



File Code: 2230; 2210

Date: May 4, 2016

Charity Valley Ranch, LLC
7066 Pool Station Rd
Angels Camp, CA 95222

Dear Charity Valley Ranch,

This letter will document the Annual Operating meeting held between Jim and Karen Hagen of Charity Valley Ranch, LLC, and the United States Forest Service (USFS), on May 4, 2016, and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2016 grazing season on the Charity 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
Charity Valley C&H	100 cows/calves	7/15-10/15

AUTHORIZED USE:

Allotment	Number of Livestock	Season of Use	Days
Charity Valley C&H	9 cows/calves 4 cows 1 yearling	7/15-10/15	93 days

*The permittee and Forest Service are in concurrence with stocking the allotment with less than 90% due to continued drought conditions.

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 allotments 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:

Charity Valley C&H:

The following riparian allowable use standards apply to Charity Valley C&H, and are an excerpt from the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (USDA ROD 2004):

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.
- × 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 for the Raymond Meadows unit. 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 allotment. 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.

The permittee may use a temporary electric fence south of their private land boundary and located on National Forest System lands for the 2016 grazing season. The electric fence is essential for proper livestock management. Materials were supplied by the Forest Service, and the construction and maintenance will be supplied by the permittee. The electric fence will be constructed prior to livestock turnout, and will be taken down once livestock have exited the allotment.

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 letters J, K connected over slash on the right rib; or the horseshoe over offset letter C on the right rib; or the horseshoe over offset letter V on the right hip are authorized to graze on the Charity 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.

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.

Sincerely,



IRENE DAVIDSON
District Ranger