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 12, 2016

Fred Stewart
96 Ranch
P.O. Box 14
Paradise Valley, NV 89426

Dear Fred:

The following letter will document your meeting with Boyd Hatch, on April 25, 2016 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2016 summer grazing season.

A deferred rotation grazing system will be implemented on the Martin Basin 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.

Martin Basin C&H Permitted Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #'s	Season of Use
NINETY SIX RANCH	C/C	645	6/6 – 9/27
NINETY SIX RANCH	Horses	8	6/6 – 9/27
T FIVE RANCH	C/C	1290	6/6 – 9/27
T FIVE RANCH	Horses	17	6/6 – 9/27

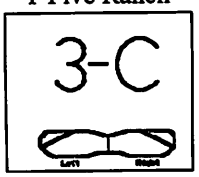
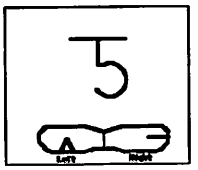
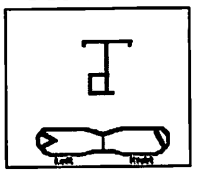
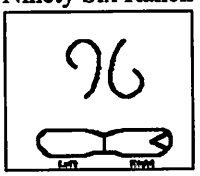
Martin Basin C&H Authorized Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #'s	Season of Use
NINETY SIX RANCH	C/C	500	6/6 – 9/27
NINETY SIX RANCH	Horses	8	6/6 – 9/27
T FIVE RANCH	C/C	954	6/6 – 9/27
T FIVE RANCH	Horses	8	6/6 – 9/27

Pasture Rotation

UNIT	SEASON
Blackridge	6/6 – 6/25
Cold Springs	6/6 – 6/25
North Fork	6/26 – 7/27
Siard	7/28 – 8/12
Cabin Creek	8/13 – 9/1
Cabin Creek Riparian	9/2 – 9/20
Long Valley	9/21 – 9/27

Permitted Livestock Brands:

T Five Ranch	T Five Ranch	T Five Ranch	Ninety Six Ranch
			
Location Cattle: LH RH Location Horses: LT RT	Location Cattle: LH Location Horses: LT	Location Cattle: LH Location Horses: LST	Location Cattle: LH Location Horses: LSH

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.

BILLING:

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

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Type of Rotation: Deferred Rotation.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Martin Basin Rangeland Project 2009 Design Features

The following design features from the 2009 ROD (USFS 2009b) would continue to be applied on the Martin Basin Allotment. (See Pg. 7 2016 BO).

1) Grazing would not be authorized in riparian areas during the hot season (mid-July through August) for at least 1 out of 3 years in the North Pasture (North Fork Pasture). All efforts will be made to provide the entire "hot season" rest. However, this may not be possible given the constraints of the pasture configuration making it difficult to design complete rest during that period, and the variation in seasonal vegetation due to water conditions. Livestock will not be allowed in "hot season" rest areas more than 10 days during the mid-July to August period.

2) Future planned activities that are likely to concentrate livestock use such as salting, placement of watering sources, and placement of temporary handling facilities, would avoid impacting wildlife by being located at least 0.4 km (0.25 mi) from riparian and aspen vegetation communities.

3) Permittees would not place livestock on the Forest when soil moisture levels (greater than 50 percent) would result in damage to soils and would use appropriate management practices such as temporary fences, where practical, to protect soils sensitive to impacts from livestock grazing. The hand method or a soil moisture meter probe would be used to determine the percentage of soil moisture. (*The USFS has the ability to conduct range readiness monitoring, including soil moisture, to determine if conditions allow turn-out on authorized dates. Range readiness generally refers to the stage of plant growth at which grazing may occur without permanent damage to vegetation or soils.*)

4) Precipitation data would be analyzed prior to the beginning of the grazing season in order to determine drought status using drought monitoring resources at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/resources/drought monitoring/index.shtml. If drought conditions exist, adjustments would be made to numbers of animals or length of time on the allotments. (*AOIs*

within the project area have included drought measures, which state the importance of not putting additional stress on the vegetation by overutilization/grazing. This practice would continue if drought conditions occur.)

