



File Code: 2230; 2210

Date: March 26, 2015

Chris H. & Faye E. Gansberg Jr.
2277 Foothill Rd
Markleeville, CA 96120

Dear Mr. Gansberg:

This letter will document the informal, telephone Annual Operating Instructions meeting held between Chris Gansberg Jr. and the USFS, on March 23, 2015, and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 grazing season on the Fredericksburg and Millberry C&H Allotments. The use permitted in your Term Grazing Permit is listed below along with the authorized use for the 2015 season:

PERMITTED USE:

<i>Allotment</i>	<i>Number of Livestock</i>	<i>Season of Use</i>
Fredericksburg C&H	6(8) horses	5/1-5/31
Millberry C&H	15(60) cows/calves	6/1-7/31

AUTHORIZED USE:

<i>Allotment</i>	<i>Number of Livestock</i>	<i>Season of Use</i>	<i>Days</i>
Fredericksburg C&H	6(8) horses	5/1-5/31	31 Days
Millberry C&H	15(60) cows/calves	6/1-6/14	14 Days

Fredericksburg Allotment: The on-off provision permits the allotment to be stocked with 8 horses from 5/1-5/31 on Forest Service administered land and land controlled by you, which together form a natural grazing unit. You have indicated that you will be turning out 8 horses on Fredericksburg. The use by these livestock will be approximately 6 horses on National Forest System administered lands.

Millberry Allotment: The on-off provision permits the allotment to be stocked with 60 cow/calf pairs from 6/1-7/31 on Forest Service administered land and land controlled by you (leased), which together form a natural grazing unit. You have indicated that you will be turning out 15 cow/calf pairs on National Forest System Administered lands for two weeks.

Actual turn on date will depend on range readiness. For the purpose of livestock accountability, contact the district office five to seven days prior to turnout and when you make unit moves. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions of the allotment.



The schedule of use are flexible as long as they are within the permitted use parameters, but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made to the above dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile from water, (springs, seeps, and streams), roads, and trails. If you have questions about the placement of salt, contact Courtney in my office and she will locate suitable sites with your input. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water and from roads and trails used by the public. All garbage associated with managing the allotments must be removed from National Forest system lands.

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 is concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. It is strongly recommended that all livestock entering the National Forest be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 3 days prior to entering the Forest.

ALLOWABLE USE:

Millberry C&H:

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 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. Remove livestock from any area of the allotment when browsing indicates a change in livestock preference from grazing herbaceous vegetation to browsing woody riparian vegetation.



- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.
- ✘ Pesticide application to livestock is prohibited within riparian conservation areas and critical aquatic refuges.

Upland sites:

- ✘ Big sagebrush plant communities can be grazed a maximum of 45%, and mountain brush plant communities can be grazed a maximum of 55%.
- ✘ Utilization on grasses is not to exceed 40%, and 30% on shrubs.

Fredericksburg C&H:

Upland sites:

- ✘ Utilization on grasses is not to exceed 40%, and 30% on shrubs.

It is your responsibility to monitor utilization and ensure that the allowable use standards are not exceeded. You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and to move or remove livestock from the allotment to prevent exceeding these standards. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with the allowable use standards. 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:

Range improvements listed in your permit must be maintained to standards listed in Part 3 of your term grazing permit prior to livestock entering the allotments. If an improvement is inaccessible prior to the on date, you must notify staff in my office prior to livestock entry into the allotment.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT:

Forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance costs are included with this plan. Please complete and return the forms by December 31, 2015.

If you see a wildfire, please contact the Minden Interagency Dispatch at **(775) 883-5995**.

The grazing fee has increased by .34 cents; it is now \$1.69 per head month.



Only cattle and horse with the letter C on the right hip are authorized to graze on the Fredericksburg and Millberry C&H allotments.

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.

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.

OTHER:

This summer we will GPS the fenceline on the Fredericksburg Allotment to update our records. We will be visiting the allotments to conduct permit compliance monitoring and would like to provide the opportunity for you to join us during these efforts. Our range staff will contact you at least 72 hours prior to a scheduled allotment visit to discuss times and dates with you if you are interested in attending.

You have provided us with a copy of the lease agreement for the private lands (off portion) of the Millberry Allotment signed May 17, 2010. At this time the BLM portion of the allotment is closed to grazing. Contact Katrina Leavitt, BLM Range Specialist at 775-885-6130 to discuss the potential to re-authorize grazing on those lands. We will continue to contact the BLM on this matter as well, but we encourage you to be persistent with them.

