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The following letter will document your meeting with Amy Baumer, Ingrid Drieling, Richard Fulstone and Steven Fulstone on April 9th, 2007 and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2008 grazing season on the Sierra Blanca C&H Allotment. Permitted use and grazing management for the Little Walker C&H allotment will be covered in the AOI for the Little Walker C&H allotment. Permitted use and grazing management for the Missouri Flat C&H allotment will be covered in an AOI at a later date. The authorized use will be as follows:

AUTHORIZED USE:

Allotment	Number	Permitted Season	Unit
Sierra Blanca	135 c/c (38 on/97 off)	6/16-9/15	1/Mack 4/Huntoon 3/Harvey Creek 2/Upper Mack

* Please contact our office in September 2008 in regards to the Missouri Flat C&H allotment. If you choose to graze the allotment this fall we will generate a bill and issue an AOI at that time.

The Sierra Blanca allotment is grazed in a four pasture deferred rotation system. The planned system includes alternating entry between the lower pastures from year to year. Thirty eight of the 135 cattle that will graze this allotment this year are considered to use National Forest lands; 97 are attributed to the private lands within the allotment.

The season and pattern of use outlined above is the authorized use for this grazing season and may not be changed without approval from the District Ranger. Any changes in the pattern of use must be requested at least one week in advance.

ALLOWABLE USE:

The levels of allowable utilization are listed in part three of your term grazing permit. If you need assistance in determining the level of utilization during the grazing season, please contact Ingrid. You are responsible for determining when proper use has been



reached on the allotments. When proper use has been reached, your cattle must be moved to the next unit of use or off the allotment when the last unit has been grazed. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with these standards.

The following allowable use standards apply to the Sierra Blanca C&H allotment:

Allowable use by Key Species Allotment Wide:

Key Species/Allowable Use

Nevada needlegrass (*Stipa nevadensis*) 55%

California needlegrass (*Stipa californica*) 55%

Antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) 50%

Willow (*Salix spp.*) 35%

In riparian communities, allowable use of herbaceous meadow plants is not to exceed 40% overall, which is equivalent to 65% use of key species.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

All existing range improvements listed in part three of your term permit must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. The fences between the Sierra Blanca and the Mt. Jackson allotment are maintained by you in odd numbered years and by Ken Chichester in even years. The fence between Sierra Blanca C&H allotment and Murphy Creek C&H allotment is maintained by you in odd numbered years and by Todd Sceirine on even years. You will not be responsible for maintaining the fences this year.

This year you will also be responsible for the construction of the Mack Canyon fence. Materials provided by the FS are available; please call when you would like to pick them up. Please call for a date if you would like to visit the area where the fence needs to be constructed.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Cattle distribution is important to proper use of the range resources. Herd cattle into areas lightly used and place salt in locations to encourage even utilization. Salt must not be placed within ¼ mile of any water source (spring, seep, or stream), roads, and trails. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock operation on the National Forest must be removed. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards away from

roads, trails, and water sources.

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.

Included with this plan are forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance for this year. Please complete these forms and return them to my office within 30 days of the end of the grazing season for each allotment.

There was no change in grazing fees this year. The fee is \$1.35 per head month, 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:

This year during your AOI meeting you were given a form to fill out regarding equipment used during the construction and maintenance of any improvements. Please make sure you complete this. If you need any additional copies of this form, please call Ingrid, and she will be happy provide those for you.

We also discussed the need for a new pump and pipeline in the Missouri Flat C&H allotment. You indicated that there could have possibly been some work done at one time. Ingrid will be researching this and we will be in contact with you, when we find more information.

You mentioned the need to replace the boundary fence between Murphy Crk C&H allotment and the Sierra Blanca C&H allotment, and the possibility to make that fence a "let-down fence" This is something we can request funding for in our 2010 budget process.

If you have any questions regarding this plan, please call Ingrid at (760)-932-5808 or Amy at (760) 932-5852.

Sincerely,

CHERYL F. PROBERT
District Ranger

Encl: allotment reporting forms