United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bridgeport Ranger District
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(760) 932-7070 Fax (760) 932-5899

File Code: 2210
Date: JUN 11 2013

Fred Fulstone, Marianne Leinassar
F.I.M. Corp.
Box 12
Smith, NV 89430

Dear Fred and Marianne:

This letter documents our meeting held on February 27, 2013 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2013/2014 grazing season on the Bridgeport and parts of the Carson Ranger Districts. In attendance were Fred Fulstone, Marianne Leinassar, Kris Leinassar, Floyd Rathbun (permittee), and Rixey Jenkins (Forest Service).

The following is a summary of your permitted use, which expires on 12/31/2015.

LIVESTOCK			PERIOD OF USE		GRAZING
NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	FROM	TO	ALLOTMENT
718	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	4/1	5/18	Saroni Canal S&G
1025	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	5/16	6/15	Desert Peak S&G
1025	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	6/19	10/15	Poison Creek S&G
1025	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	4/10	5/20	Sulphur S&G
900	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	4/10	4/22	Sulphur S&G
900	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	5/25	6/27	Pine Grove S&G
1025	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	6/1	6/25	Mill Canyon S&G
900	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	5/16	7/15	Bald Mountain S&G
1025	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	4/16	5/31	Risue S&G
900	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	6/16	10/25	Cottonwood/Burcham S&G
1650	Sheep	Ewes	8/16	10/10	Campbell-Loope S&G
-Cameron Canyon S&G, Dunderberg S&G, Rickey S&G, and Tamarack S&G: Variable numbers and periods of use for the Cameron Canyon, Dunderberg, Rickey, and Tamarack S&G allotments are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The average use under this permit is equivalent to three bands of 900 e/l, 6/28-9/30 and one band of 1650 ewes, 10/1-10/15.					
-Sugarloaf S&G: Variable numbers and periods of use for the Sugarloaf S&G allotment are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The average use under this permit is equivalent to 1800 ewes within the season 12/16-2/28, not to exceed 2100 sheep months (35 days).					
-Sulphur S&G: Variable numbers and periods of use for winter use on the Sulphur S&G allotment are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The average use under this permit is equivalent to 3 bands of 1800 ewes for a period of 36 days within the season of 12/16-3/15, not to exceed 7200 sheep months (36 days).					
-Wild Oat S&G: Variable numbers and periods of use for the Wild Oat S&G allotment are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The average use under this permit is equivalent to 1650 ewes within the season 4/1-7/15, not to exceed 1300 sheep months (24 days).					

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 part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

AUTHORIZED USE
SARONI BAND

Allotment	Number & Class	Season
Saroni Canal S&G	718 on/ 307 off (1025 total)	04/10-05/07
Risue S&G	1025 e/l	05/08-05/31
Mill Canyon S&G	1025 e/l	06/01-06/25
Poison Creek S&G	1025 e/l	06/26-08/06
Leavitt Meadows (part of Poison Creek S&G)	1025 e/l	09/23-10/15

SARONI CANAL S&G, RISUE S&G:

- Grazing will begin on the Saroni portion, with 700 e/l accounted for on National Forest System lands, and 300 head under "off" provisions on permittee controlled private lands. The band will then graze the Risue S&G allotment from North to South.

MILL CANYON S&G:

- Please review allowable use standards in your term grazing permit with respect to grazing management and terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion. Allowable use standards equivalent to those for the By-Day watershed portion of the Rickey Peak S&G Allotment are applicable to all National Forest System lands within the Mill Canyon watershed.
- 2011 monitoring for the Mill Canyon S&G Allotment was within allowable use standards.
- The district may implement a portion of the Mill Canyon Fuels Reduction project this calendar year. We will let you know if that goes forward.

POISON CREEK S&G:

- Entrance of sheep onto the allotment will occur near Sonora Bridge, as it has in the past.
- You may water your sheep once near Sonora Bridge at the West Walker River when entering the allotment and you may also water your sheep south of the private land near Willow Flat. Grazing use in these instances must be **no more** than that associated with watering.
- This band will graze the western portion of the allotment and then move into the Piute C&H allotment. They will then return north toward Leavitt Meadows. Please keep use of the West Walker trail to a minimum to avoid livestock conflicts with the public.
- Due to a known population of Yosemite Toad at Beartrap Lake, the sheep must stay **¼** of a mile away from the lake.
- Sheep are allowed to cross the West Walker River while in the Leavitt unit, and are allowed to water at the river. Except when watering, your sheep must be kept at least **100 feet** away from the river.

