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

Dr. Rolfe Schwartz
Keystone Ranch
P O Box 18
Paradise Valley, NV 89426

Dear Rolfe,

The following letter will document your meeting with Boyd Hatch, on May 13, 2015 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 summer grazing season. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

Granite Peak allotment is deferred rest rotation grazing system will be implemented and Lamance is deferred rotation grazing system will be implemented on the Lamance 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.

Granite Peak C&H Permitted Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #'s	Season of Use
Bar X	C/C	597	5/21 – 9/30
Keystone Ranch, INC.	C/C	253	5/21 – 9/30
Woodie Bell	C/C	200	5/21 – 9/30

Granite Peak C&H Authorized Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #'s	Season of Use
Bar X	C/C	597	5/21 – 9/30
Keystone Ranch, INC.	C/C	180	5/21 – 9/30
Woodie Bell	C/C	200	5/21 – 9/30

Pasture Rotation

UNIT	SEASON
Tom Basin	5/21 – 6/09
Lower Indian Cr.	5/21– 6/09
Upper Indian Cr.	6/10 – 7/04
Gabica fork/Upper Solid Silver Cr.	7/05 – 8/05
South Fork Willow Cr.	8/06 – 8/31
Rebel Cr./ Cottonwood Cr.	9/1 – 9/30
Mullinix Cr./Lower Solid Silver Cr.	Rest
Lower Willow Cr.	Rest

Lamance C&H Permitted Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #s	Season of Use
Keystone Ranch	C/C	134	5/21 – 8/31
Susan & David Kern	C/C	160	5/21 – 8/31

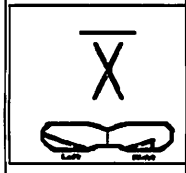
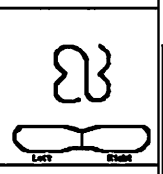
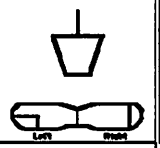
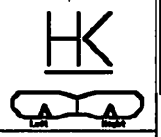
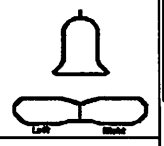
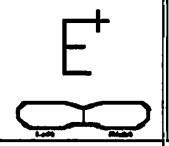
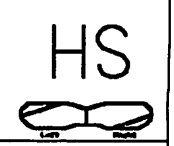
Lamance C&H Authorized Use

Permittee	Class	Permitted #s	Season of Use
Keystone Ranch	C/C	110	5/21 – 8/31
Susan & David Kern	C/C	160	5/21 – 8/31

Keystone is taking resource protection non-use on 24 cow calf pairs.

UNIT	NUMBER	SEASON
1. Lamance	270	May 21 – June 11
2. Upper Cottonwood	270	June 12 – August 14
3. Dry Creek	270	August 14 – August 31

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Bar-X Ranch Bob Buckingham	Fred & Bob Buckingham	Keystone Ranch Rolfe Schwartz	Keystone Ranch Rolfe Schwartz	Bell Ranch Woodie Bell	Susan & David Kern	Susan & David Kern
						
Location LH	Location LH	Location LH	Location LH	Location RS	Location LH	Location LH

COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). 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. You are able to pay USDA Forest Service, C/O Citibank, P.O. Box 301550, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550, online at WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY, or at the district office.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Type of Rotation: Deferred and/or Rest Rotation.

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.

Granite Peak Allotment Allowable Use/Actual Use Standards

In accordance with the 2009 Biological Opinion shall be managed:

1) Livestock grazing in riparian areas of the Lower Indian Creek Pasture of the Granite Peak 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 riparian woody vegetation shall not exceed 20 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs or 20 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 riparian areas of the Upper Indian Creek Pasture of the Granite Peak 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.

3) Livestock grazing in cottonwood forest areas of the Upper Indian Creek and Lower Indian Creek Pastures of the Granite Peak 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.

4) Livestock grazing in meadow habitat areas of the Upper Indian Creek and Lower Indian Creek Pastures of the Granite Peak 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 riparian woody vegetation shall not exceed 20 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs or 20 percent of individual seedlings.

5) 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.

6) 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.

7) 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 in occupied LCT steams.

Lamance Riparian Sites:

AREA	PERCENT ALLOWABLE USE
Dry Creek	65%
S. Fork Hanson Cr., N. Fork Hanson Cr., Lamance Cr., and Little Cottonwood Cr. (all below wilderness boundary)	55%
S. Fork Hanson Cr., N. Fork Hanson Cr., Lamance Cr., and Little Cottonwood Cr. (all above wilderness boundary)	45%
All riparian shrubs such as Willows and Aspen	35%

Lamance 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 and are on the attached map. 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 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 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.

