ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
2008

Robert Dickenson

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ely Ranger District

Illipah C&H Allotment

Recommended by: _____ Date: 4/7/08
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted by: _____ Date: 4-14-0
Permittee

Approved by: Patricia N. Irwin Date: 4/10/08
District Ranger

Upon signature by the District Ranger, these Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit number 40115 approved by the District Ranger on June 22, 2004.

As permittee, my signature on these Annual Operating Instructions certifies that there is no change to my permitted livestock or base property ownership as described in my grazing permit.

Robert Dickenson

Allotment	Permitted #	Approved #	Approved HM's
Illipah	169 c/c	300 c/c	687

Please review your Term Grazing Permit, #40115, prior to grazing livestock during 2008. Listed below are the topics we discussed and agreed to during your Annual Operating Meeting. Upon signature, these Annual Operating Instructions and appendices supplement and become part of your Term Grazing Permit, as provided for in Part 2, Clause 8(a).

Currant Creek Rotation Schedule

Unit	Number of Livestock	Season
Buster Mountain (BLM)	300 c/c	6/16-7/28
Taylor Flat/Poison Springs	70 c/c	7/29-9/6
Cottonwood	300 c/c	9/7-10/8
Illipah*	300 c/c	10/9-10/15

*The Illipah Unit consists of Illipah Creek (FS), Illipah Seeding (BLM), and fenced private lands. When using this unit, the permitee's 300 head of cattle will be split as follows: 70 head on Illipah Creek (FS) and the remaining cattle will utilize the private land and BLM land. The BLM will bill for the use that occurs on Buster Mountain and their other lands in the Illipah Seeding.

Dates for rotation are considered approximate; actual dates will be determined by utilization levels. When utilization levels are reached for a particular area or the allotment as a whole, the cattle will be moved to the next area or off the forest.

Allowable Use

Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). The use level stated is the maximum utilization allowed for the planned season of use. Please review the attached Utilization Standards table prior to turning out.

Before Entering the Allotment

- ✓ Review all Clauses of your Term Grazing Permit, the Allotment Management Plan (AMP), and the following Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). Be sure to ask questions if any portion of any of these documents is unclear.
- ✓ Year 2008 grazing fees are set at $1.35 per head month. All livestock use must be paid in advance of grazing.
- ✓ Personal convenience non-use must be requested sufficiently in advance of the permitted "on date" to allow the Forest Officer to approve or disapprove the application and to explore other options (normally 30 days). Approval of non-use is not automatic.
- ✓ In the absence of approved non-use, the permittee must place 90% or more of the permitted numbers on the allotment. Non-use applies only to numbers and not to seasons.
- ✓ Personal convenience non-use will not normally be approved for more than three consecutive years or for more than four years in any consecutive ten-year period.
- ✓ A permit cannot be waived based on sale of permitted livestock if that permit is in personal convenience non-use status.

Entering the Allotment

- ✓ The on date for livestock entry onto the allotment for this grazing season is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2008.
- ✓ You will need to contact the Forest Officer at least five days prior to this turn on date to confirm that the rangeland is ready and that required maintenance is complete. The actual on date will be based on a general range readiness check and as time permits, spot-checks of maintenance.

- ✓ If you are required to delay turnout, you may request and be given credit against the next year's bill for collection for the unused head months. Requests need to be received by the end of the current years grazing season.
- ✓ Indicators for rangeland readiness are soil moisture and vegetative growth. General rangeland readiness indicators are attached at the end of this AOI for your use in working with the Forest Officer to schedule the on date.

Turn Out Locations

After a sufficient time for mothering up, livestock are to be distributed throughout the pasture on the same day as they are turned out. In no case is it acceptable to leave the livestock to distribute themselves. Livestock are not to be turned out onto areas of resource concern such as riparian areas, areas near concentrated public use, trailheads, and so forth. Coordinate with the Forest Officer to ensure that we are not creating problems for ourselves.

Allotment/Pasture Exit

- ✓ The off date for a pasture is the date when the livestock are to be fully out of the unit, or in the case of the last pasture, fully off the National Forest System lands. It is your responsibility to ensure compliance wit this requirement.
- ✓ The Forest Service recognizes that moves from one pasture to another cannot usually be accomplished in one day. It is your responsibility to begin early movements of livestock to ensure that pastures are clean the dates specified. Early movement shall not exceed five days unless approved in advance by the Forest Officer.
- ✓ Failure to completely remove livestock from a pasture by the off date may result in action being taken against the grazing permit(s).
- ✓ Extensions of the authorized and paid for grazing season, if desired, must be requested at least 21 days in advance of the off date to allow time for inspection and billing and subsequent payment of additional grazing fees.