5) State of Nevada and USFS Intermountain Region best management practices (BMPs) would be used to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended. A listing of BMPs that would guide this project can be found in Appendix E of the FEIS (USFS 2009a).

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.

1) Livestock grazing in riparian areas of the North Pasture (North Fork Pasture) of the Martin Creek Allotment shall be permitted under the utilization criteria listed below:

   a) livestock utilization of riparian herbaceous cover shall not exceed 45 percent utilization;

   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 RIPARIAN SITES:

AREA	PERCENT ALLOWABLE USE
Category 5 Stocks Creek and Long Valley Creek	65% use on riparian grass, rushes/sedges
Category 4 Bradshaw Creek	55% use on riparian grass, rushes/sedges
Category 3 Alkali Creek	55% use on riparian grass, rushes/sedges
Category 2 Siard Creek, Road Creek, N. Fork little Humboldt, Martin Creek, N. Fork Cabin Creek, Cabin Creek, N. Fork Dutch John Creek, Dutch John Creek, and Lye Creek	45% use on riparian grass, rushes/sedges
Category 1 Long Canyon	45% use on riparian grass, rushes/sedges
all riparian shrubs such as Willows and Aspen	35% current year's 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. 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 Hatch 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, 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.

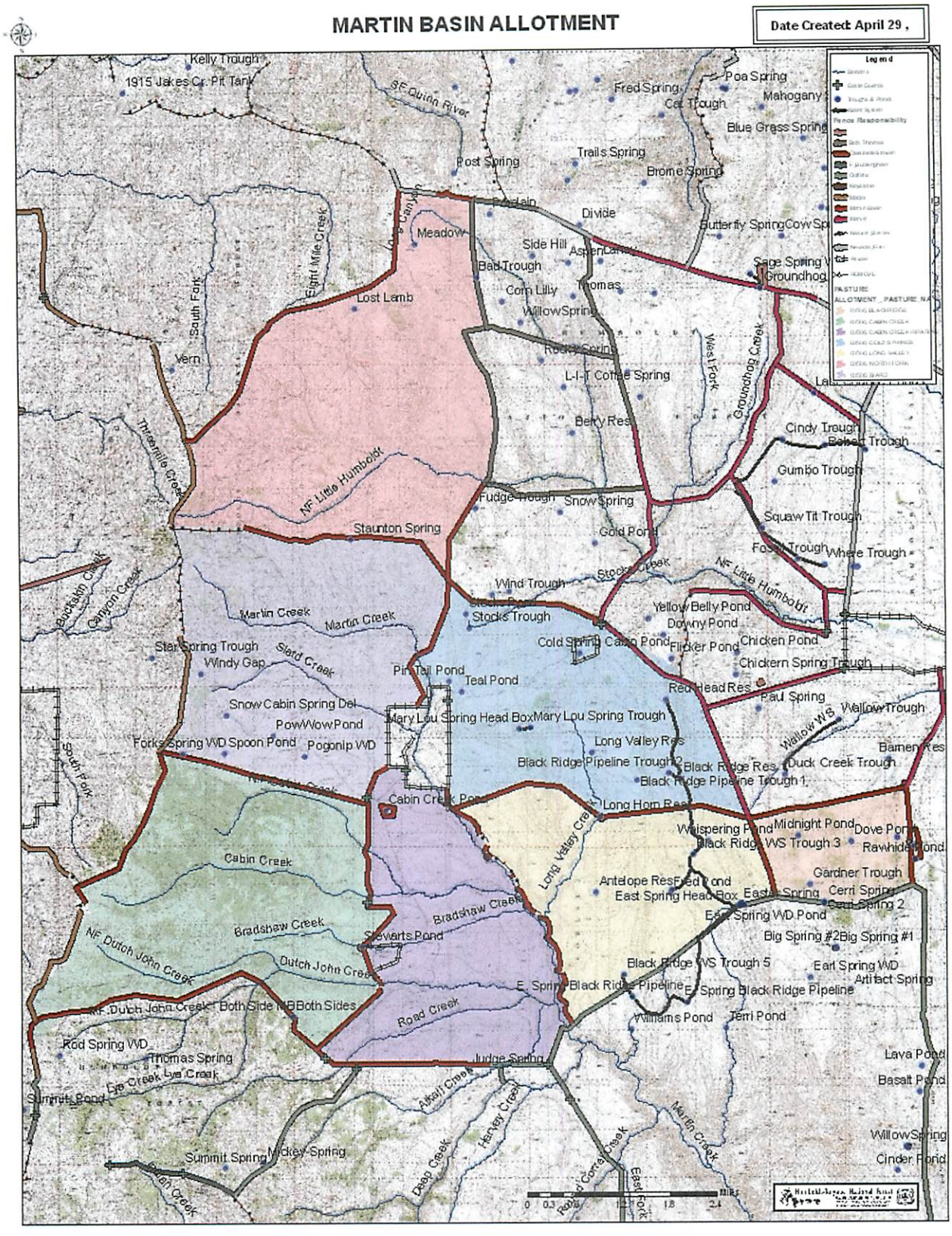
OTHER:

