



**File Code:** 2210  
**Date:** 3/13/2008

The following letter will document the meeting held with the Little Walker permittees on May 6th, 2008 at Coleville Elementary School. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted Numbers</u>
Matt McKinney	Bently Agrowdynamics Inc.	206
Steve Fulstone/ Shawn Schacht	F.M. Fulstone Inc.	47
Leslie Chichester	Leslie Chichester	43
Dwain Chichester	Chichester, et.al.	152
Mary Hussman	Suellen Fulstone & Mary Fulstone Hussman	43
Cory Hussman	Doris Holmes Trust	37
Ingrid Drieling	U.S. Forest Service	
Amy Baumer	U.S. Forest Service	

**AUTHORIZED USE:**

The Little Walker C&H allotment will be grazed from June 16<sup>th</sup>- September 15th in a simple rotation system. Use will begin with the Stockade, Sawmill and Wheeler units and end in New Range unit. Cowcamp unit will be used when cattle are taken to the allotment at the beginning of the season and at the end of the season prior to shipping.

Each permittee represented, indicated that full permitted numbers would be stocked on the allotment this year, and if there were changes, Les would have a set of numbers to be given to the Forest Service.

Up to three days may be taken to move cattle between units as long as allowable use standards are not exceeded. Cattle are not to be allowed to return to units previously grazed unless authorized in the schedule of use.

Leslie Chichester will be the primary contact between the permittees and Forest Service, until the Range Rider for the 2008 grazing season is hired. At that time the Rider will become the contact. Leslie Chichester will serve as the association president this year.

<u>UNIT (NAME/NUMBER)</u>	<u>USE PERIOD</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Cowcamp/5	Early, as cattle enter allotment	528
Wheeler/2b	First, until allowable use is reached	528



Stockade/2a Sawmill		
Lower Molybdenite	Second, until allowable use is reached	528
Willow Flat, Rickey, and Deep Wash Creek/3 Long Valley/1	Third, until allowable use is reached	528
New Range	Fourth, until allowable use is reached	528
Cowcamp/5	Last, for gather and removal	528

Upper Molybdendite/4 will be rested in 2008.

The planned entry date may be modified based on range readiness. The date may be moved back as much as ten days to accommodate permittees needs; however every permittee will have the same on and off dates. At the time of this meeting there was no rider chosen for the allotment. Les Chichester will be contacting Ingrid once a rider has been chosen.

### **ALLOWABLE USE:**

Allowable use standards for the Little Walker allotment are contained in your term grazing permit and listed below. Allowable use is measured on the current annual growth of key species, or the amount of regrowth to date at the time use is measured. It is the responsibility of each permittee to ensure that the allowable use standards are not exceeded and that cattle are moved to the next unit scheduled for use or off the allotment after the last unit has been used. If you need assistance in estimating utilization levels at any time, please contact Ingrid and she will help you.

#### 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.

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Little Walker C&H, where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels described above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow associated species are not being impacted. This standard would keep the utilization level at 50% use of key herbaceous species.

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

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Maximum Use</u>
1 & 2	Bitterbrush All other species	30% 50%
2	All key species	50%
3, 4 & 5	All key species	50%

Key Species list:

Uplands: bitterbrush, western needlegrass, California needlegrass, Nevada needlegrass, and mutton bluegrass

Aspen stands: regenerating aspen and forbs

Seedings: smooth brome and crested wheatgrass

Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotment, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian species.

### **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:**

All range improvements assigned to permittees must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. In the event a permittee does not fulfill their maintenance responsibilities, the Association will be responsible for maintenance before livestock enter the allotment. However, should an improvement go unmaintained by a permittee, permit action will only be taken against the responsible permittee. The maintenance standards for improvements listed in your term permits must be followed when maintaining improvements. If any of the improvements assigned to you are not accessible prior to the planned on-date, please notify the association president or Ingrid.

Discussed need for heavy maintenance and let down fencing. It was decided that the permittees would prioritize where is needed the most and then let Ingrid know.

### **GENERAL MANAGEMENT:**

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, meadows, roads, and trails to encourage even distribution of use by cattle. If terrain does not allow for proper placement of salt, contact Ingrid and she will work with you to determine a suitable location. Herd cattle into areas lightly used to avoid over using portions of the range.

All garbage associated with managing the Little Walker allotment must be removed from National Forest System lands. Haul dead cattle at least 100 yards away from water sources, roads, and trails.

Forms have been included with this plan to report improvement maintenance costs and actual use. Please complete these forms and return them to my office by November 15, 2008. Each permittee will be responsible for reporting their actual use and improvement maintenance accomplishments this year.

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 is 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.

The corral at Cowcamp is a disturbed area susceptible to the establishment of invasive weeds. Please assist us by monitoring this site to detect any weeds that may occur before they can spread to the rest of the allotment. In the past several permittees acknowledged that weeds of various species occur on their ranches. The possibility of these weeds being transported to the Little Walker allotment is high.

The 2008 Grazing fee is \$1.35 the same as last year.

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 you 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.

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.

If you or your rider spots a wildfire on the National Forest, please report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at **(775) 883-5995**.

**Other:**

We discussed the need to have the road maintained across from cow camp. It was decided that the road could be fixed with the stipulations that the repairs stayed within the road prism. The Forest Service will also pursue lock options for that gate

Fencing supplies for the Molybdenite fence maintenance are available. Please contact Ingrid and she will arrange for a time for you to pick them up.

The FS will be scheduling a ride with all the permittees sometime in early July or late August. We will be contacting you at least two weeks before the ride to allow for scheduling arrangements.

This year the California Department of Fish and Game acquired some private land parcels within the Little Walker C&H allotment for Mule Deer and Sage Grouse habitat. We will be in touch with you if any changes or discussion of changes arise.

Ingrid and Rixey will continue to collect vegetation data to be included in the Sierra Basin Grazing Project. Little Walker C&H does not have current NEPA analysis; therefore your allotment is included in the Sierra Basin grazing EIS. We do appreciate any comments given during the process of writing these documents, so we are asking all permittees to participate in any of the upcoming field trips or meetings. You will be notified of the field trips and meetings thru our office.

If you have any questions regarding management of the Little Walker C&H allotment, please do not hesitate to contact Ingrid (760) 932-5808 or Amy (760) 932-5852.

Sincerely,

CHERYL F. PROBERT  
District Ranger

cc: Doris Holmes Trust  
Suellen Fulstone and Mary Fulstone Hussman  
Chichester et, al.  
Bently Agrowdynamics Inc.  
Leslie Chichester

encl: report forms