

**Quemado Ranger District
2004 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions**

Allotment Name: East Sand Flat

Permittee: Steve and Linda Hatfield

Permit Number: 06-1138

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 300 Cow/calf 03/01 – 02/28

2004 Annual Validation:

189 Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
13 Bulls	03/01 – 02/28
98 head non-use	03/01 – 02/28

Grazing System: Deferred Rotation. This allotment all lies on a south-facing slope, with the exception of two of the pastures - Twin Springs and Campground. These are the summer pastures and are located on top of Slaughter Mesa. The livestock are wintered in the southernmost part of the allotment.

Pasture Rotation: 2004

Winter	01/01/04 to 04/31/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 30%
Lost Cabin	05/01/04 to 06/30/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 30%
Twin Spring	07/01/04 to 10/15/04	All Cattle	Allowable use 30%
Winter	10/16/04 to 05/01/05	All Cattle	Allowable use 40%
Earl Well, Campground	Rest		

Twin Springs will be monitored closely. If allowable use is reached in Twin Springs, Campground may be used to finish the summer grazing period.

In the event that the Lost Cabin pasture does not have reliable water, Campground and Twin Springs will be used to complete the summer grazing period.

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply as they did in 2003 in portions of the Lost Cabin Pasture. A copy of the map of restricted area was provided to you at the planning meeting, if you need a new map please contact the district office.

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.

The purpose of this restriction is to mitigate wildlife issues.

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. Key forage species, proper use, and allowable use for the allotment is 30% during the growing season and 40% during the dormant season.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas: Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. 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 transect sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period. 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 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, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than the allowable utilization. If all remaining key areas in the pasture are at the 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.

Utilization Monitoring Results 2003:

Date	Pasture	Key Area	Use	Date	Pasture	Key Area	Use
6/10/2003	Winter	C-7	15%	7/8/2003	Twin Spring	C-3	15%
6/10/2003	Winter	P-1	4%	7/8/2003	Twin Spring	C-2	5%
6/10/2003	Winter	P-6	30%	7/8/2003	Twin Spring	C-4	5%
6/10/2003	Winter Earl	P-8	9%	7/8/2003	Twin Spring	P-1	5%
6/10/2003	Well	C-1	0%	7/8/2003	Twin Spring	P-2	10%
6/10/2003	Bull	P-2	5%	9/3/2003	Campground	C-1	5%
6/10/2003	Bull	C-5	0%	9/22/2003	Campground	C-1	5%
				9/22/2003	Campground	P-2	5%

As anticipated heavy use occurred in the Campground pasture near Indio Canyon Tank, this use was to mitigate drought /water shortage issues in other pastures. If Campground is used again this year, please distribute cattle away from this area. Steve and Linda, the District appreciates your efforts in managing your livestock operation to comply with allowable utilization rates on the allotment.

Forage Growth and Water Availability: If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2004 grazing season, 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 improvement maintenance discussed included:

- 1) Permittee will build fence around Cooper's Seep before cattle enter Lost Cabin pasture.

New improvements discussed included:

- 1) Building and installing new cattle guards at:
 - a) In fence #4152 north of Hellhole tank
 - b) East of the El Caso Cattleguard in fence #4274
 - c) On fence #4409
 - d) 2 in fence 4132-4133
- 2) Paint trick tank grid and storage tank.

This AOP/I authorizes you to perform the installation of the above cattleguards.

Actual Use:

The actual use data you provided the District was calculated at 1885 AM's for the 2003 grazing season. For your reference the 10-year actual use average for this allotment has been 2739 AM's.

Other Information:

1. Production/Utilization study in Winter Pasture was initiated in Fall of 2002, and will continue in 2004.
2. As you know we are beginning the planning process for your allotment this year. Your participation is encouraged.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to call Collin Ewing or John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

/s/ John D. Pierson (for)
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

1/20/2004
Date