United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Salmon-Challis National Forest Leadore Ranger District | 311 McPherson St. South Leadore, ID 83464 208 768-2500

File Code: 2210/2230
Date: June 9, 2016

Austin Koncz and Pierce Koncz
12 Hussey Lane
Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Austin and Pierce,

The following letter documents the meeting you had with Tina Ruffing on May 18th, 2016. This letter will also serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Deer-Iron C&H Allotment for the 2016 grazing season. AOIs are part of the term grazing permit identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8 of the term grazing permit.

Permitted Use

Allotment	Permittee	No/Class	HMs	Season of Use
Deer-Iron C&H	Austin and Pierce Koncz	321 c/c	158	6/16-6/30
Deer-Iron C&H	Austin and Pierce Koncz	421 c/c	1370	7/1-10/7

2016 Authorized Use and Unit Schedules (dates are approximate and depend on meeting forage use standards)

Unit	No/Class	HMs	Season of Use
Degan Mountain Unit	321	158	6/16 – 6/30
	421	208	7/1 – 7/15
South Fork Unit	421	415	7/16 – 8/14
Peel Tree Unit	421	747	8/15 – 10/7

Livestock will not exit the Degan Mountain Unit before July 7 to avoid steelhead spawning but will be out of the unit before August 15 to avoid bull trout spawning. Livestock trailing from the South Fork Unit to the Peel Tree Unit will not occur after August 15 to avoid spawning bull trout.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of proper use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Tina Ruffing, to obtain approval <u>before</u> initiating changes or deviating from these instructions**. Any extension of use outside the permitted dates cannot be authorized.

Allowable Use

It is your responsibility to be aware and recognize utilization and alteration use indicators (sometimes called use standards). Watch the results on the land and make plans to move your livestock in time to not exceed these indicators. Regardless of the Unit Schedule shown above you must move your livestock to the next unit planned, or off the allotment, prior to exceeding these indicators. If you need assistance determining use levels please contact Tina and she will assist you.

Once cattle are removed from a unit in accordance with use indicators and/or unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Please ensure that you clean all livestock from each unit as you move livestock to the next unit or as you remove them from the allotment.

The following annual use indicators identify proper use criteria that apply to the Deer Iron allotment. You will evaluate the use indicators using the triggers to plan livestock movement to ensure that the proper use criteria are met.

Key Area Location	Monitoring Attribute	Use Indicator	Key Species
South Fork West Fork Iron Creek MIM 262	Browse Use	50%	Willow
	Greenline stubble	4 in. or 50%	Hydric spp.
	Bank Alteration	20%	n/a
South Fork South Fork Iron Creek MIM 226	Greenline stubble	6 in. or 30%	Hydric spp.
	Bank Alteration	15%	n/a
Degan Mountain North Fork Iron Creek M215	Browse Use	30%	Dogwood
	Greenline stubble	4 in. or 50%	Hydric spp.
	Bank Alteration	20%	n/a
Peel Tree M	Browse Use	30%	Willow
	Greenline stubble	4 in. or 50%	Hydric spp.
	Bank Alteration	20%	n/a
Riparian Sites (other than DMAs)	Use on the current year's growth of key riparian species		maximum 50%
Upland Sites	Use of current year's growth of key herbaceous species		maximum 50%

The Forest Service may monitor your compliance with allowable use standards. Monitoring typically occurs within two weeks of your move. Please contact Tina if you would like to join range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotments.

Biological Assessment and Opinion requirements

The Biological Opinions for the Deer-Iron C&H Allotment outlined the following additional measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish and their habitat.

1. The on date may vary so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness.
2. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks, and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.
3. When livestock are in the Degan Mountain between June 16 and July 7, permittees will ride at least twice per week to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks outside of those dates.

Range Improvements

Range improvements listed in Part 3 of your grazing permit must be maintained to the standards in Part 3 of your grazing permit, prior to livestock being placed in the unit. If you find you cannot meet these standards this year please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Tina Ruffing as soon as possible.

Tina discussed several improvements that she noted last year that were not functioning properly, including water development #5220, fence #5026, water development #5015, and water development #5257. During the discussion, you indicated that most of the improvements were in very poor or non-functioning condition when you acquired the allotment. Tina discussed that it would be beneficial to develop an improvement maintenance schedule. You agreed and also asked for a large map of the Deer-Iron allotment that had the improvements on it with a aerial image background. Tina indicated that a map would be included with your AOI.

General Management

The grazing fees for 2016 are $2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing bill is due 10 days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. **Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.** You may make payment in any one of three ways:

1. mail your payment to NFC at:
   USDA Forest Service
   C/O Citibank
   P.O. Box 301550
   Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

   Please include the Bill No. and Payer Code no. on your check.
2. pay online at: WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY. Save your receipt of payment.
3. pay at any Ranger District Office or the Public Lands Center during regular office hours. Please bring a copy of your bill with you.

The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motorized use are shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle use maps may be obtained at any Salmon-Challis Ranger District office. These prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law

or regulation (as detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a). **The Salmon Challis National Forest requires a Vehicle Use Permit, signed by the District Ranger, for ALL closed roads. This permit must be displayed in the windshield of trucks or carried on ATV's, UTV's and motorcycles. Contact your Rangeland Management Specialist to obtain a Vehicle Use Permit if it is necessary for you to travel on closed roads in the administration on your allotment(s).**

Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free.

Return your completed actual use form (attached) to Tina Ruffing within 30 days after your off date. Filling it out as the summer progresses may help with completion.

You are required to meet all criteria that qualifies you to hold a term grazing permit throughout the term of the permit. If you plan on making changes in the ownership of livestock, or the base property listed on your permit; or plan on waiving all, or part, of your term permit in preference to another party based on the sale of base property and/or permitted livestock, notify me in writing prior to making these changes or selling your base property or permitted livestock.

Compliance with all other terms of your grazing permit is required. These instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

As a reminder, dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from any water source and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

Other Information/Non-Binding Requests

Tina discussed with you that there is a small portion of sage grouse habitat in the Degan Mountain unit of the allotment. She provided a map that showed the habitat and also handouts that outlined standards, guides, objectives and required design features from the Record of Decision (ROD) and Forest Plan Amendment. She discussed the guidelines that would apply to the summer/early fall habitat on your allotment and indicated that there would be crews assessing habitat over the next two summers to determine if it was capable of meeting the guidelines outlined in the ROD. You may be receiving under separate letter an outline of our planned work this year that would help prepare us to implement the Sage Grouse Forest Plan Amendment in 2017 or at the latest prior to the 2018 grazing season. And, as per the Forest Supervisor's promise earlier this year, you will receive phone notification prior to any habitat survey work on your allotment.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance in identifying weed locations on your allotment is appreciated.

The number for reporting a wild fire is: Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center (208) 756-5157.

If you have any questions regarding any of these instructions please call Tina Ruffing at (208) 756-5226 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jay T. Winfield

JAY T. WINFIELD
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Forms (blank)
Vehicle Use Permit