

Ruby Mountains Ranger District

2008 Annual Operating Instructions

PERMITTEE: Bill and Sharon McKnight

PERMIT #: 70187

ALLOTMENT: Thorpe Creek C&H

The following is your Annual Operating Instructions for the Thorpe Creek C&H Allotment(s), as discussed on March 18, 2008. These instructions supplement and are part of your Term Grazing Permit under Part 2, 8(a) of the permit. The year 2008 cost per Head Month is \$1.35. Payment must be received by the due date listed on the Bill for Collection. Upon payment of fees you are authorized to graze as follows:

Authorized Use and Routing

Allotment	Number	Class	Season	Head Month	
Thorpe Creek C&H	#00272	171	Cow/Calf	06/16-09/30	601
Snell	1st				
Talbot	2nd				
Upper Conrad	3rd				
Lower Conrad	4th				
Little Thorpe	5th				

This change in rotation will be experimental to resolve grazing conflicts within the Thorpe Unit. Need to monitor and evaluate throughout season.

Forage Utilization Standards and Guidelines

- The permittee is responsible for tracking and complying with permitted forage use levels stated in your Term Grazing Permit.
- Once use levels have been reached movement to another unit or removal of livestock will be required regardless of time remaining in the grazing season or Head Months paid for.

General Range Management

- Salt and Supplement Placement: Place salt or supplement at least 200 yards from water sources, roads, trails and recreation sites. Place salt in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. Salt will be removed from areas where maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season. Salt fed in loose form shall be contained in an approval receptacle that will keep it from spilling onto the ground.
- Riding and Herding: To improve livestock distribution and reduce resource damage we encourage the riders to breakup livestock concentrations and move them away from water or sensitive areas to areas with lighter use.



- Disposal of Dead Livestock: Dead livestock shall be moved to a location greater than 300 feet of any water source, out of view of roads or trails, and away from areas of significant public use.
- Noxious Weeds: Your assistance is needed in identifying new infestations of noxious weeds. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. 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.

Vegetation Monitoring

We strongly encourage you to take utilization measurements (see the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook or Ranchers' Monitoring Guide <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm>) in designated key areas of your pastures. Doing so will track when livestock need to be moved to ensure standards are met. We will work with you to ensure that you understand the monitoring methods and will assist in determining key areas. Monitoring forms are available at the ranger station. You are encouraged to send your monitoring data to your Rangeland Management Specialist to be kept in your permanent file.

Range Improvements

- All 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.
- Please work with the Rangeland Management Specialist to develop a replacement schedule for large projects and troughs.
- All the improvements which you are responsible for maintaining are listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Meeting Notes (Structural/Nonstructural Improvements, Rotation, etc.)

-spurge on Little Thorpe
 -Met with Ranger, Nancy Prall, Garry Brown, Ken Jones and Tracy Shane on April 9th-decided to try a new rotation to resolve conflict in Thorpe Unit. Removed rest and will use each unit shorter. This will be experimental. Permittee is responsible to move livestock after reaching appropriate utilization levels outlined in the permit.

Nonuse

Please remember that a request for nonuse must be made in writing in advance. Nonuse for permittee convenience can be authorized for no more than 3 consecutive years, and not more than 4 years in any 10 year period.

Grazing Use Record

Enclosed is a Grazing Use Record for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the dates livestock spend on the allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs, etc. The grazing use record should be submitted to the district office by December 31. Blank forms can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/resources/range/index.shtml>.

Notice

The permittee will provide the Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge District with written notification of any changes or deviation he or 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 from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.

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 or suggestions that will improve the management of the allotment, we would like to hear from you. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions on the allotment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding management, please don't hesitate to contact Garry Brown at (775) 752-1714.

Permittee: _____ Date: _____

District Ranger: _____ Date: _____

Enclosures: Bill for Collection, Grazing Use Record