

**Merritt Creek
Cattle & Horse Allotment
Mountain City Ranger District
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

- PERMITTEE: Tindall & Sons, Inc

**MERRITT CREEK C&H
PERMITTED USE**

Numbers/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
675 c/c	07/01-10/31	2730
68 c/c	07/01-08/31	139

**MERRITT CREEK C&H
AUTHORIZED USE**

Numbers/Class	Unit	Season of Use	Head Months
675 c/c	West	7/1-8/31	1065
27 yearling		7/1-8/31	43
675 c/c	East	9/1-10/31	1354

- Permitted Livestock Brands

Brands	
	
Cattle location LHC Horse location Sheep location	Cattle location LSTH Horse location Sheep location

II. COMPLIANCE

- Upon signature, these Annual Operating Instructions supplement and are part of your Term Grazing Permit #____60113_____ consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements.

- Situations may develop during the grazing season, which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some parts of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.
- Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and this instruction will result in permit action, which can include suspension or cancellation of part or all of your Term Grazing Permit.
- By USDA order 04-00-097, 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.
- As a reminder, requests for nonuse of term grazing permits for personal convenience must be made annually by the permittee in writing sufficiently in advance of the start of the permitted grazing season, (normally 30 days). Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period. As the term permit holder, you are responsible for the maintenance on all assigned improvements on your permitted allotments during the nonuse period.

III. 2015 GRAZING RESULTS

IV. BILLING

- Grazing fees for 2016 are \$2.11 per head month and the unauthorized use fee is \$10.68 per head month.
- Payment of your grazing bill is preferably 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 grazing fees. Placing livestock on the allotment prior to payment is non-compliance with Part 2, item 3 of the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may include suspension or cancellation of the grazing permit.

V. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- Grazing System: Deferred Rotation

- Authorized use dates (turn –on & turn- off) are tentative and depend on rang readiness, forage utilization and resource conditions during the entire grazing season. Livestock remaining on the allotment past the authorized use date will be billed at the unauthorized use rate.
- Permittees are responsible for monitoring forage utilization within the allotment. Before allowable forage use rates are met in identified key use areas, livestock will be herded to another area or removed from the allotment.
- Owners of permitted livestock must comply with State of Nevada laws and regulations.

VI. HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LRMP) STANDARDS AND GUIDES.

- Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached. You should plan to move cattle to the next pasture or area in your rotation or off the allotment, before allowable use has been reached. This will be done regardless of the time remaining in the grazing season or how many Head Months you have paid for. If you need assistance determining use levels or identifying key areas, please do not hesitate to contact the Rangeland Management Specialist.
- Management will be directed toward having riparian areas in good or better ecological condition and stable or upward trend.
- Utilization is based on current year’s growth for browse and shrubs. The utilization percentages represent the maximum that will be allowed based on current livestock practices and is measured as point in time. The following utilization standards will be the maximum utilization levels allowed for all herbivores on key vegetative species.
- **Amendment 2 of the Humboldt-Toiyabe LRMP Dated July 1990:**
 - The maximum utilization levels would normally be used only where the plant community is at or near the desired future condition.
 - The listed value is the maximum rate which can be prescribed unless otherwise approved by the Forest Supervisor.
 - In most instances utilization would be lower for the higher value management categories; however, this can vary according to ecological conditions and key species.

- Key species can vary by range site and management systems.
- Proper use based on the utilization of shrubs will normally not exceed 35% of the current year's growth.
- Under the High Intensity short duration (early season), timing in relation to the period remaining for regrowth is key. The system is dependent upon sufficient regrowth to meet plant physiological needs and other resource values. Physical damage to the vegetative and soils resources needs to be considered.
- Sediment entrapment is essential to streambank restoration. If this is an objective at least 3-4 inches of herbaceous stubble height is needed on site during high flow periods.

