

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Rossell District Office 1717 West Second Street Rossell, New Mexico 88201-2019

MAY 2 1 2993

ATTENTION - PERMITTEES, LESSRES, LICENSEES:

All existing grazing permits, leases, authorizations; and all mineral leases and rights-of-ways contain a condition that the licensee, permittee or lessee obey all Federal, State and local laws. We are receiving numerous reports that some lessees and permittees of public lands within the Roswell District are requesting and accepting monetary payment for damages and access to Federal property.

The situation described above violates the following Code of Federal Regulations:

Title 43 1063 (Obstruction of transit over public lands), 43 CPR 2920.7(e) (Using public lands for purposes other than those specified in the land use authorization), 43 CPR 2920.7(F(1) (Holders of land use authorizations and all owners of interest in, and all affiliates or subsidiaries of, any holder of a land use authorization or their employees, agents or contractors, its employees, or agents shall pay the <u>United States</u> full value for damages to the public lands that they caused), 43 CPR 2801.3(a) (Use of the public lands without authorization), 43 CPR 2920.1-2(e) (Knowingly and willfully using public lands without authorization by lessees), 43 CPR 4140.1(b)(1)(ii) (Violation of terms/conditions of grazing permit, lesse, or authorization), 43 CFR 4140.1(b)(7) (Interfering with lawful uses or users), 43 CFR 8372.0-7(a)(1) (Failure to obtain commercial use permit).

It is unlawful for licensees, permittees, and lessees to request payment for damages or access to public lands. It is also unlawful for licensees, permittees, and lessees to make payment for damages or access to public land.

EXHIBIT A

Licensees, Permittees, and Lessees shall not demand, request or accept any payment or other compensation from the oil and gas industry, other mineral permittees, lessees, hunters, fishermen or any other members of the public while they are engaged in legitimate public land uses. In addition, licensees, permittees, and lessees will not be compensated for the following:

- 1. Damage to or loss of natural vegetation or wildlife on public lands.
- Advertising displays, signs, filming movies, special events, or access across public lands.
- 3. soil disturbance or erosion on public lands.
- 4. Use or sale of minerals, mineral exploration, vegetative material, timber, stone, topsoil, etc. except as authorized by law on public land.

Willful violations of the above mentioned laws will subject the violator to criminal prosecution including, but not limited to:

- 1. Fines, court costs and possible incarceration.
- 2. Forfeiture of all illegal gains received.
- 3. Lease or permit suspended, revoked or a renewal denied.

These conditions are not intended to prevent compensation from being received or charged for lawful damages to private property owned by an allottee, lassee or licensee that is located on public lands.

Sincerely,

Leslie M. Cone District Manager

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