



File Code: 2230; 2210

Date: April 20, 2016

Roy F. & Dorothy H. Heise Trust
Bill Heise
PO BOX 39
1576 Highway 395
Minden, NV 89423

Dear Mr. Heise:

This letter will document the Annual Operating meeting held between Roy F. & Dorothy Heise Trust and the USFS, on February 16, 2016, and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2016 grazing season on the Wolf Creek and Bull Canyon C&H Allotments. Those present included Joseph Guild, Duane Coombs, and Matt Richards of Roy F. and Dorothy Heise Trust, and Courtney Ghiglieri of the USDA Forest Service. The use permitted in your Term Grazing Permit is listed below along with the authorized use for the 2016 season:

PERMITTED USE:

<i>Allotment</i>	<i>Number of Livestock</i>	<i>Season of Use</i>
Bull Canyon C&H	150 cows/calves	6/25-9/15
Bull Canyon C&H	3 horses	7/01-9/30
Wolf Creek C&H	90 cows/calves	6/16-9/30
Wolf Creek C&H (Private Land)	135 cows/calves	6/16-9/30

AUTHORIZED USE:

<i>Allotment</i>	<i>Number of Livestock</i>	<i>Season of Use</i>	<i>Days</i>
Private Land			
Wolf Creek C&H	35 mature heifers 23 cows/calves	6/16-9/30	107 Days
Group 2			
Bull Canyon C&H (Bull Lake Unit)	45 cows/calves	7/01-8/15	46 Days
Group 3			
Wolf Creek C&H	75 cows/calves	7/01-9/15	77 Days

*Due to the 2015 Washington Wildfire, the Silver Hill Unit of the Bull Canyon Allotment will be rested for the 2016 grazing season. This will be the second year the unit is rested because of fire effects.



Livestock will be trucked to the Wolf Creek Corrals on or around June 16th where they will graze until they are split up into 3 groups. Group 1 consists of 35 mature heifers and 23 cow/calf pairs which will graze the private lands within Wolf Creek Meadow until September 30th, or until utilization has been met. Group 2 consists of 45 cow/calf pairs, and will trail directly to the Bull Lake Unit of the Bull Canyon Allotment on or around July 1st- avoiding the Elder Creek drainage and Asa Lake areas until the meadows have dried out. To avoid conflicts with recreationists, the herd will be kept together with a 24-hour rider when grazing around Bull and Asa lakes. Cattle will be out of the Bull Canyon Allotment by August 15th, where they will trail back to the private lands within Wolf Creek. Group 3 consists of 75 cow/calf pairs, and will be trailed to the Wolf Creek Allotment (FS lands) on or around July 1st. Cattle will be removed from the Wolf Creek Allotment by September 15th. All livestock will be removed from National Forest System lands by September 30th, or once utilization has been met, whichever comes first.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT:

Actual turn on date will depend on range readiness. For the purpose of livestock accountability, contact the Carson Ranger District **five to seven days prior to turnout** and when you make unit moves. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions of the allotment. A one-week notice must be given before any changes are made to the above dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile from water, (springs, seeps, and streams), roads, and trails. If you have questions about the placement of salt, contact your Rangeland Management Specialist and they will locate suitable sites with your input. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water and from roads and trails used by the public. All garbage associated with managing the allotments must be removed from National Forest System lands.

The California Wilderness Bill of 1984 states “That designation of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness shall not preclude the continued motorized access to those previously existing facilities which are directly related to permitted livestock grazing activities in the Wolf Creek drainage on the Toiyabe National Forest in the same manner and degree which such access was occurring as of the date of the enactment of this title.” You have indicated that you would like to exercise that right by utilizing an ATV for the 2016 grazing season, and you will GPS locations along the trail that will need to be widened. This use is authorized because it is necessary for livestock operations. Please notify the Carson Ranger District prior to the motorized entrance into the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness via the Wolf Creek Trail.

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 is concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. It is *strongly* recommended that all

livestock entering the National Forest be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 3 days prior to entering the Forest.