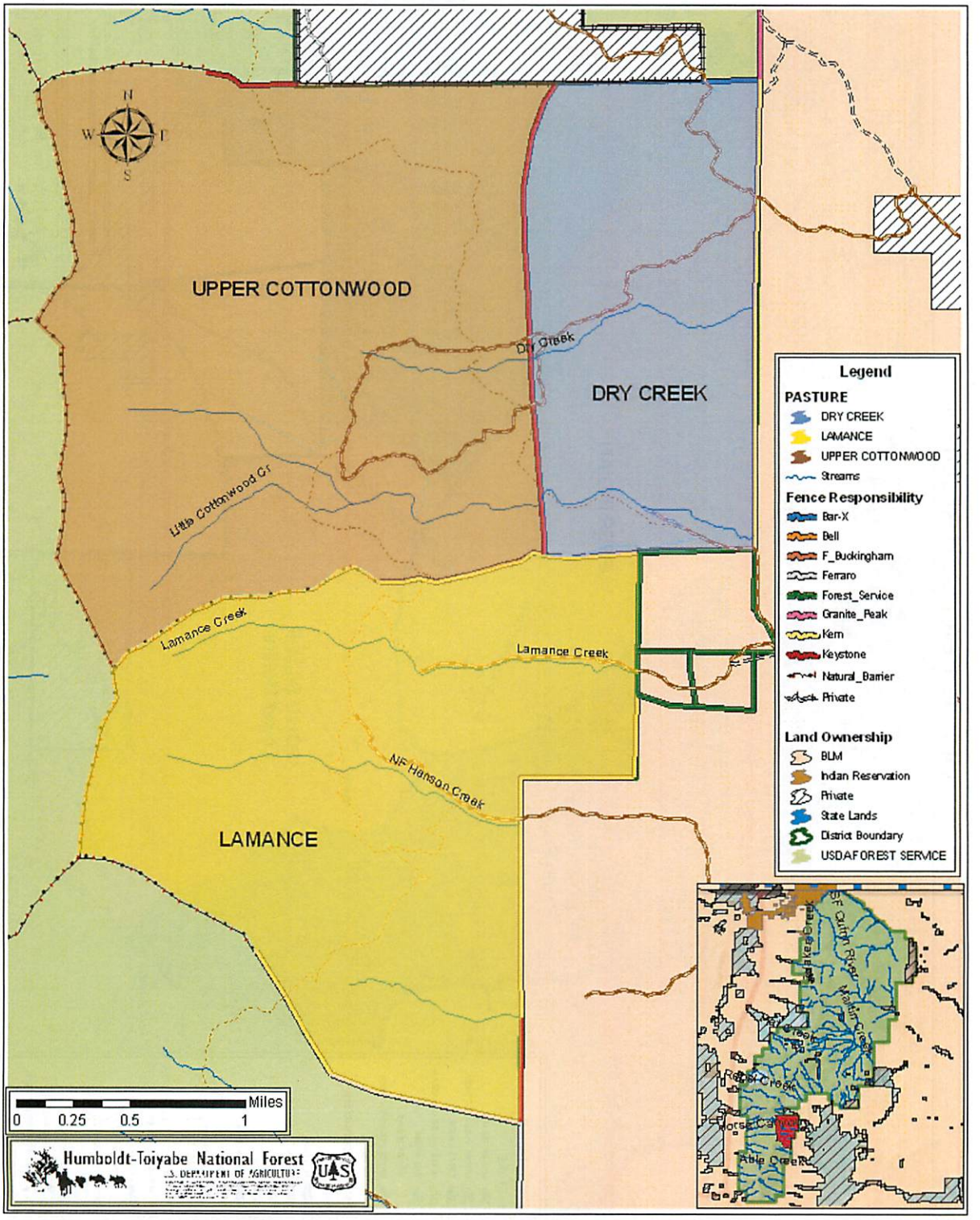
OTHER:
As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial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