Livestock remaining on the National Forest System lands after the end of the authorized grazing season must be billed for at the unauthorized use rate, and may be cause for action to be taken against the grazing permit.

Structural and Non-Structural Improvements

✓ Rangeland Development Projects

- In order to improve management on the allotment, the Forest Service and the permittee have cooperatively agreed to complete the following projects. In general, this work will be completed on approximately 50:50 cost share basis.
- Please be aware that it usually will be necessary to plan projects with at least one-year lead-time to allow for the required documentation and clearances.
- Project work will be performed only under an approved Permit Modification for Cooperative Range Improvement. This agreement will contain and specify the project standards and timeframes.

- Projects remaining from prior years: In the past you have requested the following projects

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- Projects to be initiated this grazing season:
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✓ Special Projects (special maintenance needs, evaluation of potential new improvements, coordination with others to resolve conflicts, etc.)

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✓ Improvement Maintenance

- You are responsible for maintenance of all rangeland improvements assigned to you in your grazing permit.
- Rangeland improvements are to be maintained to a level that fully serves the intended purpose and perpetuates the effective life of each improvement. Basic standards for maintenance are included as part of this AOI.
- All assigned improvements are to be maintained to standard whether grazing occurs or not.
- Maintenance must occur throughout the season and cannot be a one-time action. Damage resulting from big game, wind or other acts of nature, or human caused actions, must be repaired in a timely manner to ensure the integrity of the structure. If serious or repeated problems occur, contact the Forest Officer and work to determine long-term solutions.
- Failure to properly complete the assigned maintenance to standard and in a timely manner will be cause for denial of permission either to place livestock on the allotment, or to move to another pastur and/or may result in action being taken against the grazing permit.
- Where structures have been amortized out through their planned life expectancy and are deteriorating to the point where maintenance is no longer able to adequately repair them, work with the Forest Officer to schedule replacement. Normally this will involve a 50:50 cooperative effort between the permittee and the Forest Service.
- The Forest Service will spot check maintenance as time permits; or if we are made aware of a proble additional checks will be conducted.

✓ Fences

- All exterior fences must be maintained to standard prior to the earlier turn on date or either yourself or your neighbor on the adjacent allotment. It is your responsibility to coordinate with your neighbor to ensure that the maintenance occurs on time. All interior fences must be maintained to standard prior to turning livestock against them.

✓ Water Developments

- Water developments must be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the pasture containing the development.

General Management Requirements

✓ Salt and Supplement Placement

- Salt or supplement can be used to improve distribution of livestock into areas of light use and to lesse grazing impacts to key areas.
- All salt or supplement will be placed away from key areas and available water, in areas where livestock is usually light.
- It should be moved progressively to allow animals to find it and to become used to grazing in the vicinity. Animals may also need to be herded to the salt and bedded in the general vicinity.
- In no case will salt or supplement be placed closer than ¼ mile to streams, springs, water developments, or other wetlands without prior approval of the Forest Officer.
- Salt or supplement will not be placed within tree regeneration areas where the smallest trees are less than three feet tall.
- Salt or supplement will not be placed near trailheads, on open roads, in areas of concentrated public use, or in other areas where such placement is liable to result in conflicts with other Forest or Grassland users.
- Unless otherwise agreed to by the Forest Officer, salt or supplement shall be removed from a pasture when the livestock are removed.

✓ Riding and Herding

- Depending on the pasture, the permittee should spend as much time as needed in moving livestock away from areas of concern (meadows, riparian areas, key areas, and so forth) and into areas of

normally light use. This is entirely to the benefit of the permittee as it allows the livestock to make us of forage that otherwise will not be grazed before allowable use standards are met in the key areas and the livestock are required to be removed from the pasture.

- Permittees are encouraged to employ gentle herding techniques based on slow movement, herding in the afternoon and early evening rather than morning, bedding livestock in the desired area overnight, letting the livestock respond to your movements, rather than pushing them hard, and so forth. This ha proven to result in better overall distribution with less stress on the livestock.

