

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/8/2003)

Allotment Name: Luna

Permittee: Glen McCarty

Permit Number: 06-1146

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 226 adult cattle 4/15 to 10/31

2004 Annual Validation: 226 adult cattle 4/15/04 to 10/31/04

Grazing System:

The grazing system is a modified deferred rotation system using all of the pastures during the grazing season as follows: the large pastures are used for the bulk of grazing. They are arranged in two groups, Hy Clark, San Francisco, and Turner pastures in one group for one part of the herd; Adair, Swapp and Dry Blue for the other part of the herd. Sawmill, Kiehne, and Russell are used early and late season for gathering, doctoring, and herd management. The miscellaneous holding pastures are used for gathering and doctoring. Each large pasture receives either early or late growing season rest each year.

Pasture Rotation: 2004

Swapp	4/15/04 to 5/31/04	100 head	Allowable use 35%
Adair	4/15/04 to 4/30/04	126 head	Allowable use 35%
Adair	5/1/04 to 5/31/04	63 head	Allowable use 35%
Sawmill	5/1/04 to 5/31/04	63 head	Allowable use 35%
Sawmill	6/1/04 to 7/15/04	100 head	Allowable use 35%
Hy Clark	6/1/04 to 7/31/04	126 head	Allowable use 35%
Alpine Ranger District	7/15/04 to 7/31/04	100 head	
Alpine Ranger District	7/31/04 to 9/30/04	126 head	
Turner	10/1/04 to 10/31/04	125 head	Allowable use 35%
Sawmill/ Kiehne	10/1/04 to 10/31/04	75 head	Allowable use 35%

If the district receives concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow grazing in Dry Blue Creek the schedule will include the following:

Dave Lee	7/16/04 to 8/31/04	75 head	to be specified before
Dave Lee/Dry Blue Creek	9/1/04 to 9/30/04	75 head	cattle enter pasture

If concurrence is not received, there will be no grazing in Dave Lee/Dry Blue.

Riparian Pastures

No livestock grazing will be allowed within the Stone Creek riparian pasture this grazing season. San Francisco riparian pasture will not be scheduled unless approved in advance by the range staff.

Grazing Restriction:

No livestock grazing is allowed in the riparian area of the Dry Blue Creek outside the time scheduled above. In the event that the Dry Blue pasture is utilized this grazing season and if livestock are found in this riparian area, they will be removed to other areas open to livestock grazing in the Dry Blue Pasture. On the third occasion livestock are found in this area, livestock will be required to be removed from the Dry Blue pasture and moved to the next scheduled pasture identified in the 2004 annual operating plan.

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 Decision dated 12/13/99 set guidelines for forage utilization in key areas of 35% allowable use during 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 in 1998. 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/paced 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. Monitoring to be utilized will be ocular estimates, grazed plant method, clip/weigh and/or Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization on the uplands or 25% heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, 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 required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

2003 Utilization Monitoring Results:

Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use	Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use
Sawmill	5/22/03	C-	5%	Adair	7/11/03	P-8	10%
Sawmill	5/22/03	P-3	2%	Adair	7/11/03	C-6	32%
Kiehne	5/22/03	P-7	5%	Frisco	10/17/03	C-4	25%
Russell	5/22/03	C-1	0%	Hy Clark	6/25/03	P-5	4%
Russell	5/22/03	P-1	2%	Hy Clark	6/25/03	C-5	0%
Frisco	7/11/03	C-4	32%	Hy Clark	6/25/03	P-2	0%
							40%
Frisco	7/11/03	C-2	20%	Hy Clark	6/25/03	SF river	herbaceous,
Frisco	7/11/03	P-12	10%				25% woody

Please observe and distribute livestock to avoid overuse on key areas. The Stone Creek riparian pasture will not have livestock within it this grazing season. Adair C6, Frisco C-4, and the SF river in Hy Clark received heavy use during the 2003 season. Please distribute livestock away from these areas in 2004. If allowable use is exceeded livestock will be moved to available forage within the pasture or to the next scheduled pasture. I appreciate your efforts in complying with the allowable use guidelines this grazing season.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2004 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the 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 the following developments were discussed:

1. Shawn Menges will check on the need for rebuilding fence #5065 between Frisco and Turner.
2. Shawn will talk to Glen about cost sharing opportunities for a water system at Russell Well
3. Permittees would like to build a trap in the Frisco pasture

Actual Use:

The actual use provided for 2003 grazing season was 719 AM's. For your information the 10 year average is 1455 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