



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: June 21, 2013

Peter Ferraro
Ferraro Cattle Company
P.O. Box 130
Paradise Valley, NV 89426

Dear

The following letter will document your meeting with Boyd Hatch, on April 13, 2013 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2013 summer grazing season on the Paradise Allotment. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

The grazing system on this allotment is rest rotation. The scheduled dates of use are flexible. A one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the below dates, unless utilization is met and livestock need to be moved to keep from over utilization. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

**PARADISE C&H
PERMITTED USE**

Allotment	Class	Number	Season
Paradise C&H	c/c	500	5/21 - 8/31

**PARADISE C&H
AUTHORIZED USE 300 C/C Pairs 20 Yearlings**

UNITS	Number	Season
Abel Riparian	320	5/25 – 6/17
Abel	320	6/18 – 7/30
Stonehouse	320	7/31 – 8/21
Wash O’neal	320	8/22 – 9/12
Provo	320	9/13 – 10/5
Upper and Lower Abel Seeding		REST
Singas		REST

The District Ranger authorized a reduction of 180 c/c pairs due to drought conditions. It is critical that you intensively manage cattle this year to encourage even distribution of use. Riparian areas will need extra monitoring and when utilization is met, livestock will need to be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment. Due to drought, Paradise Allotment season of use will be reduced for resource protection.

Due to the Hansen Fire Singas and the Abel Seeding’s will be rested two growing seasons and possibly longer if restoration of the area has not rehabbed sufficiently.



Permitted Livestock Brands:



COMPLIANCE:

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 use are flexible but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the below dates. 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 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 3 days prior to entering the Forest.

BILLING:

Grazing fees remain unchanged from last year. The fee is \$1.35 per head month.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Type of Rotation: Rest Rotation.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

Drought is very likely this summer. It is essential that you keep in mind that timing for moving your livestock is determined by utilization or actual use. It is important not to put additional stress on the vegetation by over utilization/grazing. 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 in riparian, meadow or any other areas within your permitted area. 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 allotment are considered key areas.

RIPARIAN SITES:

AREA	PERCENT ALLOWABLE USE
Lower Abel Creek Riparian Pasture Upper Abel Creek, and within 300 ft of Category 1 seeps and springs	35% use of grasses, rushes and sedges.
Singus Creek, Morey Creek, Wash O Neal, Provo, upland riparian inside wilderness, and within 300 ft of Category 2 seeps and springs	45% use of grasses, rushes and sedges.
Category 3 Stonehouse Creek, upland riparian outside the wilderness, and within 300 ft of Category 3 seeps and springs	60% use of grasses, rushes and sedges.

UPLAND SITES:

AREA	PERCENT ALLOWABLE USE
All upland sites not listed	65% use of key species mountain brome, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, squirrtail.
Abel Creek (upper and lower)	50% use of key species mountain brome, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, squirrtail
Abel Seeding	50% use of crested and intermediate wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue
Upland Browse	50% of current years growth snowberry, serviceberry, mahogany, bitterbrush

IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained before cattle enter the allotment. 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 Hatch know when you are going to pick them up and they will make sure they are available.

The district is working on funding to repair and replace fencing lost in the Hanson Fire. This funding is not guaranteed, it will be your responsibility to ensure your livestock do not enter the closed pastures.

PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails. Place salt at least 1/4 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 2013 grazing season by November 30, 2013.

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:

An allotment map showing pastures and your fence maintenance responsibility, signature page, actual use and improvements maintenance form have been attached to your AOI.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the non-use 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 non-use 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.

Other Info Discussed:

Drift fence to be constructed in the Provo pasture. Future projects are fence reconstruction in FY13 1/8 mile in riparian field, and 1/8 mile in Dry Creek.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Boyd W. Hatch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

/s/Boyd W. Hatch for:

JEFF ULRICH

District Ranger