



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 27, 2007

Dear Taylor Mountain Permittee:

This letter will serve as our Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Taylor Mountain Allotment during the 2007 grazing season. The following items were discussed and agreed upon at our annual meeting 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 dates proposed and the units scheduled are tentative and depend upon the availability of forage, water, and the effects of weather. We will follow the proposed schedule unless there is a good reason to change. Please let us know in advance if you anticipate any variance 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.

### **Grazing 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**



The Allotment Management Plan 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, division fences, water developments and other improvements of the first unit used will be repaired before livestock are allowed onto the Allotment. All water developments, unit fences, and other improvements will be in good working order before the cattle 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.

### **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.

### **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 aid 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 8th.

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 **Heather Garrison at (435) 781-5168 or by cell at (435) 790-7030.**

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS T SCHMELTER  
District Ranger