

**Annual Operating Instructions
2013
Pine Valley Allotment
Pine Valley RD, Dixie NF**

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 requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

Permittee	Ear Tag Color & #'s	Permitted*			Authorized**		
		Number	Class	Season	Number	Class	Season
Dwight Dannelly	White	49	Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/15	49	Cow/calf	05/14 – 10/15
Fenton Bowler	Yellow	156	Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/15	156	Cow/calf	05/14 – 10/15
Bob&Mary Houston	Green	168	Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/15	168	Cow/calf	05/14 – 10/15
Chuck Hulet	Purple	82	Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/15	82	Cow/calf	05/14 – 10/15
Slade R. Hughes	Orange	331	Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/15	331	Cow/calf	05/14 – 10/15

*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit.
 **Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.

Non-use

Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the “on” date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

Non-use requested: no

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Grazing Schedule

Unit (Pasture)	Tentative Dates*
Mahogany Bench “Cheat grass”	May 14 – May 31
Four Mile	June 1 – June 20
Black Bench	June 21 – July 12
Mountain	July 13 – Sep 30
Grass Valley	July 13 – Sep 30***
Pine Valley	Sept 7 – Oct 7
Mahogany Bench “Cheat grass”	Sept 1 – Oct 15**
All Cattle off Forest	Oct 16

*The above schedule is an **estimate** and may be modified at any time if: utilization levels are met, water availability is inadequate, drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions.

** Use of cheatgrass on the Mahogany Bench pasture may be authorized to continue after Oct 15 if residual cheatgrass and weather conditions are favorable for an extension. This use would be authorized primarily to reduce cheatgrass thatch and fuel load.

*** Use on the Grass Valley Pasture should only be transitory and by a few groups of 3-5 cattle at any one time. As soon as the pasture reaches utilization standard it will be closed to grazing for the rest of the season.

Allowable use levels are more important than tentative dates listed above. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another area of the pasture, moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest. If early pasture moves occur, District range personnel or the District Ranger must be notified. Delayed pasture moves require prior approval by the District Ranger.

Type of rotation: Deferred

All Pastures shall be cleaned of cattle and remain clean for the remainder of season once allowable use has been reached.

Begin Gathering cattle from Mountain Unit and Grass Valley Unit on Sept 21. Both units should be clean of cows by Sept 30.

All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the permitted off date listed above unless prior authorization has been obtained from the Forest Authorized Officer.

Notice of Non-compliance/Suspension Actions: Grassy Flat will be an area of emphasis this grazing season. A utilization cage has been placed there to help ensure that the area is used within standards.

Additional instructions: May 14 entry date to attempt to control cheatgrass, and reduce hazardous fuel loading in Mahogany Bench Pasture. Fall grazing of cheatgrass thatch and residual on the Mahogany Bench Pasture is highly encouraged beginning Sep 1.

UTILIZATION STANDARDS & MONITORING

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria

Vegetation Type		Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species (i.e. rushes & sedges)		6"	6"	4"	4"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas		6"	6"	6"	6"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Hydric species in wet meadows not influenced by streams (i.e. rushes & sedges)		6"	6"	4"	4"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Non-hydric species in riparian areas (i.e. Kentucky bluegrass)		2"				Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Upland species		50%				Varying in specific unit from 40-60%.
Wheatgrass seedings		60%				Management option to exceed 60% to maintain healthy seedings.
Riparian browse		<50%				New leader production.
Streambank alteration		<20%				Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, & animal tracks.
Goshawk nest areas & post-fledging family areas (PFAs)	Grass & forbs	<20%				Average <20% by weight and not exceed 40% in any given area.
	Shrubs	<40%				Average <40% by weight and not exceed 50% in any given area.

The above utilization standards take precedence over the tentative dates listed in the grazing schedule. You are responsible to monitor your livestock and comply with the listed utilization standards and to move livestock prior to **any** of the above standards being exceeded.

Compliance monitoring inspections will be conducted by Forest Service personnel throughout the grazing season in key areas across the allotment. You are invited and it is recommended that you participate in these inspections.

Exceeding the utilization standards may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit.

EXPERIMENTAL CHEATGRASS GRAZING

Cheatgrass control is being investigated using mainly fall and late spring grazing of cheatgrass dominated sites and over the next three years cheatgrass cover or abundance will be evaluated as part of this investigation. Long term trend study locations along with short term monitoring key area locations will be monitored and documented through photography and other vegetation monitoring methodology in order to detect changes that will likely occur in abundance and occurrence of annual grasses (cheatgrass), cheatgrass thatch layers, perennial grasses and shrub species.

The objective is to decrease cheatgrass occurrence and abundance and cheatgrass thatch layers where present and to increase abundance and occurrence of perennial grasses and shrubs. The information obtained through monitoring and documentation described in the above paragraph will be used to evaluate the results of targeted cheatgrass grazing on cheatgrass dominated areas and whether the objective to decrease cheatgrass abundance and thatch and to increase abundance and occurrence of perennial species is occurring. After three years of targeted cheatgrass grazing on a trial basis (starting in 2013 grazing season), the effectiveness in accomplishing these objectives as determined through monitoring evaluation, will help determine whether targeted cheatgrass grazing is an effective tool and whether it will continue to occur in the future or not.

BILLING

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the National Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

You are responsible for maintaining the range improvements assigned to you in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. **All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering pasture being used**, even in the event of non-use. Standards are in part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit or at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml>. Livestock entry onto the Forest may be delayed if improvements are not maintained to acceptable standards.

Scheduled improvement Maintenance for 2013 season:

Fences

Pine Valley – Division fence, from the pond above the head of Four Mile Canyon north to the East Pinto Allotment boundary 1 ½ miles

The Grass Valley-Black Bench pasture fence, from northeast corner of the fence which separates 4 mile Bench from Grass Valley around to the Mountain grazing unit hence north across a draw and up a ridge 20 rods – 2 miles

Mill Canyon Wing fence, from the private land at the mouth of Mill Canyon east to the end of the fence ¼ mile

Water Canyon fence from near wide Hollow Spring Southeast to Water Canyon 1 mile

Water

Black Bench Guzzler – 1 apron, 1 storage tank, short pipe, protection fence and 1 stock trough

Atchinson Spring Pipeline ½ mile of pipeline from permittee valve box to two dirt tanks

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide.

Any improvement, which is no longer functional or no longer needed, will be removed from the allotment by the permittee. The removal of any improvement must have prior approval by the District Ranger.

Failure to maintain your assigned range improvements may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of your permit.

Additional instructions: None

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

You or the association will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

You are required to submit actual use information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the district office within 30 days of removal of livestock from the Forest.

Salt and other dietary supplements are a distribution tool, and as such, should not be placed within ¼ mile of riparian areas, water troughs and ponds; within 200 ft. of designated roads, trails, trail heads or camping spots which have frequent use. Avoid salting in or near tree plantations or regenerating aspen stands. Exceptions to these standards must have prior approval.

Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards.

The Dixie National Forest Travel Plan must be followed while managing livestock unless approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger.

Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.

All livestock feed or straw brought onto the Forest must be certified weed free per Regional Forester's Order #04-00-058, dated March 26, 1996 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml>).

Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.

All garbage resulting from activities associated with this permit shall be removed from National Forest lands and disposed of properly.

Additional instructions: None