

File Code: 2210
Date: May 11, 2015

Tod Radelfinger
PO Box 127
Minden, NV
89423

Dear Tod

The following letter will document the meeting with Tod Radelfinger and Aaron Coogan at the Coleville High School on May 5, 2015 and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 grazing season on the Junction C&H Allotment. The Little Walker C&H Allotment is addressed in a separate AOI.

PERMITTED USE

The following is a summary of your permitted use which expires on 12/31/2023.

LIVESTOCK			PERIOD OF USE		GRAZING ALLOTMENT
NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	FROM	TO	
206	Cattle	Cow/calf	6/16	9/15	Little Walker C&H
172*	Cattle	Cow/calf	6/16	8/24	Junction C&H
*ON/OFF provision provides for a total of 254 cow/calf pairs 32% on private lands					

This AOI is hereby made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which require 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 for the 2015 grazing season on the Junction C&H allotment is the same as permitted. You are allowed to graze a total of 254 cow/calf pairs for the season from 6/16 to 8/24. The pattern of use for the 2015 grazing season will follow Year 1 from the allotment management plan and will be as follows:

Unit	Order	Season
Kirman	1 st	6/16
Upper Pickel	2 nd	
Middle Pickel	3 rd	to
Upper Pickel	4 th	
River	5 th	8/24
Silver Creek	6 th	

The Middle Pickel Riparian, Little Walker Riparian and River Riparian units are all to be rested and no grazing is authorized this year within those units.



The second period of use in Upper Pickel is dependent upon vegetation not grazed or regrowth after the unit is used the first time. The scheduled use is dependent upon range readiness and levels of utilization.

ALLOWABLE USE

The maximum allowable use standards are listed under part three in your Term Grazing Permit and are summarized below. You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving stock to the next planned unit of use or off the allotment when the last unit has been razed. If you need assistance to determine use levels at any time, please contact Aaron and he will help you. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

Riparian sites:

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 portion 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..

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

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.

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Junction 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 55 percent use of key herbaceous species.

Irrigated Pastures:

Leave a minimum of 3-inch stubble height of herbaceous species.

Utilization is not to exceed 35 percent utilization of the current year's growth of key riparian

shrubs such as willow.

Upland Sites:

Utilization is not to exceed 55 percent of the current year's growth of key upland herbaceous species and 50 percent of the current year's growth on key upland shrub species.

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.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements listed under part three in your term permit must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. The maintenance standards, also listed in part three of your permit, must be followed when maintaining improvements. Range improvements must be maintained even when there is non-use on an allotment; for whatever reason. If any of the improvement sare inaccessible prior to the planned entry date, please notify Aaron before livestock enter the allotment.

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Allotment maps and management requirements for those allotments you are permitted to graze have been provided to you.

The Open A Offset V brand is authorized under your term grazing permit.

Place salt at least ¼ miles 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 2015 this restriction applies to your operation as well.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of your 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 hat this 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 two days prior to entering the Forest. Pelletized feed is not affected by this order.

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,

2015. Failure to report actual use and improvement maintenance information is a violation of the terms and conditions of your permit and will result in **NON-COMPLIANCE** which may result in administrative actions including but not limited to a reduction in numbers or season.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

The grazing fees for the 2015 season have been increased. The fee is \$1.69 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 official. Full or partial permittee convenience non-use 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. Thank you for meeting this requirement.

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). 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 permit (e.g. improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal).

I field day with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to review the management plans and identify monitoring sites may need to be scheduled early during your grazing season. My office will be sure to keep you informed of any such meetings.

If you have any questions regarding the Junction C&H Allotment, please contact Aaron at (760)932-5852.

Sincerely,

/Jeff Ulrich/

JEFF ULRICH
District Ranger