ALLOWABLE USE:

Wolf Creek & Bull Canyon C&H:

Riparian sites:

- ✘ In meadows that are in early seral status (an early stage of succession in a plant community or vegetation type, generally characterized by plant species that are adapted to colonizing disturbed areas with a high proportion of bare soil) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to **30 percent (or minimum six-inch stubble height)**.
- ✘ In meadows that are in late seral status (fifty percent or more of the relative cover of the herbaceous layer is late seral with high similarity to the potential natural community, a diversity of age classes of hardwood shrubs is present, and regeneration is occurring) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to a maximum of **40 percent (or minimum four-inch stubble height)**.
- ✘ In meadows that are **degraded** (such as those in early seral status with a greater than **ten percent** meadow area in **bare soil and active erosion**) **total rest** from grazing is required until they have recovered and have moved to a mid or late seral status.
- ✘ In riparian areas browsing on mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) is not to exceed **20 percent** of the annual leader growth and is not to exceed more than **20 percent** of individual seedlings. Remove livestock from any area of the allotment when browsing indicates a change in livestock preference from grazing herbaceous vegetation to browsing woody riparian vegetation.
- ✘ Disturbance of meadow-associated streambanks and natural lake and pond shorelines is not to exceed **20 percent** of the stream reach or **20 percent** of the natural lake or pond shoreline.
- ✘ Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.
- ✘ Pesticide application to livestock is prohibited within riparian conservation areas and critical aquatic refuges.

Upland Sites:

Aspen, Sagebrush, Mountain Brush, and Grassland sites:

- ✦ Maximum of **45 percent** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species.
- ✦ Maximum of **40 percent** use of current annual growth of shrubs.

Yosemite Toad: The southwestern corner of the Bull Lake Unit of the Bull Canyon Allotment contains proposed critical habitat:

- ✦ Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, Record of Decision dated January 21, 2004, Appendix A, Section D, "Management Standards and Guidelines," paragraph 53: Exclude livestock from standing water and saturated soils in wet meadows and associated streams and springs occupied by Yosemite toads or identified as "essential habitat" in the conservation assessment for the Yosemite toad during the breeding and rearing season (through metamorphosis). Wet meadow habitat for Yosemite toads is defined as relatively open meadows with low to moderate amounts of woody vegetation that have standing water on June 1 or for more than 2 weeks following snow melt. If these conditions do not persist in the meadow for more than two weeks, grazing will only be allowed in those portions of the meadow where dry conditions exist.
- ✦ If fencing of the area is impractical, grazing will be excluded from the entire meadow until the meadow has been dry for two weeks.
- ✦ The management of Yosemite Toads on the Bull Canyon Allotment was discussed. Amphibian surveys were conducted on the allotment in 2014, but no Yosemite toads were found at Asa Lake or the Elder Creek drainage. Cattle generally do not reach the Elder Creek drainage and Asa Lake until at least July 11th. In order to mitigate impacts to Yosemite toad around Asa Lake, cattle will not be allowed to congregate around Asa Lake. Furthermore, if the July 11th date is too early, cattle will be deferred to this portion of the allotment until the meadows have had enough time to dry out.

It is your responsibility to monitor utilization and ensure that the allowable use standards are not exceeded. You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and to move or remove livestock from the allotment to prevent exceeding these standards. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with the allowable use standards. Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotment, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian species.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in your permit must be maintained to standards listed in Part 3 of your term grazing permit prior to livestock entering the allotments. If an improvement is inaccessible prior to the on date, you must notify staff in my office prior to livestock entry into the allotment. If there is a need for any additional improvements and/or major repairs to existing improvements, please contact the Carson Ranger District range staff for assistance.

You have indicated that over the course of the next few years you will rebuild the Elder Creek Fence to bring it up to standards; the fenceline will remain in its original footprint. You may obtain materials from the Carson Ranger District as Range Betterment Funds allow.

Mineral tubs and temporary electric fence may be used on the private lands within Wolf Creek Meadow to accomplish proper livestock distribution and use of the meadow. The permittee will provide the materials, and the electric fence will be taken down once livestock have exited the allotment.

The Carson Ranger District will replace the cattle guard closest to the Wolf Creek Campground with a universal cattle guard this summer.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT:

Forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance costs are included with this plan. Please complete and return the forms by December 31, 2016.

If you see a wildfire, please contact the Minden Interagency Dispatch at **(775) 883-5995**.

The grazing fee has increased to \$2.11 per head month.

Only cattle with the number "4" on the left hip are authorized to graze on the Wolf Creek and Bull Canyon C&H Allotments.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your 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.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic, and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized

officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

OTHER:

This summer we will be visiting the allotment to conduct permit compliance monitoring and would like to provide the opportunity for you to join us during these efforts. Our range staff, Courtney Ghiglieri, will contact you at least 72 hours prior to a scheduled allotment visit to discuss times and dates with you if you are interested in attending.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions or any aspect of grazing on the National Forest, please contact our Range Staff, Courtney Ghiglieri at (775) 884-8150.

Sincerely,



For
IRENE DAVIDSON
District Ranger