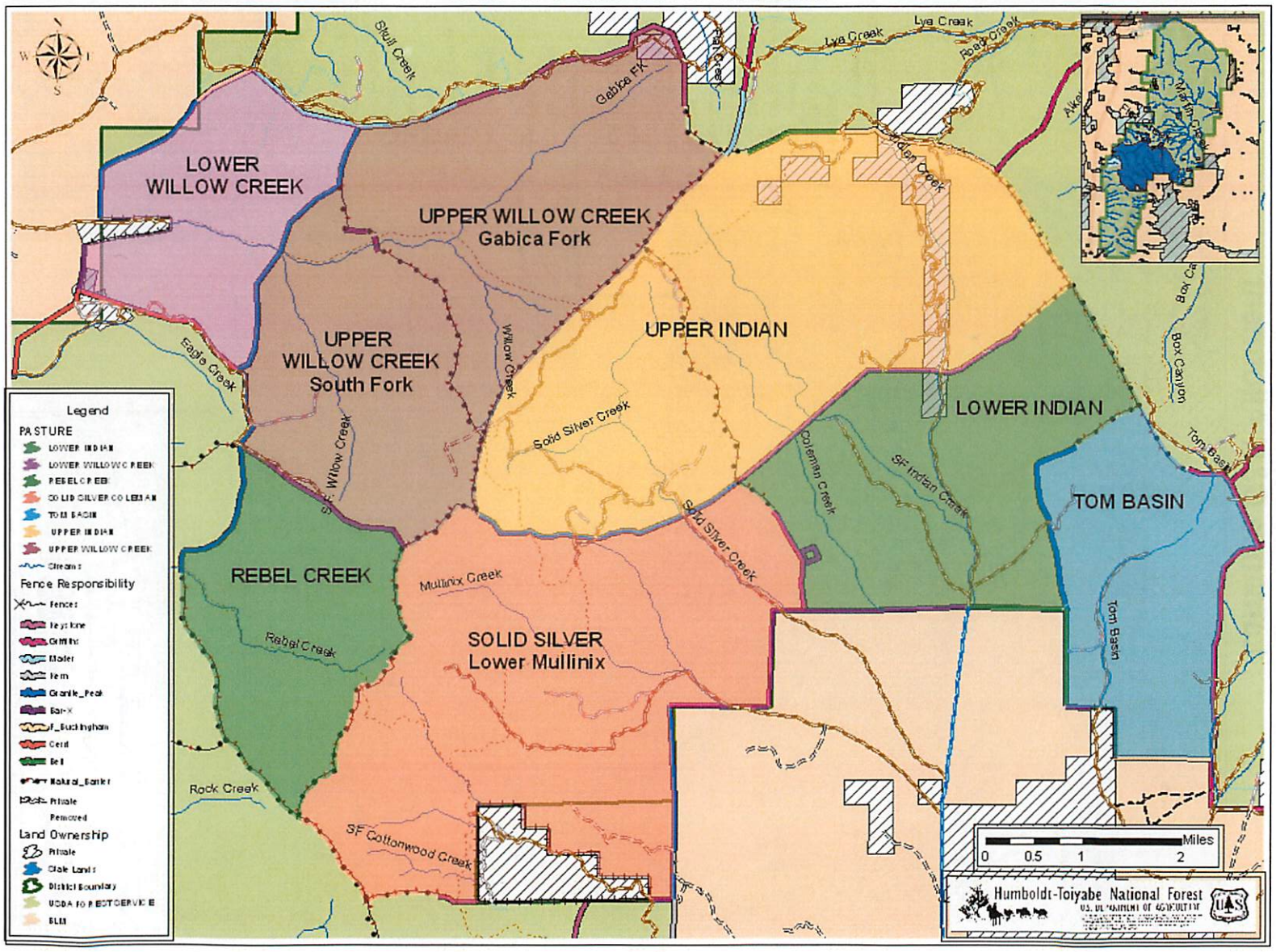
Sincerely,

JOSEPH GARROTTO
District Ranger

Lamance C&H Allotment



Granite Peak C&H Allotment



ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2015

LAMANCE C&H & GRANITE PEAK C&H ALLOTMENTS

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.

CURRENT PLAN AND ACTUAL USE RECORD
CATTLE

Allotment: **Granite Peak** Permittee: **Keystone**

Season of Use: **5/21 - 9/30** Year: **2015**

Unit	Permitted Numbers	Planned Enter Date	Planned Leave Date	Actual Enter Date	Actual Leave Date	Number Grazed Cows	Number Grazed Calves	Number Grazed Bulls	Losses Number	Losses Cause
Tom Basin	180	21-May	9-Jun							
Lower Indian Cr.	0	21-May	9-Jun							
Upper Indian Cr.	180	10-Jun	4-Jul							
Gabica fork/Upper Solid Silver Cr.	180	5-Jul	5-Aug							
South Fork Willow Cr.	180	6-Aug	31-Aug							
Rebel Cr./ Cottonwood Cr.	180	1-Sep	30-Sep							
Mullinix Cr./Lower Solid Silver Cr.	REST									
Lower Willow Cr.	REST									

Remarks: _____

Signature: _____

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE RECORD

Permittee: **Keystone** Grazing year: **2015**

Allotment: **GranitePeak and Lamance** Please complete and return by: **Nov. 30, 2015**

Type of Improvement	Location	Name of Improvement	Amount Maintained	Cost

Remarks: _____

Permittee Signature: _____ Date: _____

CURRENT PLAN AND ACTUAL USE RECORD
CATTLE

Allotment: **Lamance** Permittee: **Keystone**

Season of Use: **5/21 - 9/30** Year: **2015**

Unit	Permitted Numbers	Planned Enter Date	Planned Leave Date	Actual Enter Date	Actual Leave Date	Number Grazed Cows	Number Grazed Calves	Number Grazed Bulls	Losses Number	Losses Cause
Lamance	110	21-May	11-Jun							
Upper Cottonwood	110	12-Jun	14-Aug							
Dry Creek	110	15-Aug	31-Aug							

Remarks: _____

Signature: _____

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE RECORD

Permittee: **Keystone** Grazing year: **2015**

Allotment: **Lamance** Please complete and return by: **Nov. 30, 2015**

Type of Improvement	Location	Name of Improvement	Amount Maintained	Cost

Remarks:

Permittee Signature: Date: