

File Code: 2210/2230-3

Date: May 8, 2007

Jon Wilde  
HCR 65 Box 785  
McKinnon, WY 82938

Dear Jon,

This letter references the annual meeting you, Albert Wilde, Allen Young, and Aaron Zobell had on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in Manila concerning your grazing on the Hickerson Park Allotment. As a follow-up, this letter will serve as your 2007 operating instructions and will become part of your permit as provided for in Part 2, Number 8(a) of your term grazing permit. Your 2007 operating instructions are as follow:

**Hickerson Park Allotment**

<b><u>Numbers</u></b>	<b><u>Unit</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
150	Lodgepole	June 16 – July 7
	Round Park	July 8 – July 29
	Hickerson Park	July 30 – August 24
	Carter Dugway	August 25 – Sept. 10

Cattle use within the Lodgepole unit should not exceed 40%. Cattle use within the Hickerson Park and Round Park units should not exceed 50%, or a stubble height of not less than 4 inches along the North Fork of Sheep Creek in Hickerson Park. Once the prescribed utilization level is reached in any unit, your cattle should be moved into the next unit. Fall use within the Carter Dugway unit should not exceed 30%. Once 30% utilization is reached in the Carter Dugway unit, it will be time to come home.

Please keep track of the dates, numbers, and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and document them on the enclosed Grazing Use Record form. Return them to Aaron Zobell at the end of the grazing season. Any changes to this schedule must be coordinated in advance with Aaron Zobell. The schedule and utilization levels listed above are per your 1995 Hickerson Park Allotment Management Plan.

You informed Aaron that you and the other permittees would not have a rider this year for the Hickerson Park Allotment. As a result, I expect you and the other permittees will fulfill the tasks this rider has performed in the past, including but not limited to keeping cattle in their appropriate units, maintaining proper distribution, keeping gates closed, and moving cattle from unit to unit as needed. It is especially important that cattle be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and than an even



distribution of your cattle be maintained while in a unit, since any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next unit or to come home.

Maintenance of range improvements assigned to you in your permit is your responsibility and should be completed before cattle enter each unit. Maintenance responsibilities are noted on Part 3 of your term grazing permit. All labor and materials needed for maintenance are also your responsibility. Any ATV use in the administration of your allotment is limited to existing roads or along fence lines for fence maintenance. Salt should not be placed closer than ¼ mile from water or 200 feet from adjacent roads or trails. Other items specifically needing permittee attention that were discussed included the following:

- ❖ Hickerson Park/Lodgepole Unit boundary fence (#001201): Complete reconstruction of this fence must occur before livestock are allowed on the allotment this grazing season. This means that approximately one mile of fence must be reconstructed before 16<sup>th</sup> of June. You are responsible for approximately 3,880 feet of reconstruction while Albert and Allen are responsible for the remainder. Contact Aaron when you, Albert, and Allen have completed the reconstruction of this fence so that Aaron can inspect it before your proposed on date.
- ❖ Thornberg Fence: Allen and Albert have the responsibility of extending this fence as was shown to them in the field in 2006. This fence should be extended before the 2007 grazing season. Cattle will not be allowed on the allotment in the 2008 grazing season until this fence is completed. This fence is being extended because the initial construction of this fence did not extend ¼ mile into the timber as initially planned and marked on the ground.
- ❖ John Q Reservoir (#001027): Jon, you have the responsibility of maintaining this improvement to the standards listed in your permit. Additionally, your permit states that improvements that are your responsibility must be maintained to the standards listed in our permit before cattle are allowed to enter a unit. As such maintenance of this reservoir must occur to the standards listed in your permit before June 16<sup>th</sup> if your cattle are to enter the Lodgepole unit on the proposed on date. Please contact Aaron when you have completed the maintenance of this improvement so that he can inspect it.
- ❖ Utilization levels within the Lodgepole unit continue to be an area of concern on the allotment. Key areas within the Lodgepole unit, such as Lodgepole Creek should not exceed 40% utilization. Proper distribution while cattle are within the unit, having the John Q Reservoir operational, and making sure cattle do not reenter the unit after 40% utilization is met and/or after the off date for this unit, all play an important role in meeting the standards listed in your Allotment Management Plan.

Jon you and the permittees asked about the following:

- ❖ Help in maintaining the John Q Reservoir Improvement (#001027): As previously discussed maintenance of range improvements is the permittee's responsibility and as such you are solely responsible for maintaining this improvement. However, Aaron has agreed to assist you, as he is able to complete your maintenance responsibilities for the reservoir this year. If you have need of his assistance please contact him and he will assist you as his schedule and time allows.

- ❖ North Fork Sheep Creek Trail (#0123): Maintenance of this trail by the Forest Service should occur before 15<sup>th</sup> of June. The old North Fork Sheep Creek Trail is no longer a Forest Service trail and as such will not and should not be maintained.
- ❖ Carter Dugway/Forest Service boundary fence (#019301): Reconstruction/maintenance needs to occur from Spring Creek East to Phil Pico Spring. It appears that this fence is not listed on any permittees maintenance list but rather is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Should you notice unauthorized drift onto Forest Service administered lands please contact Aaron. He will take the appropriate action at the point in time to ensure that this trespass ceases.

Wade Stephens wants to extend approximately 200-300 feet to the Birch Creek drift fence (#019203). This fence is on the Hickerson Park Allotment, not the allotment for which he has a permit. He believes that an extension to this fence will significantly reduce the likelihood of his and your cattle drifting down Birch Creek before his and your off dates. Aaron has discussed the possibility of this extension with you, Allen, and Albert. You all believe this extension is not necessary but have agreed to allow this extension to occur. As a result I expect this extension to occur sometime this summer.

We also need your help to control noxious weeds. By removing musk thistle seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base, the spread of this plant can be controlled. Please let Aaron know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. We are especially concerned about Dyer's Woad and any other "new" weeds.

Finally, we sent out a letter in December to all permittees discussing the drought situation. Since December the Flaming Gorge Ranger District has continued to receive needed precipitation. If the current trend continues into the rest of the spring and summer, I do not plan on reducing permittee permitted animal months. However, should the weather pattern change and we receive little to no precipitation between now and your on date, I expect that I will need to adjust your permitted animal months to better reflect forage that is available for consumption by your livestock and to protect rangeland resources. Please have a contingency plan ready in case this occurs.

Thanks for your efforts to manage this allotment. If you have any questions or comments please contact Aaron Zobell at (435) 781-5279.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeff E. Schramm*  
JEFF E. SCHRAMM  
District Ranger

Enclosure (1)  
Grazing Use Form