Your current Term Grazing Permit, permit #01004 expires on December 31, 2015. We will be working with you to issue a new permit for the Fredericksburg Allotment, and need to review the circumstances and access to the Millberry Allotment prior to re-issuing a new permit.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions or any aspect of grazing on the National Forest, please contact our Range Staff, Courtney Ghiglieri at (775) 884-8150, or cghiglieri@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,


for IRENE DAVIDSON
District Ranger



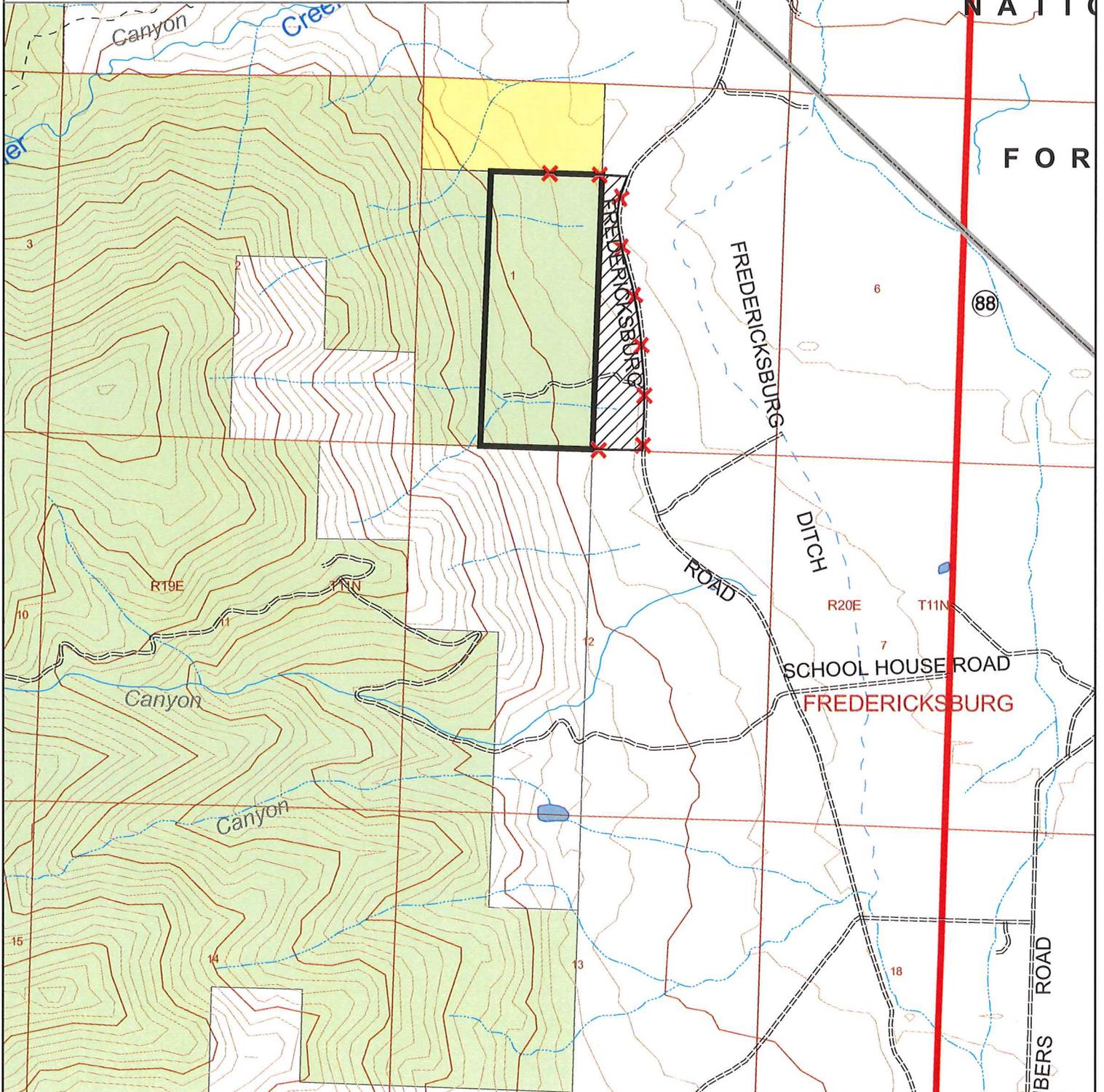
This map shows the area designated on the grazing permit
Number 01004, issued to
Chris H. & Faye E. Gansberg Jr.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District
KAB 3/15/2006

-  Fence
-  Unit Boundary
-  Off Portion



1 inch equals 0.38 miles



This map shows the area designated on the grazing permit
Number 01004, issued to
Chris H. & Faye E Gansberg Jr.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District
3/15/2006

-  BLM
 -  Leased
 -  Private
 -  National Forest
-  Off Portion
-  Unit Boundary



1 inch equals 0.62 miles

