



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 27, 2007

Dear Brush Creek Allotment Permittee:

This letter will serve as our Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Brush Creek Allotment during the 2007 grazing season. The following items were discussed and agreed upon at our annual meeting on April 17, 2007 and will guide our management of the allotment this year:

Distribution and Grazing (D&G) Strategy

We will follow the enclosed D&G Strategy. The amount of time spent in each unit will depend upon actual grazing utilization and distribution patterns. The dates proposed and the units scheduled are tentative and depend upon the availability of forage and water, and the effects of weather. We will follow the proposed schedule unless there is good reason to change. Please let us know in advance if you anticipate any change from this strategy.

Proper Allowable Use

Proper allowable use of riparian areas will be limited to 55 percent utilization on key forage species until July 15. Between July 15 and August 15, grazing use will be limited to 45 percent. After August 15, use on key species in riparian areas will be limited to 30 percent, with a remaining stubble height of **no less than 4 inches** left on all stream-side areas at the end of the grazing season. As a steward of the land you are responsible to see that the 4 inches are not exceeded. Since we will be using a deferred-rotation grazing system this season, proper allowable use will not exceed 50 percent, by weight, of current year's growth on key forage species within key upland sites. **Once utilization levels approach six inches, you will be required to move into the next scheduled unit.** Therefore, it is important that your livestock be distributed as evenly as possible.

Fees

Your Bill for Collection for the upcoming grazing season has been sent. Please ensure that this bill is paid by the due date. You will not be allowed to place livestock onto National Forest lands until verification of payment is received in our office.

Association Responsibilities

After some discussion your association decided that Bryce Olsen would continue to serve as the association president and would be the primary point of contact for allotment matters.



The Allotment Management Plan (AMP) requires the Association to provide a full-time rider to ensure proper livestock distribution patterns and utilization levels. Please make sure that the rider understands the importance of moving cattle away from riparian areas since utilization levels achieved in these areas will determine how long you are allowed to stay in each unit.

Range Improvement Maintenance and Construction

All Allotment boundary fences will be operational by June 2nd. The division fences, water developments and other improvements of the first unit used will be repaired before the cattle are allowed onto the Allotment. All improvements will be in good working order before livestock are permitted to enter the next scheduled unit in the rotation. We will be inspecting these fences and developments before livestock go on and also before they move into each unit. If these repairs are not done, you will not be allowed onto the Allotment, or you may be required to come off the Allotment early. There has been concern about the responsibilities for the fence in Little Brush Creek Gorge shared with the Diamond Mountain Allotment, enclosed is a map showing the fence and the portions of the fence that each allotment is responsible for.

It is our understanding that Morgan Beal on the adjacent Lonesome Park Allotment is planning to ship his cattle from the Barker Corrals on your allotment. This will require both entities to coordinate this effort. It was also mentioned that the maintenance of these corrals would be split with Morgan. Please let us know how this arrangement was resolved.

We also discussed the need to develop a list of needed range improvements that we would prioritize throughout the summer. While we don't expect to have any range improvement funding for this allotment any time soon, having this list prepared will help to rank your allotment's needs with others and eventually to get improvement work done on the ground.

Salting and Distribution

Salting must be done within the guidelines specified in your grazing permits. Salting grounds will be located more than **100 feet** from roads and trails, and no closer than **300 feet** from watering sources. Following these standards will help to achieve better grazing distribution. Compliance with these guidelines will be monitored again this grazing season.

Noxious Weeds

Your help will go a long ways towards containing the spread of noxious weeds or preventing their establishment on your allotment. We will be providing each permittee information describing the noxious weeds we're most concerned about. Please be aware. Let us know if you discover any Dyer's Woad, any knapweeds, Scotch Thistle or Leafy Spurge. If we can prevent these species from becoming established then we can keep our ranges productive. If you discover any of these species please let us know their specific location so that we treat them. Digging them up and removing the seeding portion of the plant in a plastic bag can also be an effective treatment. When you remove the plant we still need to know where that weed was located so that we can put that information into our database and continue to check the site to make sure they don't come back the next year(s). Thanks for your help.

Weed Free Hay

Any hay or straw used in association with your grazing permit will be certified and tagged as noxious weed seed free as directed by Forest Service Order #04-00-097. Please ensure that any hay, straw, or mulch used on the Forest complies with this order.

Violation Reporting

If you witness vandalism or ATVs that are in violation you can contact John Simons (435) 790-7060 or (435) 781-5131. Please take photos and document the violation to aide in the legal process.

Health of livestock

Following are a list of poisonous plant species that you should watch for:

1. Milkvetch
2. Larkspur
3. Groundsel
4. Deathcamas
5. Locoweed

Records

The Actual Use and Permittee Expense forms are for your use in recording the actual livestock use, losses, and operating expenses during the upcoming grazing season. Please ensure that the information recorded on these **forms is returned to our office no later than October 15.**

We look forward to working with you again this year, and appreciate your willingness to cooperate with us in the proper management of the Ashley National Forest. We hope that the upcoming grazing season proves to be a very productive one for you. If you have questions, please contact **Ross Catron** at (435) **781-5268** or (435) **790-5964** (cell), or **Heather Garrison** at (435) **781-5168** or (435) **790-7030** (cell).

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS T SCHMELTER
District Ranger