



**File Code:** 2210  
**Date:** March 30, 2016

Park Ranch, LLC  
1300 Buckeye Rd.  
Minden, NV 89423

Dear Mr. Park,

This letter will document the Annual Operating meeting held between Park Ranch, LLC, and the United States Forest Service (USFS), on March 29, 2016, and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2016 grazing season on the Hope Valley C&H Allotment. The use permitted in your Term Grazing Permit is listed below along with the authorized use for the 2016 season:

**PERMITTED USE:**

Allotment	Number of Livestock	Season of Use
Hope Valley C&H	103 cows/calves	6/26-10/25

**AUTHORIZED USE:**

Allotment	Number of Livestock	Season of Use	Days
Hope Valley C&H	103 cows/calves	6/26-10/25	122

\*South Hope Valley Pasture will be rested until a NEPA decision is made. This includes the gravel pit and meadows. T10N, R19E, Sections 6&7. Restoration work on the west fork Carson River will occur within this pasture in the late summer, early fall, 2016.

Cattle enter the allotment through the corrals along Highway 89, then cross California State lands to Scott's Lake Unit. The permittee has agreed to additional riding days within the Scott's Lake Unit to ensure no unauthorized use on the LTBMU. The permittee is responsible for obtaining permission to cross the Hope Valley Wildlife Area administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Once proper use is reached, trail cattle back across State lands to Highway 89. Cattle may be placed in the holding pasture for **no longer than 48 hours**. Cattle will then be divided into two herds. 52 pair will be trailed to the Horsethief Canyon Unit; 51 pair will be trailed across California State land and above Willow Creek to the Horse Meadows Unit. Once proper use is reached, cattle will be removed from the allotment by trailing back to the corrals on Highway 89. The permittee is no longer authorized to drive a vehicle on the Horsethief Canyon Road and will need to contact the Forest Service when assistance is needed for salting.



**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.

The schedule dates of use are flexible as long as they are within the permitted use parameters, but 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 Courtney in my office and she 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 allotment must be removed from National Forest system lands.

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:**

Hope Valley 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)**. APPLY THIS TO THE CRATER LAKE MEADOW.
- ✦ 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.
- ✘ 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.

#### Disturbance/Alteration Standards for Soils and Streambanks:

- ✘ 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.
- ✘ To avoid impacts to fragile riparian soils and vegetation, no concentrated livestock use will occur within .25 miles of a stream or other water body.

#### Upland Sites:

Aspen, Sagebrush, Mountain Brush, and Grassland Sites:

- ✘ Maximum of 45 percent use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species (grasses).
- ✘ Maximum of 40 percent use of current annual growth of woody species (bitterbrush, aspen).

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 are responsible for installing a walk through gate (USFS provided to you on 3/29/16) along the Scott's Lake fence to improve access for recreationists. This gate will encourage users to close the gate to help prevent livestock from accessing the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

**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 by €.42, and is now \$2.11 per head month.**

Only cattle with the PC over bar on the right hip are authorized to graze on the Hope Valley C&H Allotment.

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.

Every effort needs to be made to keep livestock off of Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Administered Lands. This includes the Grass Lake, and Big Meadows areas. Additional riding days were agreed upon for the 2016 grazing season within the Scott's Lake Unit. Please contact Courtney Ghiglieri to schedule a day to GPS the boneyard fence.

As a courtesy, please contact Shelly Blair from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to crossing state lands. Shelly can be reached at the North Central Region Rancho Cordova office at (916) 358-2900, or at [Shelly.Blair@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Shelly.Blair@wildlife.ca.gov).

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, or at [cghiglieri@fs.fed.us](mailto:cghiglieri@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Irene Davidson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "I" and "D".

IRENE DAVIDSON  
District Ranger