

	United States Department of Agriculture	Forest Service	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	Carson Ranger District 1536 S. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701 (775) 882-2766 Fax (775) 884-8199
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File Code: 2210

Date:

The following letter will serve as your corrected Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2008 grazing season on the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts. Please note the corrected authorized use in this modified AOI. The following use has been authorized for the 2008-grazing season:

LIVESTOCK			PERIOD OF USE		GRAZING ALLOTMENT
NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	FROM	TO	
1512	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	07/01	09/15	Leviathan S&G

LEVIATHAN S&G ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This allotment includes all National Forest System land within the following boundary:

Beginning on the Forest boundary, on the south side of Section 35, T10N, R21E, MDBM, follow the fence in a northerly direction to its end; thence northerly to High Peak; thence in a northerly direction along the fence and across Poison Creek to the approximate north ¼ corner of Section 13; thence northerly along the fence to the state line and Forest boundary near the southwest corner of Section 10, T10N, R21E, MDBM Nevada.

Then follow the Forest boundary, southeast to the NE corner of Section 28, T10N, R22E; thence south along the Forest boundary to the SW corner Section 33, T10N, R22E; thence west along the Forest boundary to the point of beginning.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT:

The permittee shall notify the District Ranger, by mail or otherwise, five (5) days in advance of the date of entry of livestock onto the National Forest System lands.



The Leviathan S&G allotment is located on the Carson Ranger District and parts of the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The needs of other resources and values have been considered and the grazing activity is consistent with direction in the applicable land and resource management plan (LRMP).

The grazing system on this allotment is continuous season long use. The scheduled dates of use are flexible but a **one-week notice** must be given before any changes are made in the above dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

ALLOWABLE USE:

The allotment must be grazed within the allowable use standards listed below for riparian, aspen, sagebrush, mountain brush and grassland sites.

Riparian sites:

Disturbance of meadow-associated streambanks 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.

Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

Pesticide application to livestock is prohibited within riparian conservation areas and critical aquatic refuges.

Aspen, Sagebrush, Mountain brush, and grassland sites:

Maximum of **45 percent** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species.

Maximum of **40 percent** use of current annual growth of shrubs.

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.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in below must be maintained before sheep enter the allotment. All range improvements assigned to the permittee in this letter must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. The permittee is responsible for supplying any materials required to maintain improvements to acceptable standards. It was discussed that some of these improvements no longer exist, or are usable. These improvements (California Creek Troughs and Big Springs Watering pond) will not be required to be maintained for the 2008 grazing season.

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Location</u>
Indian Spring Stock Watering Pond T10N R22E	NW ¼ SE ¼, SEC 17
Virgil Connell Spring Stock Watering Pond T10N R22E	NE ¼ NW ¼, SEC 32
Big Spring Stock Watering Pond	NE ¼ NE ¼, SEC 30 T10N R22E
California Creek Water Troughs	SW ¼ NW ¼, SEC 28 T10N R22E

Monitor Pass Stock Watering Ponds
R21E

SE ¼ NE ¼, SEC 36 T10N

09 Stock Watering Pond

SW ¼ NE ¼, SEC 31 T10N R21E

The following standards apply to water developments:

- Remove sediment and foreign objects from headboxes.
- Repair headbox covers.
- Mend fences protecting spring sources.
- Replace cracked or broken pipelines.
- Remove objects that plug pipelines.
- Clean out sediment from troughs.
- Clean and repair overflows and float valves.
- Reset and level troughs.
- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- Replace broken trough braces.

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, 2008. Thank you for returning last years actual use and improvement maintenance forms in a timely manner.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

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 livestock 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**.

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.

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 trust that you will contact my staff or myself any time you have a question so that we may keep our communication open. Ingrid can be reached at 760-932-5808.

Sincerely,

Cheryl F. Probert
DISTRICT RANGER

Encl: Report Forms