USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest | Santa Rosa Ranger District
3275 Fountain Way
Winnemucca, NV 89445
775-623-5025

File Code: 2210; 2230
Date: August 11, 2016

Leon & Mary Frey
180 Hwy 95 N
Winnemucca, NV 89445

Dear Leon and Mary:

The following letter will document your meeting with myself and Boyd Hatch, on April 27, 2016 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2016 summer grazing season. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

A deferred and rest rotation grazing system will be implemented on the Buffalo C&H allotment. Utilization sets the criteria on moving your livestock, and the scheduled dates below are a guide and are flexible. If utilization levels are about to be reached prior to these dates, livestock need to be moved to the next unit or off the Forest to keep from exceeding utilization.

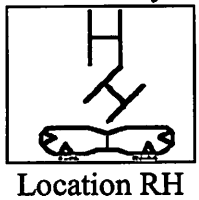
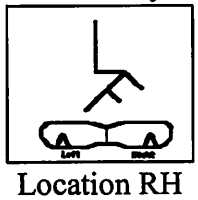
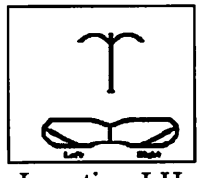
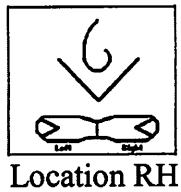
BUFFALO C&H PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Class	Number	Season
Wilson	c/c	150	6/16 - 8/31
Frey	c/c	80	6/16 - 8/31
Anderson (Chabot)	c/c	25	6/16 – 8/4

BUFFALO C&H AUTHORIZED USE

UNITS	Class	Number	Season
Buffalo Cyn. (Wilson)	c/c	100	6/16 - 8/31
Andorno Cyn. (Wilson)	c/c	50	6/16 - 8/31
Porcupine Cyn.(Chabot & Frey)	c/c	80	6/16 – 7/15
Chimney (Chabot & Frey)	c/c	80	7/16 - 8/31
Horse Canyon		REST	REST
Falls Canyon		REST	REST

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Leon Frey	Leon Frey	Wilson Ranch Inc.	Tim Chabot
			
Location RH	Location RH	Location LH	Location RH

COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). The scheduled dates of use are flexible but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the above dates. Other situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, please inform the District Ranger, he must approve any changes in the planned use.

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. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on the forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

Short-term monitoring:

On an annual basis, the permittees are responsible for monitoring allowable utilization and for complying with the AOIs, which include design features, improvement maintenance, and other standards, guidelines, and terms and conditions in the grazing permits.

BILLING:

Grazing fees changed from last year. The fee is now $2.11 per head month.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Type of Rotation: Rest & Deferred Rotation.

IMPROVEMENTS:

Range Improvements listed in permits must be maintained to the standards prior to livestock entering a pasture of the allotment(s). Improvements used in common with other allotments will be maintained before either permittee is scheduled to turn-on or move to the next pasture. If the allotment is in non-use status, the permittee is still responsible for assigned improvement maintenance.

PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. In situations where terrain does not allow proper placement of salt, please contact Boyd he will determine a suitable location with your input.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to the next unit in your rotation 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 Boyd. All riparian areas on the allotments are considered key areas.

Required Reporting
Reported are livestock numbers/types as well as on and off dates for the allotment/units. Actual use (season of use, number of livestock, and dates of use) and range improvement maintenance forms are required to be completed by the permittees and returned to the Santa Rosa District Office at the end of the grazing season.

Salting
Salting will be placed at least 0.4 kilometers (km) (0.25 (mi)) from water. If there are specific areas that require salt placement closer than 0.4 km (0.25 mi) that would facilitate distribution of livestock away from LCT occupied portions of streams and other stream, the permittees must obtain approval from the Santa Rosa District Office prior to salting in those closer proximity areas.

Allowable Utilization
The permittees are responsible for determining when allowable utilization (herbaceous/shrubs) has been reached and for moving their cattle to the next unit in the rotation or off the allotment when allowable use has been reached.

RIPARIAN SITES:
LCT Occupied Streams:

Endangered Species Act Compliance
In order to be exempt from the prohibitions of section 9 of the Endangered Species Act, you must comply with the following terms and conditions from the Biological Opinion. These terms and conditions are non-discretionary.

1) Livestock grazing in riparian areas of the Granite Peak Allotment shall be permitted under the utilization criteria listed below:

    a) livestock utilization of riparian herbaceous cover shall not exceed 35 percent utilization on Upper Indian Creek Pasture, and 45 percent utilization on the Lower Indian Creek Pasture;

    b) livestock utilization of riparian woody vegetation shall not exceed 35 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs within all pastures and allotments with occupied or essential stream reaches for LCT;
    c) livestock streambank alteration levels shall not exceed 10 percent within all pastures and allotments with occupied or essential stream reaches for LCT.

