



File Code: 2210

Date: May 13, 2008

The following letter documents the meeting held on April 23rd with Steve Howell, Ingrid Drieling, and Genny Wilson and will serve as your annual operating instructions for the 2008 grazing season for the Noble Canyon C&H allotment.

Authorized Use

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 collections 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
Noble Canyon # 118	4	Horses	6/01-10/10	18
Noble Canyon #118	40	Cow/Calf	6/26-9/30	129
Noble Canyon #118	80	Cow/Calf	7/11-9/30	216

Noble Canyon and Raymond Meadows are scheduled to be grazed this year. Silver Mountain will be rested.

The scheduled use may be changed with prior approval due to range readiness or other conditions. One-week notice is required for approval to allow time for range inspections. Please contact our office with regards to these changes.

Allowable use:

The allowable use standards for the Noble Canyon C&H allotment are listed below. It is your responsibility to monitor utilization levels and to move your livestock to the next unit planned for use or off the allotment when the standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Steve Howell or Ingrid Drieling and they will assist you. Cattle removed from a unit after proper use has been reached are not to be allowed to return to the unit. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

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.

Upland sites:

55% use of the current year's growth of herbaceous species.

50% use of the current year's growth of shrub species such as bitterbrush.

Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotment, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian species.

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Noble Canyon C&H, where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels described above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow associated species are not being impacted. This standard would keep the utilization level at **55% use of key herbaceous** species and **25% key shrub** species. Upland and Aspen

communities in Noble Canyon C&H at **45% use of grass** or forb species; **40% use on shrubs**.

Range Improvements

Range improvements listed in part three of your term grazing permit must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotments. The standards to which the improvements must be maintained are also listed in your grazing permit.

The Noble Canyon C&H Drift Fence and Pennsylvania Canyon fences are identified in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. As discussed in our meeting and in the past these two fences do not exist. The Forest Service will look in our records to find the history of these fences. Until further notice from us, maintenance will not be required of these improvements.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT:

The dates listed in the authorized use section can be varied based on management needs or range readiness and proper use standards. If a change is necessary, please notify Steve Howell or Ingrid Drieling soon as you are aware of the need for changes in the planned use schedule. Any extension of use beyond the dates that are authorized must be requested at least one week in advance to allow my staff time to complete utilization inspections.

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.

Cattle that die on the allotments must be moved at least 100 yards away from roads, trails, and water. Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile from water, meadows, and trails used by the public. If terrain does not allow for proper salt placement elsewhere, please contact us and we will work with you to determine suitable locations. All garbage and debris associated with managing cattle under your term permit must be removed from National Forest System lands. If you spot a wildfire on either allotment, please report it immediately to our interagency dispatch center at **(775) 883-5995**.

Reporting forms have been included with this plan for you to record actual use, losses, range improvement maintenance, and other relevant information. *Please return the forms to Steve Howell or Ingrid Drieling no later than November 1st, 2008.*

The grazing fee is \$1.35 per head month, the same as last year.

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:

This year the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts are transitioning to a "Zone" program Steve Howell with Ingrid Drieling will be administering your permits this year. Next year the permit administrator will be Ingrid Drieling, Rangeland Management Specialist, on the Bridgeport Ranger District. For the 2009 Grazing Season, Ingrid will be your permit contact. AOI meetings will still be held at the Carson Ranger District. The Carson Ranger District will also be hiring a permanent seasonal employee to assist with permit administration and the needs of the permittees. All permit administration issues will be handled out of the Carson Ranger District. We hope to make this transition as smooth as possible. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions about the zoning of the range program. The contact information for Ingrid Drieling is as follows:

Ingrid Drieling
Rangeland Management Specialist
Bridgeport/Carson Ranger Districts
HC 62 Box 1000
Bridgeport, CA 93517
760-932-5808 phone
760-932-5899 fax
402-380-0658 cell

We also discussed the problems with the fence at the top of Noble Canyon and will look into budgeting for a walk thru gate in 2010.

Steve Howell will be in contact with you for supplies for the repair of your fence lines, and the status of what would be the best method to create steps in the rock to have better access to the cow trail to avoid the campground.

If you have any questions or comments regarding management of this allotment, please call Ingrid Drieling (760) 932-5808 or Steve Howell at (775) 884-8114. Thank you for your continued interest in improving the resources on National Forest lands.

Sincerely,

/s/ Genny Wilson
GENNY WILSON
District Ranger

Enlc: Report Forms