✓ Noxious Weeds/Invasive Species

- By USDA order 04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as noxious weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of noxious weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as noxious weed free.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that your livestock do not contribute to the transport of noxious weeds onto the allotment.
- If the animals are coming on to the Forest from lands known to contain noxious weeds, they will be held on clean forage or fed weed free hay for several days to allow the majority of the seeds to pass before turn on.
- Any equipment used in the transport of livestock, including horse trailers and stock trucks, should be washed before coming onto the allotment, if they have been used in areas where noxious weeds are present.
- Any hay, straw or other feeds used on the allotment either shall be certified as being free of noxious weeds, or shall consist of heat treated pelletized feeds.
- Any seed used on the allotment must be tested by a certified laboratory to AOSA standards and certified to meet State standards based on the All States Noxious Weed list.
- Your assistance in locating noxious weed sites and reporting them to your Forest Officer is greatly appreciated. If you are able and willing to assist in treating noxious weeds, please work with your Forest Officer to determine how best to help.

✓ Crossing Permits

- Any livestock movement across National Forest System lands other than within the permitted allotment and the permitted season must be done under a crossing permit. This permit can be obtained through the Forest Officer.

✓ Animal Damage Management

- Animal damage management activities must be conducted in accordance with both Federal regulations and State law. Requests for assistance will be done through APHIS and must comply with the Forest Plan. For further information, contact the Forest Officer.

✓ Disposal of Dead Livestock

- Any dead livestock shall be moved to a location greater than 200 feet from water, out of view of roads or trails, and away from any areas of significant public use.

✓ Access and Travel Management

- The Forest Service is continuing its Travel Management Planning. The Forest Service will provide project update as they become available.
- Some travelways are closed to vehicular use or have restricted seasons. Permittees are required to abide by all Forest roads and trail restrictions and closures. Written approval is required prior to driving off road in certain areas. Consult with your Forest Officer to make sure that you understand the current rules and permit requirements.

✓ Wilderness

- Livestock management in wilderness requires special consideration of the wilderness values. Motorized vehicle use may be permitted under special circumstances, as may the use of motorized equipment. If there is a need for such permission, please contact your Forest Officer.
- Manage your livestock within wilderness to minimize impacts on the natural environment and to avoi conflict with other users of the area.

Monitoring

✓ Monitoring has two key aspects. The first, Implementation Monitoring, is designed to show that we are doing what we said that we would do. In other words, that we are using pastures as planned, meeting the allowable use standards, maintaining improvements as specified, and so forth. Much of this monitoring is the permittee responsibility to a large degree. The second, Effectiveness Monitoring, is designed to tell us whether what we are doing is working as planned and to what degree.

✓ Implementation Monitoring

- You are responsible for monitoring: livestock numbers; pasture entry and exit dates; allotment entry and exit dates and, maintenance activities for assigned improvements. This information should be kep in written format and will be made available to the Forest Officer upon request. The Forest Officer will provide a reporting form for your use and may specify a due date for its return to the District Office.
- In addition, please measure your average forage height upon entering a pasture, and again when you leave a pasture. Conducting allowable use monitoring on the key areas of your pastures will aid you i tracking when livestock need to be moved to ensure that the standards are met. The Forest Officer wil work with you to ensure that you understand the methods used and that you know the key areas and key species on your allotment. The Forest Officer will also provide forms for recording the monitorin data. You are requested to send copies of the monitoring information to the Forest Officer on a regula basis, but no later than one month after the end of the authorized grazing season.
- The Forest Officer will conduct inspections of the allotment as time permits. When feasible, you will be contacted ahead of time and invited to participate. However, informal inspections may occur at an time as the opportunity presents. Significant findings from these inspections will be made available tc the permittee in a timely manner by personal contact, letter, or both. If an action is required, the Fores Officer will notify you regarding what specifically needs attention (e.g. is out of compliance), by when, and to what standard.

✓ Effectiveness Monitoring

- The Forest Service will conduct most of the Effectiveness Monitoring on the allotment. You are encouraged to participate and can receive the results of any monitoring simply by asking. We will als demonstrate techniques if you are interested.
  You are encouraged to conduct camera point monitoring and to share the information with your Fores Officer. Camera points are easy to set up and are excellent at showing longer-term trends in plant health. Your Forest Officer can work with you to show what camera points we currently are monitoring, to suggest areas where camera points are needed, and to help you to learn our camera poi monitoring system.

Notification of Problems/Coordination

In order to prevent small problems from becoming big problems, please work closely with your rangeland management specialist in his capacity as the representative of the District Ranger. Your rangeland management specialist is Chandler Mundy. His office telephone number is 775-289-5114; cell phone number is 775-289-0177. The mailing address is USDA Forest Service, Ely Ranger District, 825 Ave. E, Ely, NV 89301.

The permittee will provide the Ely District Ranger with written notification of any changes or deviation he o she wishes to make in these Annual Operating Instructions. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates form unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. The Ely District Ranger or his staff will verify the response in writing to the permittee. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.