

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instruction
(11/24/03)

Allotment Name: Underwood Lake and Trout /Dillman Creek

Permittee: Phillip W. and Charles Rae Swapp

Permit Number: 61207 & 61208

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

52	cow/calf	4/1 – 1/31	Trout/Dillman
185	cow/calf	5/1 – 10/31	Underwood Lake

2004 Annual Validation:

52	cow/calf	4/1 – 1/31	Trout/Dillman
185	cow/calf	5/1 – 10/31	Underwood Lake

Pasture Rotation 2004:

Underwood Lake

Pasture	Use Period	Allowable Use % by species
Underwood	5/1/04 to 6/15/04	Bluegrass 40% Blue Grama 35%
Lost Spring	6/16/04 to 8/31/04	Bluegrass 40% Blue Grama 35%
Romero	9/1/04 to 9/30/04	Bluegrass 40% Blue Grama 35%
Steele	10/1/04 to 10/31/04	Bluegrass 40% Blue Grama 35%

Creek and Big Bend riparian pastures will not be utilized this grazing season.

Allowable utilization for riparian areas on the allotment that contain woody riparian plants is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings heavily hedged.

Dillman/Trout Creek

Pasture	Use Period	Allowable Use % by species
Bill Lee	12/1/03 to 2/15/04	Bluegrass 30% Blue Grama 20%
Pvt. Land	2/16/04 to 3/30/04	
Mesa/Turk	4/1/04 to 5/31/04	Bluegrass 30% Blue Grama 20%
Foxy Grandpa	6/1/04 to 10/31/04	Bluegrass 30% Blue Grama 20%
Bill Lee	11/1/04 to 12/31/04	Bluegrass 30% Blue Grama 20%

Dillman Creek, Trout Creek, and Trout Campground riparian pastures will not be utilized this grazing season.

Allowable utilization for riparian areas on the allotment that contain woody riparian plants is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings heavily hedged.

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply in portions of the Romero Pasture of the Underwood Lake Allotment. A map of the restricted area was given to you with your new permit. If you need a new map please contact the district office.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31, 2004 and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed. Construction or reconstruction of range developments is permitted only outside the restricted season.

The purpose of this restriction is to mitigate wildlife issues.

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

The Underwood Lake Decision dated 9/10/2002 includes guidelines for herbaceous forage utilization in key areas of 40% allowable use on bluegrass sites and 35% allowable use on other sites during growing and dormant season. When livestock are permitted to graze within Creek and Big Bend pastures, utilization of woody riparian species is limited to no more than 10% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a pasture heavily hedged. Within other riparian areas on the allotment that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area heavily hedged.

The Trout Creek/Dillman Decision dated 12/17/2002 includes guidelines for herbaceous forage utilization in key areas of 30% allowable use on bluegrass sites and 20% allowable use on other sites during growing and dormant season. When livestock are permitted to graze within Trout creek, Dillman creek and Trout Campground pastures, utilization of woody riparian species is limited to no more than 10% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a pasture heavily hedged. Within other riparian areas on the allotment 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. 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/pace transect 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. Methods to be used are grazed plant method, ocular estimates, clipping/weighing or Grazing Intensity guidelines.

If any key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds the allowable utilization on the key forage species, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than the 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.

Utilization checks may also be conducted during the scheduled pasture-grazing period to determine actual use.

Key riparian areas on Romero, Trout and Dillman Creeks will be monitored also for grazing utilization. A map of key area utilization monitoring was given to you with your new permit. If you need a new map, please contact the district office.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

The Following key areas were monitored for forage utilization during 2003:

Lost Spring

C-3 25% use

P-2 0% use

C-4 5% use

Romero

P-3 50% use

C-1 15% use

R-1 30% use

R-2 30% use

Steele

P-2 0%

C-2 0%

C-3 10%

Underwood

C-1 7%

R-4 30%

P-1 5%

C-2 10%

Mesa

C-1 <10%

P-1 0%

Turk

U-1 10%

U-2 28%

Foxy Grandpa

C-3 0%

P-3 0%

C-4 15%

Phil, the following key areas received heavy use last year: P-3 Romero, U-2 Turk, Upper Romero Creek. This grazing season livestock use will need to be carefully monitored within these areas. Distribute livestock use away from these areas, this may be accomplished using salt or mineral block. If you have questions or concerns in this matter please contact Collin Ewing in order to review these areas on the ground. Your cooperation in this matter is needed to comply with the allowable use guidelines.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2004, 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, specific maintenance discussed included:

- 1.) Phil will reconstruct fence #5044 between Lost Springs and Underwood pastures during spring 2004. The District has materials at Luna workcenter to complete this project. Please contact Collin for the needed materials and permit modification.

- 2.) Phil will partially reconstruct fence #3344 between Romero and Steele Pastures, and #5049 between Bill Lee and the Luna allotment. The District has materials at Luna workcenter to complete this project. Please contact Collin for the needed materials and permit modification.

No new developments were discussed.

Actual Use 2003:

Your actual use reported for 2003 was 1254 AM's for Underwood and 346 AM's for Trout and Dillman Creek. For your information the 10 year actual use average has been 1214 AM's for Underwood, and 787 AM's for Trout and Dillman Creek.

Please feel free to call (505) 773-4678 and speak to John Pierson or Collin Ewing should you have any problems with or questions concerning this document.

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

1/20/2004
Date