DESERT PEAK BAND

Allotment	Number & Class	Season
Sulphur S&G	1025 e/l	04/10-05/20
Desert Peak S&G	1025 e/l	05/21-06/20
Cottonwood/Burcham S&G (Band 1)	1025 e/l	06/21-09/20

- Sheep will be trailed from Desert Peak via upper Desert Creek to Cottonwood S&G allotment. This trailing route is authorized for one (1) day. Any trailing in excess of one day is not approved. Grazing on Burcham/Cottonwood will begin on the northern portion of

Cottonwood, and move southward through Burcham.

- You are authorized to haul water on the Desert Peak and Cottonwood/Burcham S&G Allotments during the 2012 grazing season.

BALD MOUNTAIN BAND

Allotment	Number & Class	Season
Sulphur S&G	700 e/l	04/10-04/22
Pine Grove S&G	700 e/l	05/21-06/05
Bald Mountain S&G	700 e/l	06/06-06/15
Cottonwood/Burcham S&G (Band 2)	700 e/l	06/16-08/16
Poison Creek S&G (Band 2)	700 e/l	08/17-10/15

BALD MOUNTAIN S&G:

- The portion of the Desert Peak Allotment east of HWY 338 will be grazed in conjunction with the Bald Mountain Allotment.
- To protect the populations of William's combleaf in and around the upper lakes on Bald Mountain, please avoid bedding or watering your sheep in these areas.
- The Forest Service considers the access road into Bald Mountain a low maintenance road. Therefore, you must maintain any road improvement(s) needed in order for a water truck to get into the area. Any road improvement must stay within the road prism.
- You are authorized to graze the Bald Mountain Allotment before the Pine Grove allotment if it is necessary due to the availability of water on Bald Mountain.

POISON CREEK S&G:

- This band will graze the eastern portion of the allotment and return north to Leavitt Meadows to ship lambs.
- Because two bands will be at Leavitt Meadows for shipping, please pay close attention to utilization in the area. You may move one or both bands back to the low elevations of Poison Creek S&G if necessary.

OTHER SUMMER/FALL ALLOTMENTS

RICKEY S&G: 700 e/l, 06/28-09/30

- The Fish & Wildlife Service issued a Letter of Concurrence that covers grazing 700 ewes with lambs for the 2010 through 2015 grazing seasons on the Labrosse Unit. The BO states that consultation will not be required again until 2016 unless "...the proposed action as described is not implemented or is changed, if SNBS are documented in locations north of or closer to the Labrosse Unit than known to date, if new science or updated risk assessment documents indicate a greater threat of disease transmission, or if new biological information becomes available concerning listed or candidate species which may be affected by the project..."
- You are authorized to enter the Labrosse Unit between June 28 and July 31. This use will last approximately 14 days, depending on range conditions. Regardless of the "on" date, you must be out of the Labrosse Unit by July 31st.
- As you know, By-Day Creek is home to Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, which are listed as a threatened species. You are authorized to graze the By-Day Creek drainage and water at your designated watering sites.
- 2011 monitoring for the Rickey S&G allotment was within allowable use standards.

- The Buckeye Fire burned approximately 700 acres on the Rickey S&G allotment. You are allowed to trail your sheep through the burned area but not allowed to graze in the burn.
- The management requirements for Labrosse Unit are listed on below.

WILD OAT S&G: 1650 e, 04/01-07/15; not to exceed 1300 sheep months, 24 days.
- This band comes from the home ranch.

CAMPBELL-LOOPE S&G: 1650 e, 09/01-10/26
- This band comes from Pine Nuts (BLM).

CAMERON CANYON S&G, DUNDERBERG S&G, TAMARACK S&G: These allotments are in Non-Use Status.

WINTER ALLOTMENTS

*You have not been billed for 2013 use on your winter allotments. Please contact Rixey prior to turning out on the Sugarloaf and Sulphur allotments.

SUGARLOAF S&G: 1800 e (maximum) variable numbers and seasons within the season 12/16-03/25, not to exceed 2100 sheep months; 35 days.

SULPHUR S&G (north): 5400 e (maximum in three different bands), variable numbers and seasons within the season 12/16-03/25, not to exceed 7200 sheep months; 36 days.

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Allotment maps and management requirements, including improvement maintenance, salting, camping, and bedding for those allotments you are permitted to graze have been provided to you.

Only the F, M, Cross, Quartercircle W, Birds Head, M F Combined, Quartercircle L, and Circle Brands are authorized under your term 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.

Sheep may use a bedding/nooning area no more than **once** per season. No nooning/shading/bedding within 100 yards of all streams. Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of designated campgrounds, trails, trailheads, or maintained roads. "Good bedground management" was highligted in your 1974 Sheep Management and Development Plan.

