.) Owl Water Spring area in the South East Pasture.
- 4.) The small trap on the south side of Highway 12 known as the Chaddicks.
- 5.) Apache Creek water gap.
- 6.) Flat immediately south of Banta Spring.

Key upland locations, identified for monitoring utilization are the following transect locations:

- 1). North Pasture - C4 and C6.
- 2). Middle Pasture - C1, C2, and C3.
- 3). Southeast Pasture - P1 and P2.
- 4.) Pastures 1, 2, and 3. These small pastures have steel posts located to indicate where the monitoring is done.

**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 Improvements:**

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/reconstruction that you would like to have in the future:

- 1.) Complete construction of fence # 9055 immediately north of Spring Tank.
- 2.) Install self closing pipe gates where wire gates are frequently left open by other public land users.

In addition to maintenance of range improvements, you proposed the following improvements that you would like to consider in the future to improve management on the allotment:

Determine the potential for a rockheader in the Northpasture in the south branch of School House Canyon..

- 2.) Install storage tank on the rimrock north of Banta Spring. This would give the allotment water spreading capabilities in Southeast Pasture and also into the Red Steer Pasture.
- 3.) Pump water from Banta Springs north to storage tank above rimrock in Southeast Pasture.
- 4.) Split Southeast pasture by fencing along rimrock to create a fourth pasture.
- 5.) Construct water lane in Southwest Pasture into Mesa Tank or relocate fence #4300 and split Mesa Tank. That would provide water for both the Apache Canyon and the East Apache Creek permittees.
- 6.) Construct east/west fence on west facing slope of Apache Mtn., separating Red Steer and North pastures.

**Actual Use:**

Non-Use 2003.

**Other Information:**

I appreciate your input to improve management for the allotment. This information will be most helpful when the District initiates the planning process for this allotment, which is scheduled at the earliest in 2005.

In the meantime, I would also like to inform you that this allotment lies within an adjudicated water basin. This means that in order to construct new water developments (ie. stock tanks, wells), water rights must be in place to accomplish such developments as well as appropriate NEPA documentation.

The Forest Service (FS) does not have any water rights available at this time. The only avenue to construct new water developments in a closed basin is to transfer water rights from another entity (such as the permittee) to FS or purchase such rights.

Other improvements such as fences and artificial waters are easier to accomplish. However, these improvements also need the appropriate NEPA documentation and funding to implement.

The District has a large range program and many priorities that require funding. Funding is limited and will continue to be limited. Costsharing projects are an avenue to accomplish some projects based on resource priority and need. Costsharing allows the District to distribute funding throughout the range program.

I hope that this clarifies the FS position on range developments. If you have any comments or questions concerning this or the annual operating instructions, please do not hesitate to call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Pierson for  
JANICE S. STEVENSON  
District Ranger

cc: so