ALLOTMENT: MERRITT CREEK C&H

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class I	Springs and Seeps***	Desirable grasses and sedges	45%
Class II	Merritt Creek Riparian Pasture Willis Creek Log Creek Rain Creek Salmon Creek Sheep Creek Springs & Seeps***	Desirable grasses and sedges	45%
Class III	Boulder Basin Hillside Spring Little Log Creek Springs & Seeps***	Desirable grasses and sedges	55%
Class IV	Sagehen Creek Little Salmon	Desirable grasses and sedges	55%
Class V	Door Gulch Assessor Draw Nip & Tuck Draw Springs & Seeps***	Desirable grasses and sedges	65%
Uplands	All Units	Bluebunch wheatgrass Idaho Fescue	55%
*Upland Browse	All Units	Bitterbrush Aspen	50%
*Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

- Range structural improvements will be constructed and maintained to facilitate proper use of the range resource.
- Range improvements must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment(s). Please be aware that it is necessary to plan projects with at least one-year lead-time to allow for the required documentation and clearances. Please work with the Rangeland Management Specialist to develop a schedule for large projects.

East Unit

Improvement	Type	INFRA #	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Whiskey Point	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11200	T47N R53E SEC 3 SWSW	Permittee
Whiskey Point	Water Dvlp- Trough	11201	T47N R54E SEC 4 NESE	Permittee
Turner	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11202	T47N R54E SEC 9 NENW	Permittee
Turner	Water Dvlp- Trough	11203	T47N R54E SEC 9 SENW	Permittee
Black Leg	Water Dvlp- Trough	11204	T47N R54E SEC 2 NENW	Permittee
Hillside Spring	Water Dvlp- Trough	11205	T47N R54E SEC 2 SWSE	Permittee
Sheep Creek #1	Water Dvlp- Trough	11206	T47N R54E SEC 11 NWSW	Permittee
Lower Sheep Cr.	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11207	T47N R54E SEC 11 NWNE	Permittee
Upper Sheep Cr.	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11208	T47N R54E SEC 11 SWNE	Permittee
Mandy's	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11209	T47N R54E SEC 16 SENE	Permittee
Cold Spring	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11210	T47N R54E SEC 23 NWSW	Permittee
Horse Heaven	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11211	T47N R54E SEC 23 NENW	Permittee
Salmon Cr.	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11212	T47N R54E SEC 15 SESE	Permittee
Lower Assessor Draw	Water Dvlp- Trough	11213	T47N R54E SEC 27 SWNE	Permittee
Sagehen	Water Dvlp - Reservoir	11214	T47N R54E SEC 26 NWNW	Permittee

Riparian Pasture #1	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11215	T47N R54E SEC 27 SWNE	Permittee
Riparian Pasture #2	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11216	T47N R54E SEC 27 SWNE	Permittee
Mustang	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11217	T47N R54E SEC 15 NESE	Permittee

West Unit

Improvement	Type	INFRA #	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Blizzard Bluff	Water Dvlp-Trough	11218	T47N R54E SEC 6 SENE	Permittee
Boulder Basin #1	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11219	T47N R54E SEC 8 NWSE	Permittee
Boulder Basin #2	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11220	T47N R54E SEC 8 NENW	Permittee
Sue's	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11221	T47N R54E SEC 16 NWSW	Permittee
Barton	Water Dvlp-Trough	11222	T47N R54E SEC 16 SESW	Permittee
Rain Creek	Water Dvlp-Trough	11223	T47N R54E SEC 19 NWSE	Permittee
Iron Mtn. #1	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11224	T47N R54E SEC 20 SWSE	Permittee
Iron Mtn. Spr.	Water Dvlp-Trough	11225	T47N R54E SEC 29 SESW	Permittee
Lower Porcupine	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11226	T47N R54E SEC 32 SENE	Permittee
Pin Mtn.	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11227	T47N R54E SEC 29 SESW	Permittee
Middle Porcupine	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11228	T47N R54E SEC 31 NESE	Permittee
Winter Ridge	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11229	T47N R54E SEC 33 SESW	Permittee
Lower Log Creek	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11230	T47N R54E SEC 5 SWNE	Permittee
Upper Log Creek	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11231	T47N R54E SEC 5 NWSE	Permittee
Upper Porcupine	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11232	T47N R54E SEC 31 NWSW	Permittee
Iron Mtn. #2	Water Dvlp-Reservoir	11233	T47N R54E SEC 20 SESW	Permittee
Merritt Creek	Water Dvlp-Trough	11234	T47N R54E SEC 21 NESE	Permittee
Sidehill	Water Dvlp-Trough	11235	T47N R54E SEC 21 NWSW	Permittee

