



File Code: 2210

Date: February 5, 2008

The following letter will document your meeting with Rixey Jenkins on January 24, 2008 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Nine Mile C&H (spring use), Powell Mountain C&H, and Rough Creek C&H allotments for the 2008 grazing season. Each allotment is managed under a continuous season long grazing system.

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

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Number (on/off)</u>	<u>Season</u>
Nine Mile C&H (spring)	c/c	538	3/15 – 5/15
Powell Mountain C&H	c/c	203	3/15 – 6/15
Rough Creek C&H	c/c	33/6	6/1 – 10/15

Spring use for Powell Mountain C&H has been authorized this grazing season. An earlier grazing season has been authorized for Nine Mile C&H. Adjustments were made to fit the permittees 2008 grazing season operation.

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 Nine Mile C&H and Powell Mountain C&H by **July 15, 2008**. The forms for Rough Creek C&H can be returned later in the year with the forms for the other summer allotments. As a reminder, the forms for winter allotments are due 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.

As of the date of this AOI, the 2008 grazing fees had not been released. The bill you received for these allotments was calculated using the 2007 fee. The 2007 fee is the base rate of \$1.35 per head month. If the 2008 grazing fees are higher than \$1.35 per head month, an additional bill will be sent.

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

Ernie was informed that a 25% suspension in the season of use on Masonic C&H would be implemented because of the lack of maintenance on the Masonic Riparian fence.

We discussed the EIS for the Great Basin South Rangeland Project. The EIS was remanded by the Supervisor's Office 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 Forms