



File Code: 2210; 2230

Date: June 17, 2015

Woodie Bell
P O Box 48
Paradise Valley, NV 89426

Dear Woodie,

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 2015 summer grazing season. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

A deferred rest rotation grazing system will be implemented on the Granite Peak 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

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Permitted #'s</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>
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

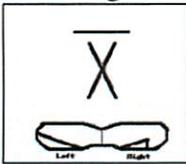
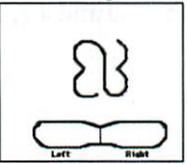
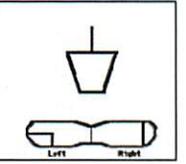
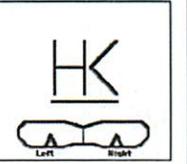
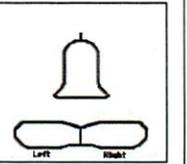
<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Permitted #'s</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>
Bar X	C/C	597	5/21 – 9/30
Keystone Ranch, INC.	C/C	180	5/21 – 9/30
Woodie Bell	C/C	200	5/21 – 9/30

Pasture Rotation

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
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



Permitted Livestock Brands:

<p>Bar-X Ranch Bob Buckingham</p>  <p>Location LH</p>	<p>Fred & Bob Buckingham</p>  <p>Location LH</p>	<p>Keystone Ranch Rolfe Schwartz</p>  <p>Location LH</p>	<p>Keystone Ranch Rolfe Schwartz</p>  <p>Location LH</p>	<p>Bell Ranch Woodie Bell</p>  <p>Location RS</p>
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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/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.

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) RIPARIAN SITES:

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.

Under Amendment II standards non LCT occupied will be managed accordingly:

Category 2 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	Key Species	Percent Utilization
Rebel Creek, Lower 1 mile of Solid Silver Creek to FS Bdry, Willow Creek & South Fork of Willow Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	45%
Category 3 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	Key Species	Percent Utilization
1 mile above from FS Bdry on Solid Silver Creek, Mullinix Creek, North Fork Mullinix & Big Cottonwood Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 4 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	Key Species	Percent Utilization
Tom Basin Creek	Riparian grasses and sedges	60%
Category 5 Riparian Areas, Seeps and Springs within 300 feet	Key Species	Percent Utilization
Gabica Fork & Colman 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

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.

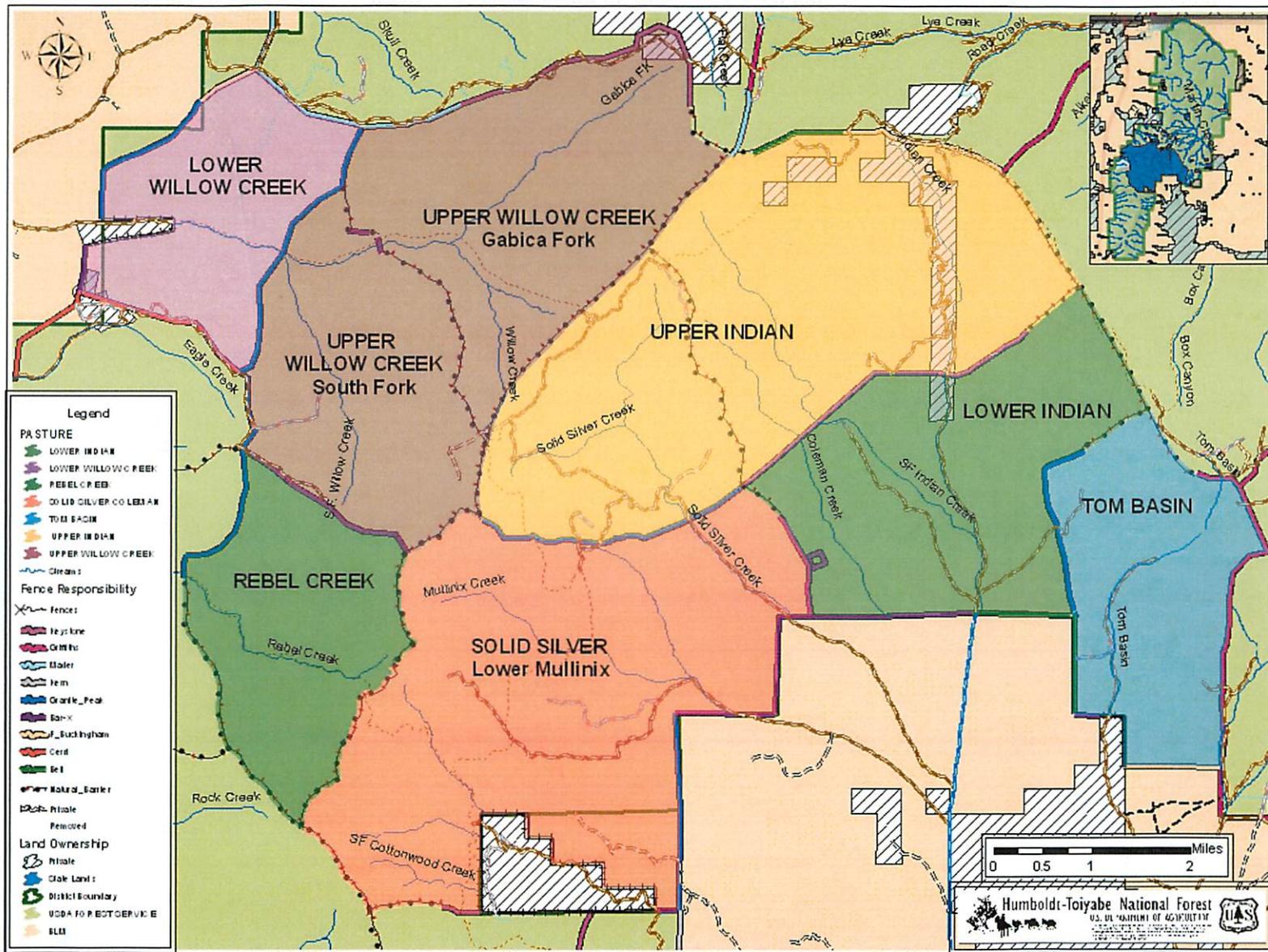
If you have any questions or concerns this grazing season, please call Boyd at (775) 623-5025 x 119.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH GARROTTO
District Ranger

Granite Peak C&H Allotment



ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2015

GRANITE PEAK 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.

CURRENT PLAN AND ACTUAL USE RECORD CATTLE

Allotment: Granite Peak
 Season of Use: 5/21 - 9/30

Permittee: Bell
 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	200	21-May	9-Jun							
Lower Indian Cr.	0	21-May	9-Jun							
Upper Indian Cr.	200	10-Jun	4-Jul							
Gabica fork/Upper Solid Silver Cr.	200	5-Jul	5-Aug							
South Fork Willow Cr.	200	6-Aug	31-Aug							
Rebel Cr./ Cottonwood Cr.	200	1-Sep	30-Sep							
Mullinix Cr./Lower Solid Silver Cr.	REST									
Lower Willow Cr.	REST									

Remarks: _____

Signature: _____

IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE RECORD

Permittee: Bell Grazing year: 2015

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

Type of Improvement	Location	Name of Improvement	Amount Maintained	Cost

Remarks: _____

Permittee Signature: _____ Date: _____