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


MARTIN BASIN ALLOTMENT
Date Created: April 29 ,
Legend
Kelly Trough
1915 Jakes Cr. Pit Tank
SF Quinn River
Fred Spring
Poa Spring
Mahogany
Cat Trough
Blue Grass Spring
Trails Spring
Post Spring
Brome Spring
Divide
Butterfly Spring
Meadow
Side Hill
Bad Trough
Corn Lilly
Thomas
Willow Spring
Sage Spring
Groundhog
Lost Lamb
South Fork
Eight Mile Creek
Vern
Rocky Spring
L-I-T Coffee Spring
West Fork
Groundhog Creek
Berry Res
Cindy Trough
Gumbo Trough
Squaw Tit Trough
Where Trough
Fudge Trough
Snow Spring
Staunton Spring
Gold Pond
Wind Trough
Stocks Creek
NF Little Humboldt
Martin Creek
Stocks Trough
Yellow Belly Pond
Downy Pond
Flicker Pond
Chicken Pond
Chickern Spring Trough
Star Spring Trough
Windy Gap
Sterd Creek
Pin Tail Pond
Teal Pond
Red Head Res
Paul Spring
Wallow Trough
Snow Cabin Spring Del
Mary Lou Spring Head Box
Mary Lou Spring Trough
PowWow Pond
Forks Spring WD
Spoon Pond
Pogonip WD
Long Valley Res
Black Ridge Pipeline Trough 2
Black Ridge Res
Duck Creek Trough
Black Ridge Pipeline Trough 1
Cabin Creek Pond
Long Horn Res
Whispering Pond
Midnight Pond
Dove Pond
Black Ridge WS Trough 3
Rawhide Pond
Cabin Creek
Long Valley Creek
Gardner Trough
Antelope Res
Feed Pond
East Spring Head Box
Cerri Spring
Cerri Spring 2
Bradshaw Creek
Stewarts Pond
East Spring WD Pond
Big Spring #2
Big Spring #1
NF Dutch John Creek
Dutch John Creek
Black Ridge WS Trough 5
Earl Spring WD
Artifact Spring
E. Spring Black Ridge Pipeline
Both Sides
Road Creek
Williams Pond
Terri Pond
Rod Spring WD
Thomas Spring
Judge Spring
Lava Pond
Eye Creek
Lya Creek
Basalt Pond
Summit Pond
Alkali Creek
Harvey Creek
Martin Creek
Willow Spring
Summit Spring
Mickey Spring
Deep Creek
Cinder Pond
Rock Corral Creek
East Fork
0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4
Miles

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016

MARTIN BASIN 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.