

Quemado Ranger District

2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions (12/19/03)

Allotment Name: Puerto Viejo

Permittee: Robert Buchanan

Permit Number: 06-613

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 128 cow/calf 5/1 – 9/30

2004 Annual Validation: 60 cow/calf 5/1/04 – 10/30/04

Grazing System: This is a two-pasture Rotation system.

Pasture Rotation: 2004

Chavez	5/1 - 9/30	60 cattle	Allowable Use - 40%
Padilla	Will be rested during the regular grazing season.		
Padilla	10/1 - 10/30	60 cattle	Allowable Use - 40%

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restriction will apply as it did in 2003 in a small area within the Padilla Canyon Pasture. Please refer to the map that was sent you concerning these grazing restrictions.

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. Stock tank cleaning must be approved in advance prior to any activities.

The purpose of this restriction is to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

The 1995 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice identified 40% as the allowable 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:

Key forage utilization monitoring areas have been identified on the map that was provided. Forage utilization guidelines in each key forage area is 40%.

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. Monitoring methods to be used are ocular estimates, grazed plant method, clip/weigh and Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

The following monitoring was performed on the Padilla Pasture during the fall of 2003:

C-1	Padilla Pasture	55% use
C-6	Padilla Pasture	5% use
P-2	Padilla Pasture	10% use
P-3	Padilla Pasture	12% use
P-4	Padilla Pasture	27% use
P-5	Padilla Pasture	46% use
P-6	Padilla Pasture	10% use

The areas around C-1 and P-5 were overused during the 2003 grazing season. I would appreciate your cooperation in eliminating overuse on all key areas. As you are aware, it is the responsibility of the permittee to comply with 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 to maintenance of range improvements you discussed other improvements that you would like to have in the future:

1. Permittee would like to see trees thinned around Padilla Spring. It would reduce transpiration. The District is in the process of acquiring funding sources for this project.
2. Permittee would like to have Forest Service provide Numex pipe in order to water from Killion Tank. F.S. needs to review this project on the ground.

Actual Use:

Actual use for the 2003 grazing season was calculated to be 390 AM's. The 10-year average was calculated to be 286 AM's.

Other Information:

Protein and salt blocks will be placed in the upper portion of the Padilla Pasture, along the old logging road and west of Ray Bell Tank, to help distribute livestock. This means that salt and mineral can only be placed from 9/1 – 10/30 within this area

If you have any questions or comments concerning these annual operating instructions please do not hesitate to call John Pierson at 773-4678.

Sincerely,

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

cc: so