Merritt Creek	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11236	T47N R54E SEC 21 NESW	Permittee
Rain Creek	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11237	T47N R54E SEC 30 SWSE	Permittee

Riparian Pasture

Improvement	Type	INFRA #	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Little Log #1	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11238	T47N R54E SEC 27 SWSW	Permittee
Little Log	Water Dvlp-Trough	11239	T47N R54E SEC 28 SESE	Permittee
Little Log #2	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11240	T47N R54E SEC 33 NWSE	Permittee
Little Log #3	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11241	T47N R54E SEC 33 NWNE	Permittee
Gedney Spring	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11242	T47N R54E SEC 34 NWSW	Permittee
Merritt Creek	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	11243	T47N R54E SEC 34 SENW	Permittee

North Beef Pasture

Improvement	Type	INFRA #	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Barton #1	Water Dvlp-Trough	11244	T47N R54E SEC 15 SWNE	Permittee
Kunz	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11245	T47N R54E SEC 16 NESE	Permittee
Mustang Draw	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11246	T47N R54E SEC 15 SWNE	Permittee
Barton	Water Dvlp-Pit Tank	11247	T47N R54E SEC 15 NWSW	Permittee

South Beef Pasture

Improvement	Type	INFRA #	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Assessor Draw Fence	Water Dvlp-Trough	11248	T47N R54E SEC 22 SENE	Permittee
Flat	Water Dvlp-Trough	11249	T47N R54E SEC 22 NWSE	Permittee

Cattleguards

Name	INFRA #	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Blackleg	11250	T47N R54E SEC 2 NE ¼	
Barton Field	11251	T47N R54E SEC 21 NE ¼	
Porcupine	11252	T47N R54E SEC 34 NE ¼	
Merritt Creek	11253	T47N R54E SEC 9 SW ¼	
Beef Pasture	11254	T47N R54E SEC 16 SE ¼	

FENCES

9.25 Miles Allotment Boundary Fence

18.5 Miles Interior Fences-Private, Riparian, and Unit Boundary

2016 Projects: Listed below are agreed to maintenance and improvement projects that will be completed in the current grazing season.

Improvement	Description	FS Contribution	Permittee Contribution	INFRA#

VIII. PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

- Place salt or supplement at least 200 yards from water sources, trailheads, roads, and key areas. Salt will be removed before maximum allowable use levels have been reached and at the end of the grazing season. Salt fed in loose form shall be contained to keep it from spilling onto the ground. Salt or supplement will be removed from a pasture when the livestock are removed.
- Your assistance in locating noxious weed sites and reporting them to your Forest Officer is greatly appreciated. If you are able and willing to assist in treating noxious weeds, please work with your Forest Officer to determine how best to help.

- If you spot a wildfire, report it immediately to the interagency dispatch center in Elko, NV at (775) 748-4000
- The permittee will insure that all personnel performing on the ground livestock management are thoroughly familiar with the terms of the grazing permit and annual operating instructions.

IX. REQUIRED REPORTING

- Enclosed is a Grazing Use Record for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the dates livestock spend on the allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs/maintenance costs, etc. The grazing use record should be submitted to the district office by December 31, 2015.

X. INSPECTIONS & MONITORING

- Range Readiness- Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until soils are dry enough to prevent damage to vegetation or increase soil erosion, and when key plants are phonologically ready to be grazed.

XI. COORDINATION & COOPERATION

XII. OTHER

- In case of any deceased livestock, notify a Forest Officer, determine the impact to the public, move out of water to the first flood plain, and move away from trails, roads, etc.

XIII. MAPS, FORMS, & ATTACHMENTS

- You will find attached to your AOI a Grazing Use Record

XIV. SIGNATURE BLOCK

Recommended by: _____
Rangeland Management Specialist Date

Signed by: _____
Permittee or Authorized Representative Date

Approved by: _____
District Ranger Date