

2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
Quemado Ranger District
(2/12/04)

Allotment: Mangitas

Permittees: Concepcion Orona & Eva Orona;

Permit Nos.: 061197 & 061198

Ranch Manager: for Eva Orona - Mike Orona
St. Johns, AZ
(928) 337-2846

for Concepcion Orona Jason and Sandra Wenz
(928) 333-3837

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Concepcion Orona	115 Cattle;cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31
Eva Orona	115 Cattle; cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31

2004 Validation:

Concepcion Orona	105 Cattle; cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31
Eva Orona	90 Cattle; cow/calf;	5/1 - 10/31
	25 Cattle NON-USE	

Grazing System: 5-pasture rest rotation system –Jones, Black Peak, Mangitas, Johnson, and Orona.

Pasture Rotation for 2004:

		<u>Allowable Use</u>
Mangitas	5/01/04 - 6/30/04	40%
Black Peak	7/01/04 - 8/31/04	40%
Johnson	9/01/04 - 10/31/04	40%
Jones	REST	

Grazing Restrictions:

The following restriction applies to a small area located on the south end of the Mangitas Pasture. The grazing restriction for this area is as follows:

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 measures to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

The 1995 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the allowable forage utilization by grazing animals.

Standard - Forage utilization by grazing animals will be maintained at a level which will promote satisfactory range/watershed condition/trend and assures recovery and continued existence of threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species of plants and animals.

Guideline - Forage utilization guidelines in each key forage area is 40% on the grasses.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:

Utilization monitoring will continue on key areas identified on the map that was provided to you in 2033. Forest Service personnel will visit the key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. The percentage of grazing utilization will be determined at that time. Participation by the permittee is always welcome and appreciated. Utilization measurements will be determined by 1.) ocular estimate, 2.) paired plot or 3.) grazed plant methods.

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 for selecting key forage monitoring areas.

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 other areas of the pasture where actual grazing use is less than the allowable 40% utilization. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at the 40% 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.

In the event that all pastures have met the allowable use rates, livestock may be removed from the allotment. All pastures will be evaluated prior to removal.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

The following key areas were read during the 2003 grazing season

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Key Area</u>	<u>Use</u>
Horsepasture	<u>12/06/02</u>	U-11	5%
Horsepasture	6/20/03	U-11	73%
Jones	6/30/03	C-1	10%
Jones	6/30/03	U-9	8%

Jones	6/30/03	U-6	50%
7 Trough Spring	7/09/03	U-1	80%
Jones	7/22/03	C-1	15%
Jones	7/22/03	U-9	26%
Johnson	<u>12/06/02</u>	C-3	21%
Johnson	11/18/03	C-3	52%
Johnson	12/06/02	P-5	20%
Johnson	11/18/03	P-5	32%
Johnson	<u>12/06/02</u>	U-7	14%
Johnson	11/18/03	U-7	56%
Johnson	11/18/03	U-12	45%
Johnson	11/20/03	U-10	28%
Johnson	<u>12/06/02</u>	C-4	10%
Johnson	11/20/03	C-4	38%
Mangitas	11/20/03	C-2	61%
Mangitas	11/20/04	U-4	43%
Black Peak	11/25/03	U-1	48%
Black Peak	11/25/03	P-7	60%
Black Peak	11/25/03	U-3	75%

In 2003, 19 transects were monitored on the Mangitas Allotment. 11 key areas monitored exceeded the allowable use level. The District recognizes the difficulties of last year and worked with you to mitigate overuse by adjusting pasture schedules and improving some improvements to distribute livestock use. During 2004, I would appreciate your efforts in continuing to work with the District on mitigating exceeding utilization rates on the allotment. It is the responsibility of the livestock grazing permittee to comply with allowable use levels.

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 grazing permit provides this option.

Range Improvements:

All assigned range improvements identified in the term grazing permit will be maintained to a functional status as per part 2, paragraph 8(c) of your term grazing permit.

A current improvement maintenance responsibility list and map is being completed for each permittee. This list will incorporate those improvements from the previous permittee (Norm Mullen).

Range Developments:

Maintenance on the following improvements was discussed.

1. Joe Giron will review the silted in Rock headers on Mangitas Creek to determine the need and feasibility to repair these structures
2. The Mangitas well is scheduled to be re-drilled. This project is the highest priority maintenance project the grazing season. Funding will be costshared between the

permittees and the District. Joe Giron will complete the permit modification prior to implementing this project.

In addition, one new improvement was discussed as follows.

The proposed Antelope Tank at the northwest corner of the Orona Pasture needs excavation. This tank would provide water and distribute livestock to available forage in the northeast portion of the Orona Pasture. (T.3S.; R.20W.; Sec.2; NW.).

Actual Use:

During 2003 the actual use on the Mangitas Allotment was 940 A.M.'s. The ten year average use is 1223 A.M.'s.

Other Information:

If you have any questions or comments concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to call Joe Giron or John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

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

cc: so
Mike Orona
Jason & Sandra Wenz