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

Woodie Bell
Granite Peak Permittees
P.O. Box 48
Paradise Valley, NV 89426

Dear Woodie,

The following letter will document your meeting with Boyd Hatch, 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 rest/rotation grazing system will be implemented on the Granite Peak 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. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Granite Peak C&H Permitted Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #'s	Season of Use
Bar X	C/C	597	5/21 – 9/30
Keystone Ranch, INC.	C/C	253	5/21 – 9/30
Woodie Bell	C/C	200	5/21 – 9/30

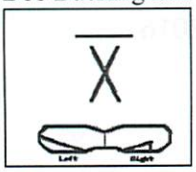
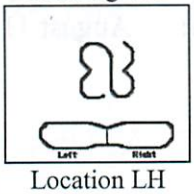
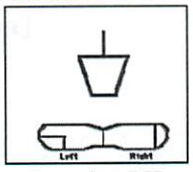
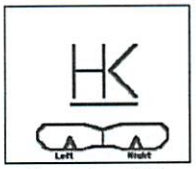
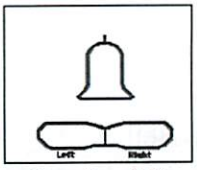
Granite Peak C&H Authorized Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #'s	Season of Use
Bar X	C/C	597	5/21 – 9/30
Keystone Ranch, INC.	C/C	180	5/21 – 9/30
Woodie Bell	C/C	200	5/21 – 9/30

Pasture Rotation

UNIT	SEASON
~2/3 of Livestock Lower Willow Cr.	5/21 – 6/12
~1/3 of Livestock Mullinix/Lower Solid Siver	5/21– 7/11
South Fork Willow Creek.	6/13 – 8/19
Rebel Cr./ Cottonwood Cr.	8/19 – 9/30
Gabica Fork/Upper Solid Silver	Light Use
Upper Indian Cr.	Light Use
Tom Basin	Rest
Lower Indian Cr.	Rest

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Bar-X Ranch Bob Buckingham	Fred & Bob Buckingham	Keystone Ranch Rolfe Schwartz	Keystone Ranch Rolfe Schwartz	Bell Ranch Woodie Bell
				
Location LH	Location LH	Location LH	Location LH	Location RS

COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). 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.

BILLING:

Grazing fees remained unchanged from last year. The fee is now $2.11 per head month. You are able to pay USDA Forest Service, C/O Citibank, P.O. Box 301550, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550, online at WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY, or at the district office.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Type of Rotation: Deferred/Rest Rotation.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

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. R4-FS-2200-10 (2/80)

Range 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Under Amendment II standards non LCT occupied will be managed accordingly:

Category 2 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Rebel Creek, Lower 1 mile of Solid Silver Creek to FS Bdry, Willow Creek & South Fork of Willow Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	45%
Category 3 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
1 mile above from FS Bdry on Solid Silver Creek, Mullinix Creek, North Fork Mullinix & Big Cottonwood Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 4 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Tom Basin Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 5 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Gabica Fork & Colman 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

UPLAND SITES:

Use is 65% on upland sites. Key species are: mountain brome, basin wildrye, Sandberg bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, squirreltail, and Idaho fescue. Use is 50% on upland browse species such as serviceberry, bitterbrush, sagebrush, and snowberry.

IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained before cattle enter the allotments and are on the attached map. The maintenance standards listed in part three of your term permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements. As you're doing water trough maintenance please install wildlife ramps in all troughs that currently don't have them. We have several new ramps completed at the Paradise Valley Ranger Station. Please let Dave Kern, or Boyd know when you are going to pick them up and they will make sure they are available.

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 and he will determine a suitable location with your input.