Practice open or loose herding and minimize the use of sheep herding dogs to avoid soil displacement. Only once over grazing is allowed. Graze rather than trail to water and do not water at the same locations. Route sheep to avoid steep slopes with loose soil, snow bank areas, and active rills or gullies.

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 herds 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 2013, 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.

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 2013 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).

UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Mill Canyon S&G:

Disturbance of meadow-associated **streambank**s and natural lake and pond **shorelines** is **not to exceed 10 percent** of the stream reach or **10 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 **30 percent** (or minimum **six-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.

Standard not within the Framework, but within the Biological Opinion, 45% use of current year's growth on herbaceous species in upland sites

Poison Creek S&G and Rickey S&G (NOT including By-Day Creek Drainage) allotments:

Disturbance of meadow-associated **streambank**s 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.

In meadow areas of great gray owl protected activity centers {a protected activity center (PAC) is defined as an area established to protect breeding adults and their offspring}, maintain herbaceous meadow vegetation at least **12 inches** in height and **covering at least 90 percent** of the meadow. The great gray owl PAC within the Poison Creek S&G allotment is located just north of Secret Lake. It is estimated that the PAC covers 50 acres surrounding the nest site.

Rickey S&G - By-Day Creek Drainage:

The upper By-Day watershed on the Rickey S&G allotment has more restrictive allowable use standards because of the presence of Lahontan cutthroat trout. Use of herbaceous species within the riparian zone must not exceed 30% of the current year's growth. Use of shrub species (willows and aspen) must not exceed 20% of the twig length of the current year's growth. Utilization of herbaceous plants in the upland sites must not exceed 40% of the current year's growth and streambank disturbance must not exceed 10%.

Winter Allotments:

20% use on black sage, low sage, and bitterbrush in key deer range
40% use on same species outside key deer winter range

Remaining Spring and Summer Allotments:

30% use on key species on range above 10,000 feet elevation
40% use on key species on range below 10,000 feet elevation

45% use on key species in riparian sites
20% use on willow species in riparian sites

40% use on grass species in aspen, sagebrush, and mountain brush sites
20% use on shrub species in aspen, sagebrush, and mountain brush sites

10% maximum soil disturbance on steep slopes and loose, sandy soils on range above 10,000 feet elevation

20% maximum soil disturbance on all other range above 10,000 feet elevation

10% maximum soil disturbance on steep slopes and on loose, sandy soils on range below 10,000 feet elevation

35% maximum soil disturbance on all other range

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your sheep to the next unit to be used or off the allotment when the last unit has been grazed. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. If you need assistance determining forage use or streambank disturbance levels, contact Rixey and he will help.

RICKEY S&G LABROSSE UNIT

2010-2015 LETTER OF CONCURRENCE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1) the permittee will notify the Forest Service (Bridgeport District Ranger or Natural Resource Officer), by telephone or in person, at least 48 hours before entering and exiting the Unit to fully document the actual season of use;

2) 48 hours prior to the permittee entering the Unit, the Forest Service will contact the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for the most recent (as of the date of the call) SNBS locations. If SNBS are known to be located north of the Trigger Line for the Labrosse Unit, the permittee will be contacted by the Forest Service and domestic sheep will not enter the Unit on the scheduled date of entry. Domestic sheep will not be authorized to enter the Unit until such time as the SNBS have moved south of the Trigger Line for the Unit as described in the BA. Authorization for entry will be credible reported sightings, as determined by the Bridgeport District Ranger;

3) the permittee will provide instruction/training and supervision to ranch and staff members (*i.e.,* camptenders and sheepherders) specific to SNBS identification, prevention of contact, and escape plan procedures as described in the BA. The permittee will monitor and ensure that the Forest Service's grazing standards and guidelines are being followed and document meetings and instructions to sheepherders in a log book;

4) the permittee will place and retain 1 sheepherder and 2 guard dogs and at least 1 herding dog with the domestic sheep while in the Unit. More experienced, informed, and responsible sheepherders will be placed with the band of sheep on the Unit. Sheepherders will be instructed to avoid moving domestic sheep through dense vegetation and to increase their vigilance on bright, moonlit nights. The permittee must utilize herding and guard dogs on the Unit that are mature and effective. Female dogs in heat will not be placed on the Unit;

5) the permittee will conduct on and off counts, of all individual sheep, to document the number of sheep on the Unit. The permittee will provide the Bridgeport District Ranger or Natural Resource Officer with this number within 24 hours of each count. Forest Service employees will be present during these counts as workload allows;

