



File Code: 2210

Date: April 18, 2008

The following letter will document the meeting on April 17, 2008 between Markus Bunn, Rixey Jenkins, Ingrid Drieling and Amy Baumer and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2008 grazing season on the Robinson Creek C&H allotment.

AUTHORIZED USE

The Robinson Creek C&H allotment is grazed season long under an on/off permit from June 1 to October 15. The authorized use for the National Forest portion of the allotment is 3 cow/calf pairs; the off portion is 197 cow/calf pairs. In accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit, no livestock are allowed on National Forest System lands outside the above season of use.

ALLOWABLE USE

The allowable use of forage is based on the current year's growth of key species. The standards and guides of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment are listed in your term grazing permit.

Robinson Creek C&H allotment:

➤ 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 and critical aquatic refuge areas.

- Upland and Aspen plant communities:
45% use of grass or forb species; 40% use on shrubs.

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for removing your livestock prior to allowable use being exceeded. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with the utilization standards. If you need help in determining use levels, please contact Rixey and he will assist you.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements listed in Part Three, page 5 of your permit must be maintained in accordance with the accompanying standards before livestock enter the allotment.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails on National Forest System lands. If terrain does not allow for salt placement in accordance with these standards, please contact Rixey and he will select a suitable location with your representative.

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, meadows, trails, and roads. All garbage associated with your permit must be removed from National Forest System lands. If you see a wildfire, report it immediately to the Minden Interagency Dispatch at **(775) 883-5995**.

Grazing fees are the same as last year. The fee is \$1.35 per head month.

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.

Reporting forms have been included for you to record actual use, losses, range improvement maintenance, and other relevant information. Please return the forms to my office no later than November 15, 2008.

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.

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 your 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.

Please use Rixey as your primary contact for this permit. If you have any questions or comments regarding management of this allotment, please call Rixey at (760) 932-5850. Thank you for your continued interest in improving the resources on National Forest lands.

OTHER

A Proper Functioning Condition training and Permittee Monitoring Workshop will be held on May 21-22, 2008. The PFC class will be taught by Sherm Swanson from UNR. A barbeque will be held after the class on May 21 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Little Walker grazing association. More information will be sent out soon.

The Great Basin South Final EIS was turned back to the district. A supplemental EIS will be released later this year. Ingrid and Rixey will continue collecting vegetation data to be included in the Sierra Basin EIS. Robinson Creek C&H has current NEPA analysis; therefore your allotment is not included in either of these grazing EIS. We do appreciate any comments given during the process of writing these documents, so feel free to participate in any of the upcoming field trips or meetings.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cheryl Probert
CHERYL F. PROBERT
District Ranger

Encl: Actual Use and Improvement Maintenance Forms

cc: Mark Lacey
Markus Bunn