



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 27, 2007

Rancho Escondido, LLC
ATTN: Laine Fluekiger
380 E. Main 2nd Floor, Building B
Midway, UT 84049

Dear Laine:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Lonesome Park Allotment during the 2007 grazing season. The following items were discussed and agreed upon by Morgan Beal, Heather Garrison and Ross Catron at our annual meeting (April 16, 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 area of the allotment will depend upon actual grazing utilization and distribution patterns. The general strategy for grazing the allotment is that we will begin grazing on the north end of the allotment and move south as the season progresses. Key to this strategy is managing grazing use in Kane Hollow, East Park, and Round Meadows. The dates proposed are tentative and depend upon the availability of forage, water, and the effects of weather however; we will follow the proposed schedule unless there is good reason to change. Please let us know in advance if you anticipate any variance from this strategy.

Cattle will be trucked to the allotment and unloaded near Dyer's Park unless range and road conditions allow cattle to be unloaded further north where it is more desirable for them to begin their grazing season. It is your intent to bring them onto the allotment one truck load a day. Cattle will be driven off of the allotment in the fall and it is your plan to load them into trucks at the Brush Creek corrals.

You also indicated that a cattle drifting from the Taylor Mountain Allotment was a problem last year. This is something we will follow-up on this season.

Proper Allowable Use

Proper allowable grazing use will not exceed 50 percent, by weight, of key forage species in Kane Hollow and 40 percent in the East Park and Round Park Meadows. Proper allowable use in other riparian areas will be limited to 65 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 remainder **stubble height of no less than 4 inches** left on all stream-side areas at the end of the grazing season. Monitoring



will occur within the key areas noted above. Proper allowable use will not exceed 45 percent, by weight, of current year's growth on key forage species within key upland sites. Once utilization levels have been achieved in key areas, you will be required to move into the next scheduled unit or off of the forest. Therefore, it is important that your livestock be distributed as evenly as possible.

Grazing Fees

Your Bill for Collection for the upcoming grazing season has been previously 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.

Herding Responsibilities

The Allotment Management Plan requires 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, because utilization levels achieved in these areas will determine how long you are allowed to stay on the Allotment. Please review your full time rider's camping location with either Heather or Ross before you set up camp so that the site can be approved. This letter is your authorization to camp there the length of the grazing season or until required to move. Please note that you are required to keep a clean and orderly camp.

Range Improvement Maintenance and Construction

All Allotment boundary fences, water developments, and other improvements will be maintained before livestock are allowed onto the Allotment. We will be inspecting the fences and other developments before livestock go on and if the repairs are not done, you will not be allowed onto the Allotment.

Weed Free Hay

Any hay or straw used in association with your grazing permit must 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 at 435-790-7060 or 435-781-5131. Please take photos and document the violation to aide in the legal process.

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 correct and returned to our office before October 8.

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