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:

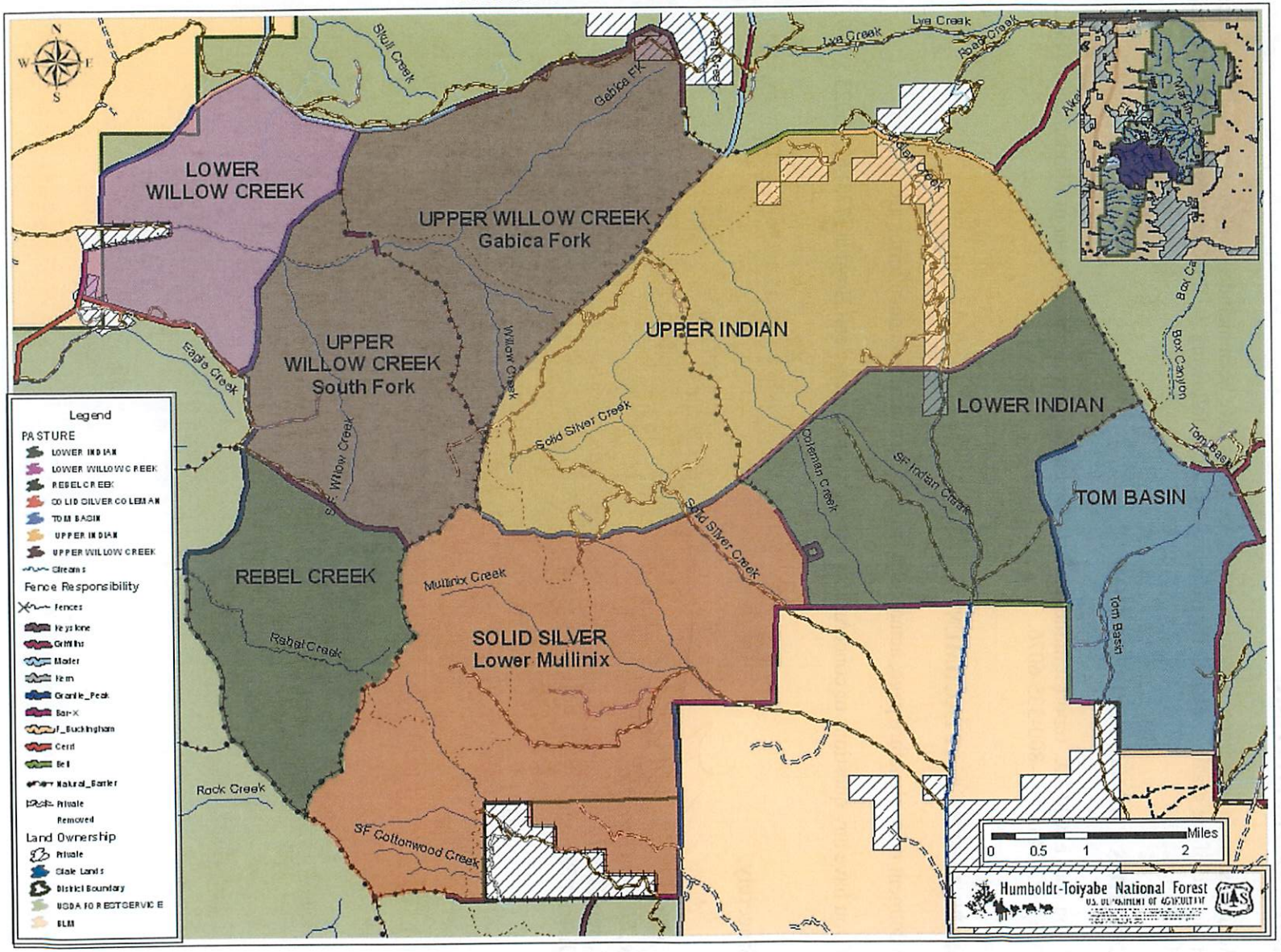
Allotment map, signature page, actual use form and permit maintenance forms are attached.

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

Granite Peak C&H Allotment



ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016

GRANITE PEAK 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.