



File Code: 2210

Date: January 16, 2008

The following letter will document your meeting with Rixey Jenkins on December 14, 2007 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Larkin Lake C&H, East Walker C&H, Whiskey Flat C&H and Wild Horse C&H allotments for the 2007-2008 winter grazing season. Each allotment, with the exception of the Whiskey Flat C&H, is managed under a continuous season long grazing system.

Authorized use on the following allotments under this AOI is as follows:

Allotment	Number/class	Season
Larkin Lake C&H	Non Use (Resource Protection)	
East Walker C&H	Non Use (Resource Protection)	
Wild Horse C&H	Non Use (Resource Protection)	
*Whiskey Flat C&H	203/cc	01/15/08 - 03/15/08

\*2007 grazing rotation for Whiskey Flat C&H is from February 16-April 15, the authorized use is January 15<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>.

As a reminder, permittees are required to maintain all range improvements on their allotments even when taking non-use.

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.”

#### ALLOWABLE USE

Whiskey Flat C&H must be grazed within the allowable use standards listed below for riparian and upland sites.

Riparian sites:

- Maximum of 65% use of the current year’s growth of key herbaceous species
- Maximum of 35% use of the current annual growth of key shrubs (willows).



Upland sites:

Maximum of 55% use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species.

Maximum of 30% 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.

## 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 winter allotments by **April 15, 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.

There was a decrease in grazing fees this year. The fee is now \$1.35 per head month, down from \$1.56 per head month last year.

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.

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 lack of maintenance on the Masonic fence was discussed and Ernie was informed that a suspension letter will be issued.

We discussed the EIS for the Great Basin South Rangeland Project. The EIS is in the appeals process right now and will not be implemented this grazing season.

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

Sincerely,

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

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Record