



File Code: 2210

Date: January 9, 2003

Pat & Linda Wantland

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Wantland,

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Plan for the remainder of the 2002 grazing year and the 2003 grazing year.

**AUTHORIZED**

Number and class of livestock	Dates Authorized
133 Cattle	1/1/03 -2/28/04
5 Horses	1/1/03 -2/28/04

**Pasture Management:**

Pasture	Number of Cattle	Dates	Special Instructions
Eastern portion of Holt Pasture	70	January 1, 2003 – March 31 2003	Livestock are not authorized to water out of Lucky and Goddard Tanks and associated pipeline drinkers. The water lots on these tanks will remain closed and drinkers will be shut off during this time period.
North portion of (Hunter) Pasture	63	January 1, 2003 – March 31 2003	Livestock are not authorized within Deer Park during this time period. Deer Park Fence (# 4175) must be maintained by Febuary 1, 2003 in order to turn livestock. All gates to Deer Park Pasture will be closed during this time period. Within the Hunter Pasture you must make all efforts to keep livestock North of Little Whitewater Canyon.
Shelton, Los Olmos, and York Pastures	133	April 1, 2003 – June 30, 2003	Distribute Livestock by turning waters on and off or closing and opening water lots Fence # 351 must be maintained by April 1, 2003 in order to keep livestock from entering hunter pasture.
Western portion of Holt	70	July 1, 2003 – September 30,	Livestock are not authorized to water out of Lucky and Goddard Tanks and associated



Pasture		2003	pipeline drinkers. The water lots on these tanks will remain closed during this time period.
Goat (Hunter)	63	July 1, 2003 – September 30, 2003	Livestock should be encouraged to use the mesa North of Little Whitewater Creek by salting, herding or controlling water access.
Goat (Hunter) & Lower (Deer Park)	63	October 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003	
Middle portion of Holt Pasture	70	October 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003	Livestock will be allowed to access Lucky and Goddard tanks and associated pipeline waters during this time period.
Eastern portion of Holt Pasture)	70	January 1, 2004 – February 28, 2004	Livestock are not authorized to water out of Lucky and Goddard Tanks and associated pipeline drinkers. The water lots on these tanks will remain closed during this time period.
Goat (Hunter) Pasture North Portion	63	January 1, 2004 – February 28, 2004	Livestock are not authorized within Deer Park during this time period. All gates to Deer Park Pasture will be closed during this time period. Within the Hunter Pasture you must make all efforts to keep livestock North of Little Whitewater Canyon.

**Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

Allowable use is the percentage of use that will be allowed on key grass and browse species. This use will be measured in key monitoring locations as identified below. Adherence to utilization levels *is mandatory and should be the limiting factor* in adjusting grazing management. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are met. Cattle will be moved from the utilized key area to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when forage utilization standards are met. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

The maximum allowable utilization levels set for the Holt Gulch Allotment will be **35%** on the grasses and forbs during the growing season (May 1 through Sept 30) and **40%** during the dormant season (October 1 through April 30).

**Key Monitoring Areas**

Pasture	Area	Important Plant
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		<b>Species</b>
Holt Gulch	T1, T2, T3, Pace 1, and ridge north-west of Lucky Tank, (NE ¼ of NW1/4 of Section 24, T2S, R20W.	Blue grama
Hunter	C2, Pace 3, and Pace 4.	Blue grama
Deer Park	C1 and Pace 1.	Blue grama
Shelton	T1 and T2.	Blue grama
York	Ridge south of Shelton wildlife drinker.	Blue grama

Key areas may be relocated in participation with the Permittee, Catron County Citizens Group, New Mexico Department of Agriculture and Glenwood District Personnel prior to the scheduled use period.

**Range Improvements:**

- a) **Fences:** Proper maintenance of fences will ensure livestock are controlled. The following fences have been identified as priorities for maintenance:

Deer Park Fence (# 4175) must be maintained by March 1, 2003 in order to turn livestock.

Fence # 351 must be maintained by April 1, 2003 in order to keep livestock from entering hunter pasture.

- b) **Waters:** District personnel will contact you when surveys have been completed in order to authorize for the completion of the following improvement work:

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
1-03	Holt Gulch	July 1, 2003	Pipeline extention to Allotment Tank to be started once clearances have been completed
2-03	Holt Gulch	January 1, 2004	Pipeline extention to Red Tank to be started once clearances have been completed

**Mandatory Mitigation:**

- a) Prior to maintenance or cleaning of any stock tanks, the District must complete surveys for aquatic and archeological values. You must contact the District prior to initiating work on any of these tanks.
- b) Salt or mineral blocks should not be placed within a quarter mile of water and ideally no closer than one-half mile or on any watering locations, unless authorized in writing. Place blocks in lightly used areas until allowable forage use is achieved and then move them to the next least utilized area. Blocks should not be placed in meadow bottoms or near roads. Do not place block in the same area used in previous years and finally, put them on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.
- c) Any changes or modifications made in this Annual Operating Plan/Instructions will be made in cooperation with the District Range Staff and approved prior to the change by the District Ranger. The permittee will give the District at least Five-day notice of an anticipated change.
- d) Since the allotment has only been grazed with 135 head under existing management, an increase to the permitted numbers of 150 head will require documented monitoring to show that utilization standards are being met, riparian vegetation is continuing to remain in satisfactory condition, and that gullies in areas that livestock graze are continuing to show signs of improvement.

**The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment and/or on-going grazing consultation for the Holt Gulch Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia R. Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061-7863, within 45 days of the date

of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry D. Raley, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P. O. Box 8, Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039-9704.

Sincerely,

LARRY D. RALEY  
District Ranger

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Permittee

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Date

TITLE 36 - - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER II - - FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 251 - - LAND USES - - Table of Contents

Subpart C - - Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System Lands

Sec. 251.90 Content of notice of appeal.

- (a) It is the responsibility of an appellant to provide a Reviewing Officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a decision by a lower level officer should be reversed or changed.
- (b) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:
  - (1) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;
  - (2) The title or type of written instrument involved, the date of application for or issuance of the written instrument, and the name of the responsible Forest Service Officer;
  - (3) A brief description and the date of the written decision being appealed;
  - (4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;
  - (5) A statement of the facts of the dispute and the issue(s) raised by the appeal;
  - (6) Specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to be violated and the reason for such an allegation.
  - (7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve the issue(s) being appealed with the Deciding Officer, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and
  - (8) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.
- (c) An appellant may also include one or more of the following in a notice of appeal: a request for oral presentation (Sec. 251.97); a request for stay of implementation of the decision pending decision on the appeal (Sec. 251.91); or, in those States with a Department of Agriculture certified mediation program, a request for mediation of grazing permit cancellation or suspensions pursuant to Sec. 251.103.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989; 54 FR 13807, Apr. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989; 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]

