Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ruby Mountain/Jarbidge Ranger District

2013

Annual Operating Instructions

Open Box Arrow Ranches, LLC
On
White Elephant C&H and Wildcat C&H

Recommended By: _____ Date: _____
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
District Ranger

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.

Upon signature by the District Ranger, these Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit number 80105, approved by the Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge District Ranger on April 2, 2008.

Any changes or deviation from the direction outlined in the Annual Operating Instructions will need to be requested in a written notice to the Ruby Mountain/Jarbidge Ranger District. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without written confirmation from the Ruby Mountain/Jarbidge Ranger District.

Thank you for taking time to meet with Laria Lovec on April 11, 2013, to discuss your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2013 grazing season.

The following describes the permitted use for Wildcat C&H and White Elephant C&H, as described in our permit signed on April 12, 2008:

Number and Class	Season of Use	Allotment
186/Cattle	06/16-10/15	White Elephant
650/Cattle	06/02-10/13	Wildcat

The following information describes your Annual Operating Instructions for White Elephant and Wildcat C&H as discussed. The scheduled dates of use are flexible; however a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the below dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

White Elephant C&H Authorized Use for 2012

Number and Class	Pasture or Unit	Season of Use	Head Months
93/Cattle	North Creek	8/1-9/15	140
93/Cattle	Willow Creek	8/1-9/15	141

Wildcat C&H Authorized Use for 2012

Number and Class	Pasture or Unit	Season of Use	Head Months
650/Cattle	Wildcat	9/2-10/13	898

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Other Information Discussed:
Last year's issues of loose cattle on the forest were addressed. On White Elephant, the herd will be divided and grazed simultaneously in each pasture. This is a one-year trial.

Compliance:
Upon signature, 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 user are flexible but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made. Please remember, your bill must be paid prior to entering the allotment. 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, the District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned area prior to implementing those changes.

Billing:
Enclosed is your grazing bill. This AOI describes livestock movement and your paid grazing bill authorizes livestock to be turned out on National Forest System Lands.

Fees: Grazing fees for 2013 remain unchanged from last year: $ 1.35 per head month.

Due Date: Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. The Forest Service is required to provide permittees 30 days to pay grazing fees.

Extensions: Extensions of the authorized (and paid for) grazing season, if desired, must be requested at least 21 days in advance of the off date to allow time for inspection, billing, and subsequent payment of additional grazing fees.

Unauthorized Use: Livestock grazing on the National Forest System lands without the grazing fees being paid and processed are considered to be unauthorized and are cause for action to be taken against the grazing permit. Livestock remaining on the National Forest System lands after the end of the authorized grazing season must be billed at the unauthorized use rate and administration costs, and may be cause for action to be taken against the grazing permit.

Livestock Management

Type of Rotation: Deferred Rotation (White Elephant and Wildcat)

Standards and Guidelines:

Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). Please review the following Utilization Standards table obtained from your permit prior to turning out as the use level stated is the maximum utilization allowed for the planned season of use.

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. All riparian areas on the allotments are considered key areas. If you need assistance determining use levels or identifying the key areas, please do not hesitate to contact Laria Lovec.

RIPARIAN SITES: Wildcat C&H

Area	Percent Allowable Use
Wildcat Creek, Sun Creek, and within 300 feet of a Category 1 & 2 seep and spring.	45% use of grasses, rushes, and sedges
Anything within 300 feet of a Category 3 & 4 seep and spring.	55% use of grasses, rushes, and sedges
Riparian Browse	35% of currents year's growth of riparian shrubs such as willows, cottonwoods, and aspen.

UPLAND SITES: Wildcat C&H

Area	Percent Allowable Use
All upland sites	65% use of key species; mountain brome, bluebunch wheat grass, basin wildrye, Sandburg bluegrass, Idaho fescue, and squirrltail.
Upland browse	50% of currents year's growth of key species; snowberry, serviceberry, mahogany, bitterbrush.

RIPARIAN SITES: White Elephant C&H

Area	Percent Allowable Use
Lime Creek, North Creek, and within 300 feet of a Category 1 & 2 seep and spring.	45% use of grasses, rushes, and sedges
Willow Creek , Dry Creek and within 300 feet of a Category 3, 4, & 5 seep and spring.	55% use of grasses, rushes, and sedges
Riparian Browse	35% of currents year's growth of riparian shrubs such as willows, cottonwoods, and aspen.

UPLAND SITES: White Elephant C&H

Area	Percent Allowable Use
All upland sites	65% use of key species; mountain brome, bluebunch wheat grass, basin wildrye, Sandburg bluegrass, Idaho fescue, and squirrltail.
Upland browse	50% of currents year's growth of key species; snowberry, serviceberry, mahogany, bitterbrush.

Range Improvements

Range improvements listed in part three of your permit must be maintained before cattle enter the allotment(s). The maintenance standards listed in part three of your term permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements.

Permittee Instructions

Salt and Supplement Placement: Place salt or supplement at least 200 yards from water sources and away from trailheads, roads, and key areas. Place salt in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization or the range.

Disposal of Dead Livestock: Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from any water source, out of the view of roads or trails, and away from any areas of significant public use.

Noxious Weeds/Invasive Species: By USDA Order 04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw, or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as noxious weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of noxious weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as noxious weed free.

If livestock are being fed hay prior to coming on to the Forest, please see to it that they are fed weed free hay at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.
Any equipment used in the transport of livestock, including horse trailers and stock trucks, should be washed before coming onto the allotment(s) if they have been used in areas where noxious weeds are present.

Your assistance in locating noxious weed sites and reporting them to your Forest Officer is greatly appreciated. If you are able and willing to assist in treating noxious weeds, please work with your Forest Officer to determine how best to help.

Required Reporting
Enclosed is a Grazing Use Record for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the dates livestock spend on the allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, grazing use, resource concerns, etc. Range Improvement Maintenance form is also included. Please provide information on any project you maintain. Please return the forms following the 2013 grazing season by December 31, 2013.

Coordination & Cooperation
If you spot a wildfire, report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Elko, NV at (775) 748-4000.

Nonuse
As a reminder, requests for nonuse of term grazing permits for personal convenience are not automatic and must be made annually by the permittee in writing sufficiently in advance of the start of the permitted grazing season (normally 30 days). Please discuss your nonuse requests with the authorized officer before submitting the request. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period. If approved, as the term permit holder, you are still responsible for the maintenance on all assigned improvements on your permitted allotments during the nonuse period.

Maps, Forms, and Attachments
An allotment map showing pasture rotation and approximated rotation dates (if available) has been attached to your AOI. Please remember the scheduled dates of use are flexible but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Also enclosed are the Grazing Use Record and the Range Improvement Maintenance forms. Your term permit requires you to submit the Grazing Use Record prior to December 31.

Notice
The permittee will provide the Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge Ranger District with notification of any changes or deviation he or she wishes to make in these Annual Operating Instructions.

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of the allotment, we would like to hear from you. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions on the allotment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding management, please do not hesitate to contact Laria Lovec at (775) 752-3357.