United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bridgeport Ranger District
HC 62 Box 1000
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-7070 Fax (760) 932-5899

File Code: 2210
Date: May 3, 2012

Centennial Livestock

Dear Marcus:

The following letter will document your meeting on April 19, 2012 with Rixey Jenkins and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2012 grazing season on the Robinson Creek C&H allotment.

PERMITTED/AUTHORIZED USE

The following is a summary of your permitted use that expires on 12/31/2013:

The Robinson Creek C&H allotment is grazed season long under an on/off permit from June 1 to October 15. The authorized use for the National Forest portion of the allotment is 3 cow/calf pairs; the off portion is 197 cow/calf pairs. In accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit, no livestock are allowed on National Forest System lands outside the above season of use.

For the 2012 grazing season, the authorized use is the same as the permitted use.

This AOI is made part of your 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.

ALLOWABLE USE

The allowable use of forage is based on the current year's growth of key species. The standards and guides of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment are listed in your term grazing permit.

Riparian sites:

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.

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.

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 and critical aquatic refuge areas.

Upland and Aspen plant communities:

45% use of grass or forb species; 40% use on shrubs.

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for removing your livestock prior to allowable use being exceeded. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with the utilization standards. If you need help in determining use levels, please contact Rixey and he will assist you.

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

The W over L is the only brand authorized under your grazing permit.

Range improvements listed under part three in your term permit must be maintained before livestock enter allotments. 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.

Place salt at least ¼ mile 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 2012, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

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. A Noxious Weed Free Hay order has been implemented on our Forest. This requires any hay that is 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 2 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, 2012.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

The 2012 grazing fee is $1.35 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 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.

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.

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). Through the 2012 grazing season, 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 term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal)

If you have any questions regarding the management of the Robinson Creek C&H allotment please contact Rixey Jenkins at 760-932-5850.

Sincerely,

/s/Mike Crawley
MIKE CRAWLEY
District Ranger

encl: Actual Use and Improvement Maintenance forms