



File Code: 2210
Date: 5/15/2008

The following letter will document your meeting with Rixey Jenkins on April 8, 2008 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2008 grazing season on the Masonic C&H and Nine Mile C&H allotments. The grazing system on these allotments 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 to this AOI.

AUTHORIZED USE:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number / class</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Days</u>
Masonic C&H	80 / cc	06/01 – 07/15	45
Nine Mile C&H (fall use)	102 / cc	10/01 – 11/30	61

The season of use on Masonic C&H was adjusted so the allotment could be used in conjunction with the Big Flat allotment on the BLM. This is year 1 of the 25% suspension in season of use for Masonic C&H. The permitted use on Masonic C&H is for 107 days. During the 2008 and 2009 grazing seasons, the season of use can be no longer than 80 days.

The area inside the Masonic Riparian Pasture fence is authorized for grazing this year. Please ensure proper distribution of your livestock when using this area and follow the allowable use standards listed below for riparian sites.

ALLOWABLE USE:

The allotments must be grazed within the allowable use standards listed below for riparian and upland sites.

Riparian sites:

- Maximum of 45% use of the current year’s growth of key herbaceous species
- Maximum of 20% use of the current annual growth of key shrubs (willows)

Upland sites:

- Maximum of 45% use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species
- Maximum of 40% use of current annual growth of shrubs (bitterbrush, aspen)

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to other areas lightly used or off the allotment when allowable use has been reached. 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 Rixey. All riparian areas on the allotments are considered key areas.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:



Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained to standard before cattle enter the allotments. The maintenance standards listed in part three of your term grazing permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements.

Part 2, Section 8(i) of your term grazing permit states:

“This permit is issued and accepted with the provision that the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or government-owned, that are assigned for maintenance to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements to be maintained are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The Government may maintain or otherwise improve said improvements when, in its opinion, such action will be to its advantage.”

GENERAL MANAGEMENT:

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails. Place salt at least ¼ 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 Rixey and he will determine a suitable location with your input. If you spot a wild fire, report it immediately to the interagency dispatch center in Minden, NV at **(775) 883-5995**.

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 for summer allotments by November 30, 2008.

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.

Grazing fees for the 2008 grazing season are \$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. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay their 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. For several years now, my staff has been reminding permittees of this requirement, verbally and in writing. I can no longer allow for anything less than the 35 day requirement. Thank you for meeting this requirement by scheduling this AOI meeting early.

In addition, approval of requests for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the

permittee. Requests for non-use must be done in writing and the approval of a request for 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.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

The Masonic Riparian fence was discussed. Rixey will be out on the allotment this summer to check the maintenance on this fence.

Ernie was given Improvement Maintenance History sheets to fill out for the range improvements on his allotments. Please fill these out and return them at your convenience.

If you have any questions regarding any of the allotments for which you have permits, please call Rixey at (760) 932-5850.

Sincerely,

CHERYL F. PROBERT
District Ranger

Encl: Actual Use & Improvement Maintenance Records