6) the permittee will use a marker sheep ratio of at least 1:20. Marker ewes will include ewes that are naturally-colored black sheep, individuals with bells (at least a ratio of 1:100), and other ewes with distinguishing marks. If using "bell" sheep as markers, an identifying mark will be placed on the bell sheep in case the bell is lost. If a marker sheep is lost (*i.e.,* dies, is removed from the band) it will be replaced. The 1:20 ratio must be met all season long;

7) the permittee shall conduct marker sheep counts once a day. A complete full count will also be required, as soon as possible after a predation or weather event in which the band is "scattered." "Scattered" is defined as more than sight or sound distance between groups of sheep. These counts will be recorded in a log book which specifies the total marker sheep count, how many losses, and what the loss was (*e.g.,* ewe, lamb), when a "scattering" event occurs, and what caused the loss. The log book will be provided to the Bridgeport District Ranger or Natural Resource Officer at the end of the grazing period for the Unit. This log book can be faxed, mailed, or hand delivered to the Forest Service;

8) if at any time during the grazing season or during the off count, a domestic sheep is determined missing from the Unit, the permittee will notify the Bridgeport District Ranger (within 12 hours of receiving sheepherder's call) as defined in the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep/Domestic Sheep Grazing Escape Management Plan/Communication Protocol for the Labrosse Unit for the 2012 Grazing Season (Plan). The Forest Service will immediately contact the Service and CDFG. The permittee and the Forest Service will immediately initiate a comprehensive search (hiking, driving, horseback) for the stray(s) and report to the Service and CDFG the results as discussed in the Plan;

9) the permittee will remove any sick or physically disabled (*i.e.,* lack of ability to remain with the band) domestic sheep from the band before entering the Unit. The sheepherder/permittee will immediately remove from the band any domestic sheep that becomes sick or physically disabled after the band has entered the unit or provide prompt veterinary treatment to injured domestic sheep that are not disabled;

10) the sheepherder's camp, nighttime bedding ground, and midday bedding ground locations will be selected such that communication between guard dogs and herding dogs by smell, sound (barking), and sight is maintained and to take advantage of both guard dog and herding dog reticular activating systems. These locations will adhere to established "bed ground" standards;

11) the camp locations and bedding ground locations selected will be acceptable to domestic sheep and thus result in the sheep remaining within the bedding grounds. These locations will adhere to established "bed ground" standards;

12) sheepherders will carry cell phones so that they may contact appropriate personnel in case of straying or SNBS sightings;

13) the Bridgeport Ranger District will implement allotment administration actions. Forest Service personnel will visit the Unit once or twice during the grazing season, averaging one visit every 2 weeks while domestic sheep are on the Unit. This number may change based upon the actual season of use, but the average of 1 visit every 2 weeks will remain regardless; and

14) if at any time during the grazing period, a SNBS is opportunistically observed by CDFG, Forest Service, or other agency personnel north of the Trigger Line for the Unit, the sheepherder will be notified by the Forest Service and will move the domestic sheep immediately and within 24 hours away from SNBS and northward to the main portion of the Rickey S&G Allotment.

Management Requirement #12
We are aware that there is no cell phone coverage in the Twin Lakes drainage. In the event that the sheepherder needs to report domestic sheep straying or SNBS sightings, please instruct him to use the telephone at Lower Twin Lakes Resort.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (Letter of Concurrence):

The Forest Service will provide USFWS a report summarizing implementation of the above measures by October 31, 2013.

REPORTING

Allotment Summary Forms, for reporting actual use and maintenance costs are included. Please complete these forms and return them to this office by November 15, 2013 for summer allotments, and by March 30, 2014 for winter allotments. Thank you for returning last year's actual use and improvement maintenance forms in a timely manner.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Allotments that have been combined in terms of management are not necessarily reflected in the annual Bill for Collection. Numbers and seasons in your grazing bill reflect the total head months of use on permitted allotments, but not necessarily the planned use on the ground. In cases where the bill differs from these instructions, the Annual Operating Instructions are the authorized use patterns to be implemented on the ground.

The grazing fees for 2013 have not changed from 2012. The fee for 2012 is $0.27 per head month.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience non-use 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 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.

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.

I trust that you will contact me any time you have a question so that we may keep our communication open. If you have any questions on the management of the above allotments, please feel free to contact Rixey at 760-932-5850.

Sincerely,

MIKE CRAWLEY
District Ranger

Enclosures: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Forms
2013 Log Book - Labrosse Unit of the Rickey S&G Allotment
Escape Management Plan/Communication Protocol