



ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
2016



**Hilton Family Trust**

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
Bridgeport Ranger District

**Nine Mile, Rough Creek, Masonic  
And Powell Mountain C&H Allotments**

Recommended by [Signature] Date: 3-7-2016  
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted by: [Signature] Date: 3-1-2016  
Permittee

Approved by: [Signature] Date: 3-9-2016  
District Ranger

Upon signature by the District Ranger, these Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit number 20057 approved by the Jeff Ulrich District Ranger on November 5, 2015.

As permittee, my signature on these Annual Operating Instructions certifies that there is *no change to my permitted livestock or base property ownership as described in my grazing permit.*

**Any changes or deviation from the direction outlined in the Annual Operating Instructions will need to be requested in a written notice to the Bridgeport Ranger District.** This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates form unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without written confirmation from the Bridgeport Ranger District.

## PERMITTED USE

The following is a summary of your permitted use which expires on 12/31/2015:

Allotment	Number (on / off)	Kind/Class	Season	Head Months
Nine Mile C&H (Spring)	1076 / 22	Cow/Calf	4/1 – 5/31	2152
Rough Creek C&H	33 / 6	Cow/Calf	6/1 – 10/15	150
Masonic C&H	80	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15	283
Powell Mountain C&H	151	Cow/Calf	6/1 – 10/15	685
Wildhorse C&H (Winter)	50	Cow/Calf	12/1 – 5/31	302
Larkin Lake C&H (Winter)	446	Cow/Calf	11/1 – 11/30	431
Nine Mile C&H (Winter)	102	Cow/Calf	10/1 – 11/30	204

## AUTHORIZED USE

The following is a summary of your authorized use for the 2016 season:

Allotment	Number (on / off)	Kind/Class	Season	Head Months
Nine Mile C&H (Spring)	538 / 11	Cow/Calf	4/1 – 5/31	1076
Rough Creek C&H	33 / 6	Cow/Calf	6/1 – 10/15	150
Masonic C&H	80	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15	283
Powell Mountain C&H	151	Cow/Calf	6/1 – 10/15	685
Wildhorse C&H (Winter)	Winter use will be authorized at a later date.			
Larkin Lake C&H (Winter)				
Nine Mile C&H (Winter)				

This AOI is made part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which will require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

## NONUSE

Personal Convenience Nonuse must be requested in writing 30 days prior to permitted on date. This will provide the Forest Officer sufficient time to review the request and approve or deny the application or consent to an alternative resolution. This type of nonuse is only allowed for up to three consecutive years and no more than four years in any 10 year period. Approval of nonuse is not automatic

Nonuse for Resource Protection or Development may be implemented by the authorized Forest Officer if necessary to facilitate the protection or development of National Forest System Lands and Resources.

Nonuse applies only to livestock numbers, not to a season of use. In the absence of approved nonuse, the permittee must place 90% or more of the permitted livestock numbers on the allotment.

A permit can only be waived for the numbers run based on sale of permitted livestock if that permit is in personal convenience.

Nonuse does not relieve the permittee from range improvements maintenance responsibility. Range improvements listed under part three in your term permit must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment. Range improvements must be maintained even when there is nonuse on an allotment whatever the reason.

## AUTHORIZED NONUSE

The Nine Mile C&H Allotment will be in 50% Nonuse for Resource Protection due to prolonged drought.

## MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Allotment maps and management requirements for those allotments you are permitted to graze have been provided to you

The Flying M brand is the only brand authorized under your term grazing permit.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails. If there are specific areas that require salt placement outside these guidelines, you must obtain approval from this office prior to salting. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock on Forest Service Allotments must be removed from the National Forest.

If you or your employees spot a wildfire on any of your allotments, report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at (775) 883-5995. As a reminder if the Bridgeport Ranger District enters into fire restrictions during 2016, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. A Noxious Weed Free Hay order has been implemented on all National Forest System Lands. USDA order 04-00-097 requires all non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as noxious weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of noxious weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as noxious weed free.

If the animals are being fed hay prior to coming on to the National Forest, please see to it that they are fed weed free hay for several days to allow the majority of seeds to pass before turn out. It is your responsibility to ensure that your livestock do not contribute to the transport of noxious weeds onto the allotment.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed on March 5, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). Through the 2015 grazing season, you and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal). When traveling off of MVUM routes please have a copy of this AOI to present to any Forest Official as documentation of your written authorization.

## ALLOWABLE USE

The allotments must be grazed within the allowable use standards listed below for riparian and upland sites.

Riparian sites:

Maximum of 45% use of the current year's growth of key herbaceous species

Maximum of 20% use of the current annual growth of key shrubs (willows)

Upland sites:

Maximum of 45% use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species

Maximum of 40% use of current annual growth of shrubs (bitterbrush, aspen)

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to other areas lightly used or off the allotment when allowable use has been reached. The Forest Service is

responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. If you need assistance determining use levels or locating key areas, please contact Aaron. All riparian areas on the allotments are considered key areas.

## **REPORTING**

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Please return the forms by **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Reporting requirements are hereby mandatory as part of the terms and conditions of your permit. Failure to report actual use information is a violation of the terms and conditions of your permit and could result in permit actions being taken against your permit.

## **GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

The grazing fees for the 2016 season have increased from last year. The grazing fees for 2016 are \$2.11 per head month.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay their grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting a minimum of 35 days prior to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

If you have any questions regarding any of the allotments for which you have permits, please call Aaron at (760) 932-5850.