

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/18/03)

Allotment Name: West Demetrio

Permittee: Aristeo Chavez

Permit Number: 06-1096

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 70 cattle; cow/calf 03/01 – 02/28

2004 Annual Validation: 70 cattle, cow/calf 03/01-02/28

Grazing System: A three pasture modified deferred-rotation grazing system is used for the allotment. There are three periods of use: spring 4/1-6/15, summer 6/16-9/30, dormant or winter 10/1-3/30. Each large pasture (Aspen Spring, Cabin Spring, and Demetrio Creek) would receive summer use one year followed by spring use the second year and dormant use the third year. The cycle is repeated every three years. Livestock movements between pastures are permitted to begin one week prior to scheduled moving dates and extend to one week after scheduled moving dates. The Holding Pasture is used for gathering, hospital, and access to reliable water for the Demetrio Creek Pasture.

Pasture Rotation: 2004

Cabin Spring	1/01/04 - 1/31/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 40%
Aspen Spring	2/01/04 - 5/15/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 40%
Demetrio Creek	5/16/04 - 8/15/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 35%
Cabin Spring	8/16/04 - 9/30/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 35%
Holding Pasture	10/01/04 - 10/31/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 40%
Aspen Spring	11/01/04 - 1/31/05	All Cattle	Allowable use 40%

Grazing Restriction: None apply to this allotment.

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.

In accordance with the West Demetrio Decision dated 12/13/99 the guidelines for forage utilization in key areas is 35% allowable use during growing season and 40% allowable use during dormant season. Within riparian areas that contain woody riparian plants,

utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area heavily hedged).

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas: Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. Forest Service personnel will visit the key monitoring areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a certain pasture. The percentage of grazing utilization will be determined at that time. Participation by the permittee is encouraged and appreciated. Methods used to determine the utilization percentage will be ocular estimate, paired plot, clip and weigh, grazed plant and/or the Grazing Intensity Guidelines. Utilization checks may also be conducted mid-way through a scheduled pasture-grazing period to determine actual utilization by livestock/wildlife.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization, livestock will be moved to another areas of the grazed pasture where actual grazing use is less than the allowable utilization. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at the allowable utilization, livestock will be moved early into the next scheduled pasture identified on this annual operating plan. This requirement is necessary to prevent over utilization on forage plants. A map of the utilization key areas has been included.

2003 Utilization Monitoring Results:

Date	Pasture	Key Area	Use	Date	Pasture	Key Area	Use
1/16/2003	Demetrio Creek	P-1	30%	7/24/2003	Aspen Spring	C-1	12%
1/16/2003	Demetrio Creek	P-2	34%	7/24/2003	Aspen Spring	P-1	10%
1/16/2003	Holding	C-11	30%	7/24/2003	Aspen Spring	C-7	10%
3/27/2003	Cabin Spring	C-1	1%	7/24/2003	Aspen Spring	P-2	10%
3/27/2003	Cabin Spring	P-4	1%	9/29/2003	Demetrio Creek	P-1	16%
3/27/2003	Cabin Spring	U-1	5%	9/29/2003	Demetrio Creek	P-2	14%
3/27/2003	Cabin Spring	P-1	12%	9/29/2003	Demetrio Creek	P-3	0%
3/27/2003	Cabin Spring	U-2	5%	9/29/2003	Demetrio Creek	C-2	15%

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.

In addition, we discussed the following specific improvement maintenance:

1. Reconstruction of ½ mile of fence 4344.
2. Reconstruction of 1 mile of fence 4265, partial reconstruction of east 2 miles of fence 4265.
3. Redevelopment of Brushy spring

In addition the following new improvements were discussed:

1. Eddy would like the district to install a cattleguard on the old fox mountain road

Actual Use:

The actual use for the 2003 grazing season was 842 AM's. For your reference the 10-year actual use average for this allotment has been 986 AM's.

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

/s/ John D. Pierson (for)
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

1/20/2004
Date