

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(2/05/04)

Allotment Name: Gallo Mountain

Permittee: Skousen Ranch

Permit Number: 06-1145

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 433 Cattle; Yearlings; 5/15 – 10/15
Private Land Permit: 17 Cattle; Yearlings; 5/15 - 10/15

2004 Annual Validation: 572 Cattle; Yearlings; Term;
5/15/04 – 10/15/04
28 Cattle; Yearlings; Term;
5/15/04 - 10/15/04

Grazing System:

A five pasture modified deferred-rotation system is utilized for the allotment. The summer use period occurs from May 15 thru October 15 annually. Each pasture receives use consistent with capacity and allowable use guidelines of 35% upland and 25% riparian on key areas. Livestock movement between pastures are permitted to begin one week prior to scheduled moving dates and extend one week after scheduled moving dates unless utilization rates are met earlier than expected or forage is available to keep livestock within the pasture after the move out date.

Pasture Rotation: 2004		Allowable Use	
Upper Castillo	5/15 - 7/15	50 head	35%
Lower Castillo	7/16 - 9/15	50 head	35%
Upper Mallet	5/15 - 7/31	200 head	35%
Lower Mallet	8/1 - 10/15	200 head	35%
Headwaters	5/15 - 7/15	125 head	35%
Lower Negrito	5/15 - 7/15	225 head	35%
Bull Camp	7/16 - 9/15	350 head	35%
	9/15 - 10/15	400 head	35%

Please give 48 hours advance notice to John Pierson or Joe Giron **prior to livestock entry** on the allotment in order to count livestock.

Should there be a lack of moisture during the summer months and grazing reaches the allowable use, livestock will be moved on to the next pasture in the grazing schedule.

If a pasture rotation change is necessary, permittee must inform District Range Staff in advance.

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply as they did during 2003. Please refer to the map that was mailed out in recent years.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in these designated (crosshatched) areas 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.

The purpose of this restriction is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is necessary 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 Gallo Mountain Decision dated 12/13/99 the guidelines for forage utilization in key areas is 35% allowable use during the growing 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 on areas identified on the allotment map. 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 transects 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.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization, livestock will be moved to another area of the 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 in this annual operating plan. This requirement is necessary to prevent over-utilization of forage plants.

Key riparian areas on the allotment are Perry Lawson Canyon and Gallo Canyon.

Actual Use: 450 cattle from 5/27/01 thru 10/31/01 entering and leaving on staggered dates = 2311 AM's x .7 = 1618 Animal Unit Months. Ten year average = 922 AUM'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.

Utilization Monitoring Results during 2003:

The allowable use for all pastures on the Gallo Mtn. Allotment is 35%.

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Transect</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>% Use</u>
Headwaters	P-3	7/11/03	29%
Headwaters	P-2	7/11/03	80%
Headwaters	C-6	7/29/03	70%
Headwaters	P-4	7/30/03	66%
Headwaters	C-5	7/30/03	49%
Headwaters	U-1	7/30/03	2%
Headwaters	P-5	7/30/03	1%
Holding	C-2	7/30/03	70%
Lower Negrito	C-4	7/31/03	8%
Lower Negrito	P-1	7/31/03	31%
Upper Negrito	P-2	12/01/03	61%
Upper Negrito	C-1	12/01/03	76%
Upper Negrito	P-7	12/01/03	76%
Upper Negrito	C-7	12/03/03	62%
Upper Negrito	P-6	12/03/03	75%

As can be seen, the allowable use was exceeded on 10 of the 15 monitoring points. It is the responsibility of the permittee to keep livestock from overusing the range. This grazing season Joe Giron will monitor the use more often and inform the permittee, in writing, when the allowable use is reached in each pasture.

Range Developments:

All assigned range improvements identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status. **The maintenance of range improvements (fences, etc.) must be completed prior to stocking the scheduled pastures.**

Other Information:

As agreed to in your meeting with Joe Giron, the following improvements are planned for reconstruction:

- 1) 2003 – Fence #4182 to be reconstructed from Teddy Tank (Negrito Tank) gate towards the southwest to the first corner, during June. A permit modification will be developed for the reconstruction of this improvement.
- 2) Reconstruct fence #4008. A permit modification will be developed for the reconstruction of this improvement. We are now waiting to see if Eddy still

wants to construct the remainder of the fence. Joe Giron and Eddy Chavez will flag that portion of the fence.

- 3) Permittee proposed that he be allowed to construct approximately ¼ mile of fence from the northeast corner of the private land at Gallo Lake to fence #4206, that runs east and west, and include that portion as part of the holding pasture. The fence corner would be located just east of the present gate on fence #4206. Forest Service needs to look at this project “on the ground”.
- 4) Replace steel gate with a cattleguard where fence #4060 intersects with Apache Mtn. Road #870. F.S. will install cattleguard. Steel gate will be moved to Teddy Tank area.
- 5) Permittee will build water lots around Jacob and Buck Tanks and the south side of NH Tank for helping control livestock. Forest Service will provide permit modifications - including fence specifications.
- 6) If Gene Baca does not sign grazing agreement with Jimmy Heap, before the grazing season begins, then Heap cattle will graze Castillo Pasture.
- 7) If allowable use is exceeded on the key areas authorized numbers will be reduced to no less than 450, which is equal to the current permitted numbers.
- 8) Private Land Permit – Forest Service must review ways to adjust the numbers of livestock when land is improved to such a point that more private land numbers will be allowed.

If you have any questions or comments please call Joe Giron or John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

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

cc: so