



File Code: 22102210

Date: May 27, 2014

Matt McKinney  
Bently Family Limited Partnership  
P.O. Box 127  
Minden, NV 89423

Dear Matt

The following letter will document the meeting held with the Little Walker permittees on May 5, 2014 at Coleville High School. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Person	Permittee	Permitted Numbers
Mary Hussman	Suellen Fulstone & Mary Hussman	43
Tod Radelfinger	Bently Family Limited Partnership	206
Jeff Cordtz	Jeff Cordtz and Bick Marsh	37
Ray Carrasco	R.N. Fulstone Company	90
Dwain Chichester	Chichester et.al.	152
Cory Hussman	Range Rider	
Jeff Ulrich	USFS District Ranger	
Rixey Jenkins	USFS Supervisory Range Manager	
Aaron Coogan	USFS Rangeland Management Spc.	

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). 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, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

**AUTHORIZED USE**

The authorized use will be the same as the permitted use for the 2014 grazing season except Jeff Cordtz and Bick Bick Marsh will be in non-use for resource protection. The Little Walker C&H allotment will be grazed from June 16- September 15 in a simple rotation system. The planned entry date may be modified based on range readiness. Use will begin with the Wheeler, Stockade and Sawmill units. Cowcamp unit will be used when cattle are taken to the allotment at the beginning of the season and at the end of the season prior to shipping.

Up to three days may be taken to move cattle between units as long as allowable use standards are not exceeded. Cattle are not to be allowed to return to units previously grazed unless authorized in the schedule of use.



**PATTERN OF USE:**

Sawmill Wheeler and Stockade	First until allowable use is achieved.
Long Valley and New Range Willow Flat, Rickey, Deep Wash	Second until allowable use is achieved
Mud Springs, McMillan Upper Molybdenite	Third until allowable use is achieved
Cowcamp	Beginning and end of season for short-term holding and sorting

**ALLOWABLE USE**

Allowable use standards for the Little Walker allotment are contained in your term grazing permit and listed below. Allowable use is measured on the current annual growth of key species, or the amount of regrowth to date at the time use is measured. It is the responsibility of each permittee to ensure that the allowable use standards are not exceeded and that cattle are moved to the next unit scheduled for use or off the allotment after the last unit has been used. If you need assistance in estimating utilization levels at any time, please contact Aaron and he will help you.

Riparian sites:

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.

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.

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Little Walker C&H, where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels described above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow associated species are not being impacted. This standard would keep the utilization level at 50% use of key herbaceous species.

Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

Upland Sites:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Maximum Use</u>
Unit 1 & 2	Bitterbrush	30%
	All other Key Species	50%
Unit 2	All Key Species	50%
Unit 3, 4 & 5	All Key Species	50%

Unit 1: Sawmill, Long Valley and New Range. Unit 2: Wheeler Stockade  
Unit 3: Willow Flat, Rickey, Deep Wash, Mud Springs. Unit 4: Upper Molybdenite  
Unit 5: Cowcamp.

Key Species list:

Uplands: bitterbrush, western needlegrass, California needlegrass, Nevada needlegrass, and mutton bluegrass

Aspen stands: regenerating aspen and forbs

Seedings: smooth brome and crested wheatgrass

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**

All range improvements assigned to permittees must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. In the event a permittee does not fulfill their maintenance responsibilities, the Association will be responsible for maintenance before livestock enter the allotment. However, should an improvement go unmaintained by a permittee, permit action will only be taken against the responsible permittee. The maintenance standards for improvements listed in your term permits must be followed when maintaining improvements. If any of the improvements assigned to you are not accessible prior to the planned on-date, please notify the association president or Aaron.

### **MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Only cattle with the following brands are allowed on the allotment:

Lazy H Vertical Quarter Circle on the LH  
Open A Offset V on the LH or LR  
d b on the LH  
Reverse F M F Combined on the LH  
Reverse E F Combined on the LH

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails. If there are specific areas that require salt placement outside these guidelines, you must obtain approval from this office prior to salting. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock on Forest Service allotments must be removed from the National Forest.

If you or your employees spot a wildfire on any of your allotments, report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at (775) 883-5995. As a reminder, if the Bridgeport Ranger District enters into fire restrictions during 2014, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

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. A Noxious Weed Free Hay order has been implemented on our Forest. This requires any hay that is brought onto the National Forest must 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. Pelletized feed is not affected by this order.

The corral at Cow Camp is a disturbed area susceptible to the establishment of invasive weeds. Please assist us by monitoring this site to detect any weeds that may occur before they can spread to the rest of the allotment.

## **REPORTING**

I have included forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance on the allotment. Please complete the forms and return them to my office no later than November 30, 2014.

## **GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

The 2014 grazing fees are the same as 2013. The fee is \$1.35 per head month.

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.

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.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed on March 5, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). Through the 2014 grazing season, you and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal)

If you have any questions regarding the Little Walker C&H allotment, contact Aaron at (760) 932-5852.

Sincerely,

*/s/Jeff Ulrich*  
JEFF ULRICH  
District Ranger

Encl: Actual Use and Improvement Maintenance Forms  
Cc: Dwain Chichest, Mary Hussman, Jeff Cordtz, Steven Fulstone