



File Code: 2210

Date: March 25, 2008

This letter will document the meeting between Todd Sceirine, Amy Baumer, Ingrid Drieling, and Rixey Jenkins on March 20, 2008 and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2008 grazing season on the Frying Pan / Murphy Creek C&H allotment.

Permitted use and grazing management on the Sweetwater C&H allotment will be covered in the Sweetwater C&H annual operating instructions.

**AUTHORIZED USE:**

This is year 2 in the grazing rotation cycle.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ORDER</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>DAYS</u>
Lower	1 <sup>st</sup>	163	c/c	6/16-7/15	30
Judge Chambers	2 <sup>nd</sup>	45	c/c	6/16-9/20	97
Green Ranch	2 <sup>nd</sup>	138	c/c	7/16-8/15	31
Lower South Murphy	2 <sup>nd</sup>	15	c/c	7/16-8/15	31
Frying Pan	3 <sup>rd</sup>	123	c/c	8/16-9/20	36
South Murphy	3 <sup>rd</sup>	100	c/c	8/16-9/20	36
North Murphy	REST	REST	REST	REST	REST
Yparraquirre		2 "on"	c/c	5/1-10/31	184

The scheduled use may be changed with prior approval due to range readiness or other conditions. One-week notice is required for approval to allow time for range inspections. Replacement heifers will be grazing the Judge Chambers unit for the duration of the grazing season depending upon range conditions, if use is met, the heifers will be moved to other units.

**ALLOWABLE USE:**

Allowable use standards are listed in part three of your grazing permit. You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and to move stock to the next scheduled unit of use or remove them from the allotment when the last unit has been grazed. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

Riparian Areas: 55% use on the herbaceous species Nevada bluegrass and sedges  
30% use overall. 20% use on shrubs (willows).

Upland Areas: 55% use on herbaceous species and 50% use on bitterbrush.

Streambank Disturbance: 20% on all creeks, except Murphy Creek

Murphy Creek Watershed: 10% streambank disturbance on the length of Murphy Creek  
30% use on grass and grass-like species in riparian areas  
20% use on woody riparian species  
45% use on key upland grass species



In addition, if you locate any sick, injured, or dead fish on Murphy Creek, you must notify this office immediately.

### **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:**

All range improvements listed in part three of your term grazing permit must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. The standards for maintenance are also listed in part three and must be followed when maintaining improvements.

### **GENERAL MANAGEMENT:**

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water and roads and in areas lightly grazed to encourage more even grazing use of the range. All garbage and debris associated with managing cattle on the allotment must be removed from National Forest lands. If you spot a wildfire, report it immediately to our Interagency Dispatch Center at **(775) 883-5995**.

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 our 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 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

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.

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 1, 2008.

The grazing fees for this season are the same as 2007. The fee is \$1.35 per head month.

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. Thank you for meeting this requirement.

### **OTHER:**

The Great Basin South EIS was discussed. The decision was turned back to the district and will not be implemented at this time. A supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be released later this year.

Todd expressed interest in relocating the lower LCT monitoring area on Murphy Creek and relaxing the allowable use standards in the Murphy Creek Watershed. During the Sierra Basin EIS process,

consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducted and these issues can be revisited. Todd plans to be at the LCT monitoring this fall, and possible locations for the lower monitoring area can be discussed during the monitoring.

The Bald Mountain prescribed burn was scheduled to take place last fall, but was held up because of litigation. It has been tentatively rescheduled for this fall. The Rosaschi Ranch prescribed burn will take place during the last week of March, weather permitting. Weed crews will be out at Rosaschi this summer to treat noxious weeds and a county crew will be spraying weeds along the East Walker River.

We also discussed the possibility of using the fire helicopter, based in Bridgeport, to move a water trough. We will let you know what we find out.

Rixey will be administering your permit. Please use him as your primary contact at (760) 932-5850 if you have any questions or comments regarding grazing use on the Frying Pan-Murphy Creek C&H allotment.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Cheryl Probert*  
CHERYL F. PROBERT  
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Forms