USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Santa Rosa Ranger District
1200 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, NV 89445
775-623-5025

File Code: 2210; 2230
Date: June 17, 2015

Tim Chabot
Porcupine Ranch
P O Box 26
Paradise Valley, NV 89426

Dear Tim,

The following letter will document your meeting with Boyd Hatch, on May 22, 2015 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2013 summer grazing season. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

A deferred and rest rotation grazing system will be implemented on the Buffalo 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.

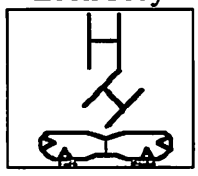
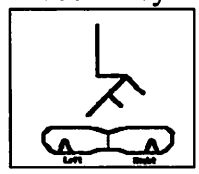
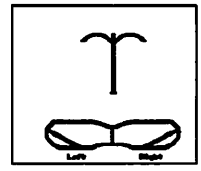
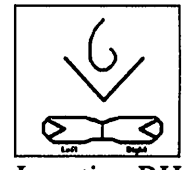
BUFFALO C&H PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Class	Number	Season
Wilson	c/c	150	6/16 - 8/31
Frey	c/c	80	6/16 - 8/31
Chabot	c/c	25	6/16 – 8/4

BUFFALO C&H AUTHORIZED USE

UNITS	Class	Number	Season
Horse (Wilson)	c/c	50	6/16 - 8/31
Falls (Wilson)	c/c	50	6/16 - 8/31
Andorno Cyn. (Wilson)	c/c	50	6/16 - 8/31
Chimney (Frey)	c/c	80	6/16 – 7/15
Chimney (Chabot)	c/c	25	
Porcupine Cyn.(Frey)	c/c	80	7/16 - 8/31
Porcupine Cyn. (Chabot)	c/c	25	7/16 – 8/4
Buffalo		REST	REST

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Leon Frey	Leon Frey	Wilson Ranch Inc.	Tim Chabot
			
Location RH	Location RH	Location LH	Location RH

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 remained unchanged from last year. The fee is now $1.69 per head month.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Type of Rotation: Rest & Deferred Rotation.

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 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 he will determine a suitable location with your input.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

Drought is very likely this summer, and it will be essential that you monitor your utilization and move the livestock prior to meeting the utilization standards below. It is important not to put additional stress on the vegetation by over utilization/grazing. Please keep in mind that if the range does not receive more moisture to support the time frames discussed the livestock may need to come off early this year.

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.

RIPARIAN SITES:

LCT Occupied Streams:

1) Livestock grazing in riparian areas of the Andorno and Falls Creek Pastures of the Buffalo 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 30 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs or 30 percent of individual seedlings; and
   c) livestock stream bank alteration levels shall not exceed 10 percent of occupied or essential stream reaches for LCT.

2) Livestock grazing in cottonwood forest areas of the Falls Creek Pastures of the Buffalo Allotment shall be permitted under the utilization criteria listed below:
   a) livestock utilization of riparian herbaceous cover shall not exceed 35 percent utilization;
   b) livestock utilization of cottonwood saplings shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual leader growth of mature cottonwood trees or 10 percent of individual saplings; and
   c) livestock stream bank alteration levels shall not exceed 10 percent of occupied or essential stream reaches for LCT.

3) Livestock grazing in meadow habitat areas of the Andorno and Falls Creek Pastures of the Buffalo 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 30 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs or 30 percent of individual seedlings.

4) Fencing shall be checked regularly to ensure that trespass cattle are not using unauthorized areas. If the fences are found to have been damaged, they shall be immediately repaired. If any livestock are found outside their designated allotment they will be immediately removed.

5) Appropriate management actions (e.g. herding) shall be taken on all allotments regardless of ecological condition to ensure that livestock are not congregating within riparian conservation areas. Riparian areas deemed appropriate for watering shall be identified in the AOI.

6) Grazing strategies shall be implemented by the HTNF such that no area is grazed at the same time of year for 3 years in a row and grazing would not be authorized in riparian areas during the hot season (mid-July through August) for at least 1 out of 3 years.

