

**Quemado Ranger District**  
**2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions**  
(2/13/04)

**Allotment Name:** Canyon del Buey

**Permittee:** Miguel R. & Maria Lopez de Aragon

**Permit Number:** 06-1104

**Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:** 344 cattle 3/1– 02/28

**2004 Annual Validation:** 288 cows; 22 bulls 3/01/04 - 2/28/05  
34 replacements 4/01/04 - 2/28/05

**Grazing System:**

Ten pasture Modified Deferred Rotation. The main winter pastures are Jaramillo, Jara, and Perro, with the smaller pastures - Tomas, Aragon and Buey being used as needed for gathering or holding. Benino is also a holding pasture and is sometimes used for heifers. The availability of water sometimes dictates when and how long the Melquiades, and Benino pastures are used since they are considered fall pastures and are usually grazed after the rainy season. The Canyon del Buey and Slaughter Pastures are summer pastures.

**Pasture Rotation: 2004**

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Period of use</b>	<b>Livestock #'s</b>	<b>Allowable Use by species</b>
Jara	2/01/04 to 4/30/04	288 cows	45%
Benino/Boy	2/01/04 to 2/28/04	22 bulls & 34 (r.h.).	45%
Alambre	3/01/04 to 3/15/04	22 bulls	45%
Jara/Perro	3/01/04 to 4/03/04	34 heifers	45%
Tomas	3/16/04 to 5/16/04	22 bulls	45%
Canyon del Buey	5/01/04 to 5/15/04	322 cows	45%
Slaughter	5/16/04 to 7/31/04	322 cows and 22 bulls	45%
Canyon del Buey	8/01/04 to 10/30/04	344 head	45%
Melquiades	11/01/04 to 12/15/04	344 head	45% **
Jaramillo	12/16/04 to 1/30/05	344	45%
Jara/Perro	2/01/05 to 4/30/05	322	45%
Benino	1/01/05 to 2/28/05	22 bulls	45%

\*May stay longer towards end of the month.

\*Livestock numbers will fluctuate in late summer and early fall as permittee prepares for shipping and moving livestock to winter pasture.

**Grazing Restriction:** The following grazing restriction applies to a small area of the allotment located on the west end of Canyon del Buey pasture. The grazing restriction for this area is:

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31, and no concentrations 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 this restriction is to provide reasonable and prudent measures to mitigate wildlife issues.

**Allowable Use:**

The current allowable use for the Canyon del Buey allotment is 45% yearlong.

**Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:** Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. Within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture, key areas will be visited by the Forest Service to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. These areas are the existing cluster/pace transect sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period. 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. Methods to be used are grazed plant method, ocular estimates, clipping/weighing or Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

If additional key area sites are needed, the Forest Service will select those sites with permittee input. Definitions from Forest Service Handbook will be utilized in selecting key forage monitoring areas.

If any key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than the 45% allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture meet or exceed allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent over utilization on the forage plants.

**Utilization Monitoring Results:**

C-11	Slaughter	30%	<b>C-4</b>	Tomas	52%
P-7	Slaughter	8%	<b>C-7</b>	CDB	55% (cool)
P-1	Benino	38%	<b>C-7</b>	CDB	78% (warm)
P-2	Melquiades	42%	<b>P-6</b>	CDB	60%
<b>P-2</b>	Melquiades	71%	<b>P-6</b>	CDB.	55%
P-3	Melquiades	5%	<b>P-9</b>	CDB	50%
P-3	Perro	43%	<b>P-13</b>	CDB	60% (warm season)
C-1	Slaughter	21%	<b>P-6</b>	CDB	60%
C-8	Slaughter	20%	<b>P-6</b>	CDB	55%
C-9	Slaughter	21%	<b>P-9</b>	CDB	50%
C-10	Slaughter	21%	<b>P-13</b>	CDB	60%
P-10	Slaughter	9%	P-14	CDB	20%
P-11	Slaughter	29%	P-16	CDB.	3%
P-12	Slaughter	19%	C-2	Jara	45%
P-15	Slaughter	42%	C-5	Jara	42%

C-6	Jara/Perro	32%	C-2	Melquiades	47%
P-1	Jara	54%	C-2	Melquiades	80%
P-2	Jara	32%	C-3	Melquiades	36%
P-4	Jara	36%	C-3	Mequiades	61%
C-1	Jaramillo	54%	P-6	Jaramillo	18%
C-4	Jaramillo	31%	P-5	Jaramillo	31%
C-5	Jaramillo	8%	P-4	Jaramillo	10%
C-6	Jaramillo	3%			

Monitoring results indicated that most transects that were read were below the 45% allowable use guideline. However, P-6, P-9, and P-13 in the Canyon del Buey Pasture; P-1 in the Jara Pasture; C-1 in the Jaramillo Pasture; C-2, C-3, and P-3 in the Melquiades Pasture; and C-4 in the Tomas Pasture all exceeded the allowable use. It is the responsibility of the permittee to comply with allowable use. Please pay particular attention to the areas that exceeded the allowable use levels in 2003.

**Actual Use:**

The actual use for the Canyon Del Buey Allotment during 2003 was 3653 AM's. The ten year average for the allotment is 3556 AM's.

**Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2004 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.

**Other Information:**

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

Sincerely,

/s/ John D. Pierson (For)

JANICE S. STEVENSON  
District Ranger