



File Code: 2210

Date: June 20, 2008

The following letter will document the meeting held on May 15, 2008 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Sweetwater C&H allotment for the 2008 grazing season. The season of use will be 6/19-10/18. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted Numbers</u>
Alton Anker	Alton Anker	215
Todd Sceirine	Sceirine Fredricks Ranch Partnership	113
Bryson Masini	Casino West, Inc.	222
Jeff Borsini	Borsini Ranch, Inc.	112
Johnny Cooper	representing Mike & Tana Powell	in process
Joe Sceirine	representing Mike & Tana Powell	
Doug Groves	Range Rider	
Amy Baumer	Forest Service	
Rixey Jenkins	Forest Service	

AUTHORIZED USE

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
Alton Anker	2	215	6/19 - 6/26
	3	215	6/26 - 7/17
	Rickey Mine	215	7/17 - 7/24
	High Country	215	7/24 - 10/13



	6 to 4 (gather)	215	10/13 - 10/18
Sceirine Fredricks Ranch Partnership	4	113	6/19 - 7/19
	Jackass	113	7/19 - 7/28
	High Country	113	7/28 - 10/13
	6 to 4 (gather)	113	10/13 - 10/18
Casino West, Inc.	1	222	6/19 - 6/26
	2	222	6/26 - 7/19
	High Country	222	7/19 - 10/18
Borsini Ranch, Inc.	6	112	6/19 - 7/19
	Rickey Mine	112	7/19 - 8/19
	High Country	112	8/19 - 10/18
Mike & Tana Powell		in process	

At this time, the Term Grazing Permit for Mike and Tana Powell is not complete. Authorization and validation for that permit will come at a later date.

There will be 2 riders working on the Sweetwater C&H this grazing season.

All dates are estimates and may be changed due to range readiness and to meet allowable use standards. The scheduled use above is the only one authorized. Any changes to the authorized use must be requested one week in advance to allow my staff time to review the allotment.

ALLOWABLE USE

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

Riparian sites:

30% use of the current year's growth of overall species and 55% use of the current year's growth of key species.

Upland sites:

55% use of the current year's growth of the following key species: Nevada bluegrass, Indian ricegrass, needle and thread grass, western needlegrass, junegrass, and crested wheatgrass.

Streambank disturbance:

20% maximum disturbance by cattle.

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to the next unit to be used or off the allotment when the last unit has been grazed. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. If you need assistance determining forage use or streambank disturbance levels, contact Rixey and he will help you.

We would like to emphasize the importance of moving your cattle after allowable use has been reached. With everyone going onto the seeding areas this year and the drought, allowable use may be reached quicker than in years past. Please pay particular attention to these areas to prevent being over the allowable use levels. Be sure to leave forage for the next rotation, especially in the units used by multiple permittees.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements listed under part three in your term permit must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. The maintenance standards also listed in part three of your permit must be followed when maintaining improvements. As a reminder as the Term Grazing Permits are written now, every permittee is responsible for maintenance on all structural range improvements.

The Forest Service will be purchasing 5 new troughs for the California portion of the Sweetwater C&H allotment once the funding has been approved for spending. Rixey will contact Alton when the troughs are delivered to the Ranger Station.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails to encourage even distribution of stock. If there are specific areas that require salt placement outside these guidelines, you must obtain approval from this office prior to salting. Herd cattle to areas that are lightly grazed to improve the distribution of use. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock on the Sweetwater C&H allotment must be removed from the National Forest.

If you spot a wildfire report it immediately to our Interagency Dispatch Center at **(775) 883-5995**.

Report forms for recording your actual use and improvement maintenance have been included with these instructions. Please complete the forms and return them to my office by November 19, 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 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 grazing fees are the same as last year. The fee is \$1.35 per head month.

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.

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.

OTHER

Rixey will be coordinating with your primary designated contact, Alton Anker, or your secondary contact Todd Sceirine to make arrangements for field visits.

Improvement Maintenance History Report forms have been enclosed with this AOI. The purpose of these forms is to develop of list of equipment used in the maintenance of range improvements on the Sweetwater C&H. Please fill these forms out at your convenience and return them to my office.

The Permittee Monitoring Workshop was held on May 21 and 22 at the Memorial Hall in Bridgeport.

The Forest Service is writing a supplement to the Great Basin South EIS, it is expected to be completed by this December. Rixey and Ingrid are collecting data for the Sierra Basin EIS. This EIS will not affect the Sweetwater C&H because it has current NEPA. All permittees are encouraged to provide comments and to participate in field visits for the Sierra Basin EIS.

Please contact Rixey at (760) 932-5850 if you have any questions or comments regarding grazing use on the Sweetwater C&H allotment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kim Clemons (for):
CHERYL F. PROBERT
District Ranger

encl: Actual Use and Improvement Maintenance Forms

cc: Casino West, Inc. Sceirine Fredricks Ranch Partnership, Borsini Ranch, Inc. Mike & Tana Powell