



File Code: 2210
Date: April 24, 2008

The following is your annual operating instructions for the 2008 grazing season on the Hope Valley C&H Allotment.

Authorized Use and Routing

The 2008 grazing fee is \$1.35 per head month. Payment must be received at the Los Angeles address listed on the enclosed Bill for Collection by the payment due date. After we are notified that your payment has cleared, you are authorized to graze as follows:

Allotment	Numbers	Class	Season	Head Months
Hope Valley #113	103	Cow/Calf	6/26 – 10/25	413

Cattle will enter the allotment through the corrals along Hwy. 89, cross CA State lands, to Scott's Lake Unit. The permittee is responsible for obtaining permission to cross CA State lands in the Picket's Junction area. Once proper use is reached, trail cattle back across State lands to Hwy. 89.

Divide cattle into two herds. Herd one will be trailed across CA State land and trailed above Willow Creek to Horse Meadow area. Herd one will remain in the Horse Meadow area. Herd two will be trailed to the Horsethief Unit. Cattle will be removed from the allotment by trailing back to the corrals along Hwy. 89.

The actual turn on date will depend on the attainment of range readiness. For the purpose of livestock accountability, contact the district office five to seven days prior to turnout and when you anticipate unit moves. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions on the allotment.

Permitted livestock found grazing in greater numbers, or at times or places other than permitted in Part 1 of the grazing permit or authorized on the annual Bill for Collection are considered excess. You will be charged at the unauthorized use rate of \$4.10 per head month.

Forage Utilization Standards and Guidelines

These Annual Operating Instructions (AOI), which are a part of your Term Grazing Permit include new standards and guidelines from the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision. Allowable use is calculated at a point-in-time. Once these use levels have been reached, you must move permitted livestock to another unit or remove them from National Forest System lands regardless of the time remaining in the grazing season or how many Head Months you have paid for. You are responsible for tracking and complying with your permitted forage use levels.



The Standards are as follows:

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.

Range Improvements

Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit lists all improvements you are responsible for maintaining. Improvements will be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment. If the allotment is in non-use status, you are still responsible for improvement maintenance. Improvements used in common will be maintained before either operator is scheduled to turn on. For clarification, you are responsible for maintaining an allotment boundary fence. The neighboring permittee is scheduled to turn on before you; therefore the fence must be maintained before your neighbor's turn on date. Copies of the construction standards are available from the District office.

Noxious Weed Prevention

A Noxious Weed Free Hay order is in effect on all National Forest System lands within the Intermountain Region, including the Humboldt-Toiyabe National 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. For information on the control and spread of noxious weeds or producing your own noxious weed free hay or for purchase, please contact the Nevada Department of Agriculture at 775-688-1180 or visit <http://agri.state.nv.us/nwac>.

Miscellaneous

Do not place salt within 1/4 mile of any watering area or meadow or designated road or trail unless you receive prior Forest Service written approval. This includes, but is not limited to, springs, seeps water troughs, and creeks. Salt will be removed from areas where maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season, whichever comes first. Salt fed in loose form shall be contained in an approved receptacle that will keep it from spilling onto the ground.

To improve livestock distribution and reduce resource damage we encourage you to ride this allotment daily. Riders should be instructed to breakup livestock concentrations and move them away from water to areas with lighter use.

Dead livestock on National Forest Service administered lands, within 300 feet from any water source or designated roads, trails, or recreation sites will be promptly removed and properly disposed of.

Enclosed is a grazing use record for the upcoming season. Please use it to record the time (dates) livestock spend on the allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, salting, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs etc. The grazing use record should be returned to the district office within 30 days after cattle are removed from National Forest System lands. To be eligible for credit, the credit/refund application and grazing use record must be received by December 31.

The permittee shall notify the Forest Service immediately by telephone, and with written confirmation, the discovery of human remains, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony pursuant to regulation Section 10.4(b), of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Notice

The Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your Term Grazing Permit as per Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Regulations. Your compliance with the instructions is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and the instructions will result in permit action, which may include suspension or cancellation of part or your entire Term Grazing Permit. Changes to the instructions can be made based on resource objectives, provided the changes are first approved and documented by the Forest Service. We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment resources. If you have any ideas of suggestions that will improve the management of the allotment, we would like to hear from you.

Sincerely,

GENNY WILSON
District Ranger

Enclosures (3)