

Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(11/21/03)

Allotment Name: Sanchez
Permittee: Eduardo Aragon
Permit Number: 06-1010
Term Permitted Numbers: 34 Cow/Calf 03/1 - 02/28
2004 Annual Validation: 34 Cow/Calf 03/01 – 02/28

Grazing System:
Two pasture deferred yearlong grazing system.

Pasture Rotation: 2004

Pasture	Period of Use	Livestock	Allowable Use %
South	01/01/04 – 05/31/04	34 cows	40%
North	06/01/04 – 10/31/04	34 cows	35%
South	11/01/04 – 12/31/04	34 cows	40%

Grazing Restriction:
There are no current restrictions that apply to this allotment.

Allowable Use:
The Decision dated 12/13/99 established guidelines for forage utilization within key areas at 35% allowable use during growing season and 40% allowable use during dormant 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. Forest Service personnel will visit the key monitoring areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a certain pasture. The percentage of grazing utilization will be determined at that time. Participation by the permittee is always welcome and appreciated. Methods of monitoring will be 1.) ocular estimates 2.) grazed plant method 3.) 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, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all the 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 over use of forage plants.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

North		South	
C-2	30%	P-3	35%
P-1	25%	P-6	36%
P-2	50%	C-3	56%
P-3	40%	C-4	50%
P-1	30%	P-1	45%
P-9	27%	P-4	22%
C-1	16%	P-5	50%
		P-7	60 %

The above monitoring results indicated that key areas P-2 and P-3 in the North pasture exceeded 35% use. In the South pasture P-6, C-3, C-4, P-1, P-5 and P-7 exceeded the allowable use guideline. C-3 is located along a livestock trail and allowable use was exceeded again this past year. Although this key area is next to a livestock trail it does not allow for exceeding the allowable use guideline. I encourage you to meet on the ground to discuss this key area with John or his staff. It is the responsibility of the permittee 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 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 developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

The following improvement maintenance was identified to accomplish this year.

1. Norias tank cleanout. Permittee will clean out tank. Contact Joe Giron prior to cleaning out stock tanks to ensure that proper documentation is completed.
2. Encino Spring. Prior to improving this spring I require that you meet with Joe on the ground to develop plans for a collection box and trough. Archeological clearances and permit modifications must be completed prior to implementing work on Encino spring. The District will provide a drinking trough and pipeline for this improvement.

In addition the following new range improvements were discussed:

1. Install 3 cattlegaurds on Forest Road 11A for the North and South pasture division fence.
2. Extend the pipeline to Lady's Tank by approximately one half mile and locate a water trough out of the creek bottom. This will require the appropriate NEPA, BE (Biological Evaluation), Archeological Clearance, and a Permit Modification.

Actual Use:

408 AM's were applied for and used on during 2003. For your reference the 10 year average for the Sanchez allotment is 515 AM's.

Other Information:

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

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

cc: so