

Briefing Information
Diamond Bar Allotment – Gila National Forest
Removal of Laney Livestock
February 3, 2004

The Diamond Bar Allotment was formerly under permit to Kit and Sherry Laney until the permit expired in 1996. The Laney's chose not to renew their permit and were subsequently ordered to remove their livestock from National Forest lands. In April of 2003, the Forest Service became aware that Kit and Sherry Laney had placed cattle and horses on the Diamond Bar Allotment without an authorized grazing permit. The case went to U. S. District Court for the District of New Mexico where the Laney's were found in violation and contempt.

Pursuant to the Order and Supplemental Injunction filed in the U.S. District Court, December 22, 2003, the Gila National Forest will ensure that said direction in the Order is complied with. The Order directs the Laney's to remove any and all owned livestock from the National Forest within 30 days of the Order, barring extreme weather conditions or other extraordinary circumstances. To date, the Laney's have not removed their livestock from the Diamond Bar Allotment.

Since the Laney's have not abided by the Order, the Forest Service has started preparations to impound and remove the Laney livestock from the Diamond Bar Allotment. A team has been assembled to conduct the impoundment and removal process. This team will work primarily out of the MeOwn Guard Station, located within the Diamond Bar Allotment. A contractor will perform the actual gathering of livestock. The timeframe for the actual removal of all livestock will depend largely on the extent of livestock dispersion, terrain characteristics where the round up will occur, and weather conditions.

Initial aerial monitoring will be done by helicopter to determine the location of livestock. The contractor will be briefed and provided with maps showing the livestock locations. The contractor will gather these livestock into corrals at MeOwn or Beaverhead for shipment to the Los Lunas auction barn to be sold. The helicopter will be used prudently for reconnaissance flight(s) to locate remaining livestock, enabling the contractor to be efficient in gathering the animals.

The team will consist of an Incident Commander with Line Officer authority, an Operations/Planning Chief to oversee daily operations, a COR who will be responsible for the contract, a Logistics Chief to maintain the camps, a PAO who will be the media/public contact, a Finance Chief to track costs, a N.M. Livestock Inspector on days when cattle are to be shipped, a Helicopter Manager, an EMT, and a Security Chief to manage Law Enforcement personnel. Numbers of additional support personnel will vary.

Planning meetings will be conducted after the evening meal. Morning briefings will include safety issues along with the day's schedule. Adjustments to the schedule will be made as needed to accommodate activities. Operations will ensure that all parties are kept informed. As appropriate, media briefings will be conducted.

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