All other stream not occupied by LCT:

Category 1 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Horse Canyon Creek,	Riparian grasses & sedges	45%
Category 2 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
N/A	Riparian grasses and sedges	45%
Category 3 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Porcupine Creek, Chimney Creek, Buffalo Creek, Austin Creek & Peterman Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 4 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
N/A	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 5 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Pine Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	65%
Uplands	Mt. Brome, bluegrass, needlegrass, squirreltail	65%
Upland Browse	Serviceberry, bitterbrush, snowberry	50% of current years growth
Riparian Browse	Willow, aspen, cottonwood	35% of current years growth

REQUIRED 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 following the 2016 grazing season by November 30, 2016.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION:

If you spot a wild fire, report it immediately to the interagency dispatch center in Winnemucca, NV at (775) 623-3444 or 1-800-535-6076.

MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:

Allotment map, signature page, actual use form and permit maintenance forms are attached.

OTHER:

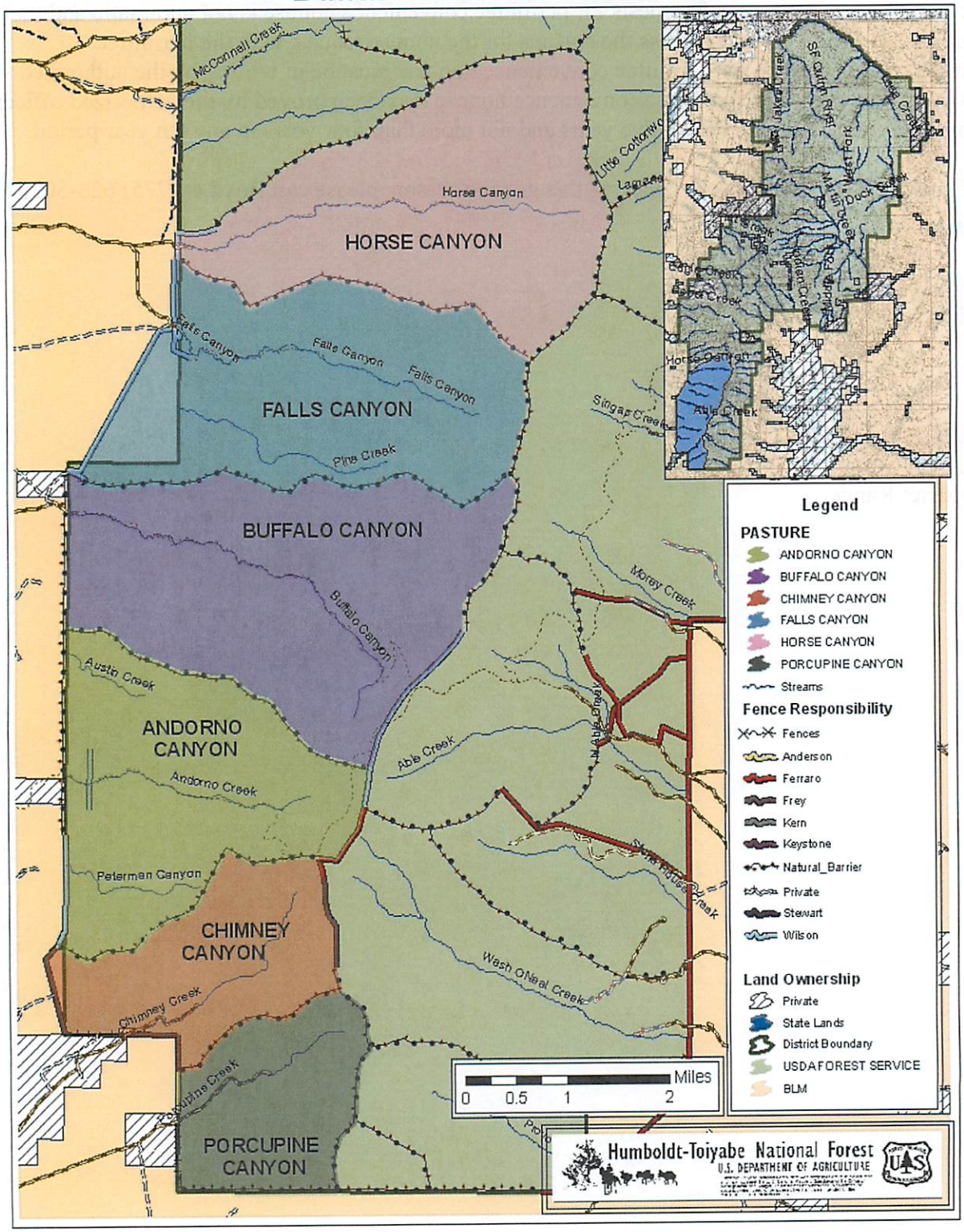
As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial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

If you have any questions or concerns this grazing season, please call Boyd at (775) 623-5025 x 119.

Sincerely,

/s/Joseph Garrotto:
Joseph Garrotto
District Ranger

Buffalo C&H Allotment



ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016

BUFFALO C&H

SANTA ROSA RANGER DISTRICT

Recommended by: _____ Date:_____
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted by: _____ Date:_____
Permittee

Approved by: _____ Date:_____
District Ranger

Please sign and date this cover sheet and return to my office. Upon signature by the District Ranger, these Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit.

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.