All other stream not occupied by LCT:

Category 1 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Horse Canyon Creek,	Riparian grasses & sedges	45%
Category 2 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
N/A	Riparian grasses and sedges	45%
Category 3 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Porcupine Creek, Chimney Creek, Buffalo Creek, Austin Creek & Peterman Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 4 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
N/A	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 5 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	**Key Species**	**Percent Utilization**
Pine 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

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 2015 grazing season by November 30, 2015.

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:

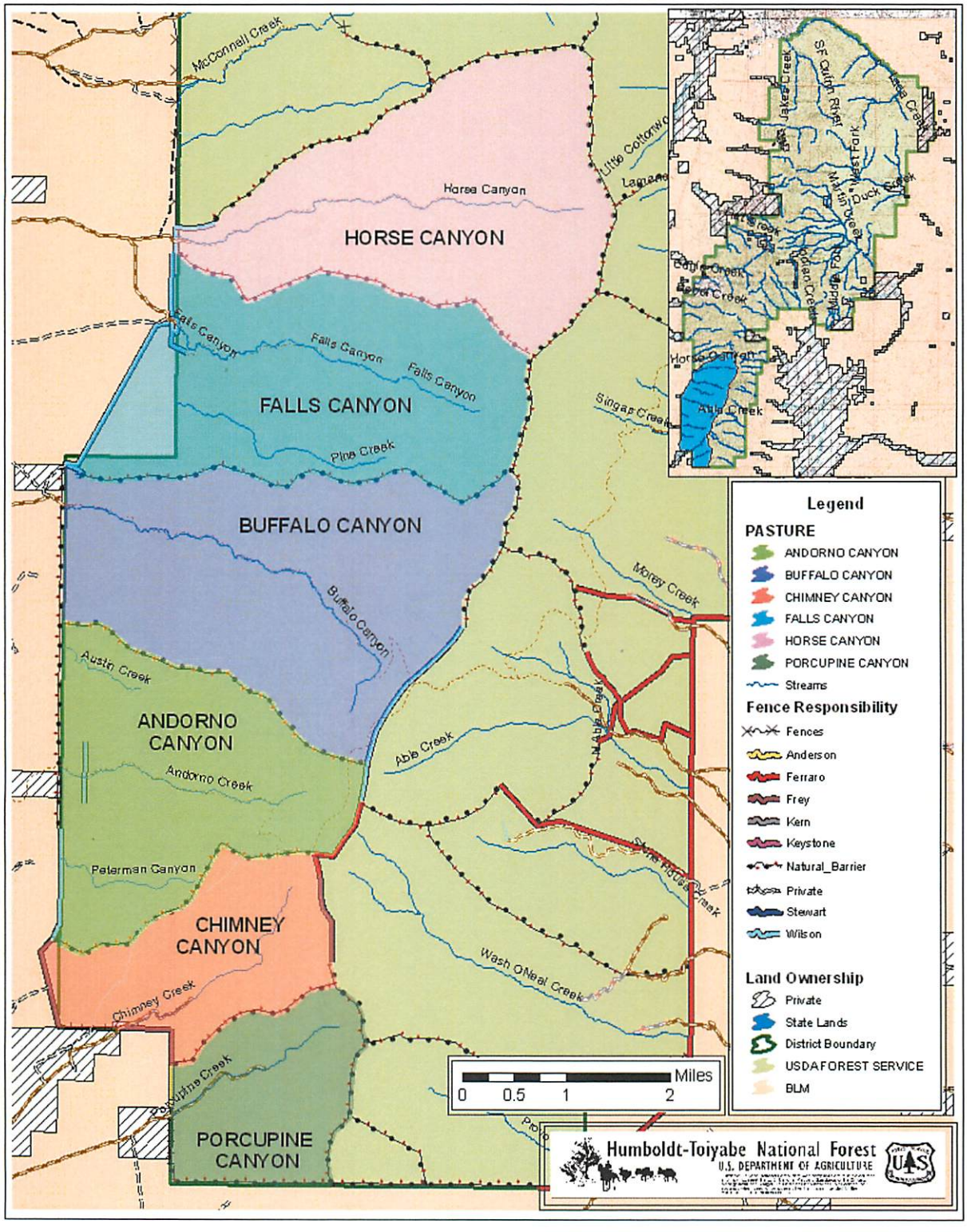
As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial 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,

JOSEPH GARROTTO
District Ranger

Buffalo C&H Allotment



ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2015

BUFFALO 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.