

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/10/03)

Allotment Name: West Apache

Permittee: Burnard & Lena Milligan

Permit Number: 06-584

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 17 cow/calf 3/1 –2/28

2004 Annual Validation: 17 cow/calf 3/1/03 –12/01/03

Grazing System:

Current management uses the natural barrier between Kerr Canyon and Lee Russell Canyon to split Kerr pasture into two separate pastures. Trap pasture is used to gather stock from the north part of the allotment and to provide for a short period of rest for the main pasture. The 40-Acre riparian pasture is used for holding and finishing calves for shipping.

Pasture Rotation: 2004:

			<u>Allowable use</u>
Hog Pasture	4/12/03 – 5/12/03	17 cows	30%
South of Lee Russell	5/13/03 – 7/15/03	17 cows	30%
West of Kerr Spring	7/16/03 – 8/15/03	17 cows	30%
Mule Spring	8/16/03 – 9/15/03	17 cows	30%
East of Kerr Spring	9/16/03 – 10/15/03	17 cows	30%

Grazing Restriction:

The Apache Creek riparian (finishing) pasture is excluded from livestock grazing at the current time. Use within this pasture will be on a case by case basis.

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. Key forage species, proper use, and allowable use for the allotment is:

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: Forage utilization in each key forage area is 30%.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas: Key forage utilization monitoring will continue on the areas identified on the allotment map. 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 urge you to participate in these key area utilization surveys. Estimated forage use determinations will be consistent with the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook. Monitoring methods to be used will be grazed plant method, ocular estimates, clipping/weighing or Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

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 moved to the next scheduled pasture.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

Transects were run on 10/20 (U-2), 10/21 (U-1), 10/22 (U-3, C-5), 10/23/03 (U-4).

U-2 3% use

U-1 1%

U-3 10%

U-4 2%

C-5 4%

Livestock need to be enticed into the upper country.

Actual Use::

Actual use for the 2003 grazing season that you provided was calculated at 22 AM's. The 10 year average is 33 AM.'s.

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.

- 1.) We need to assess the situation at Mule Springs. Someone has eliminated the pipes and water trough that gathered water from Mule Spring within the

- allotment, and has piped the water directly to Alan Robinson's water trough located inside his private land.
- 2.) No additional range improvement projects were identified for this year.

Other Information:

- 1.) Trick tank was installed in the Hog Pasture during summer of 2003.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Pierson for
JANICE S. STEVENSON