United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Salmon-Challis National Forest Leadore Ranger District | PO Box 180, 176 N Railroad St. Leadore, ID 83464 208 768-2500

**File Code:** 2210/2230
**Date:**

Ellsworth Angus
PO Box 60
Leadore, ID 83464

Dear Carl,

The following letter will document your meeting with Concetta Brown on May 20th, 2014 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Nez Perce C&H allotment for the 2014 grazing season. The authorized use for the Nez Perce C&H allotment for cattle with the O and Y brands will be as follows:

**Permitted Use:**

| Allotment | Permittee | Number/Class | H.M. | Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nez Perce C&H | Ellsworth Angus | 150 yearling | 404 | 7/1-9/20 |
| Nez Perce C&H | Y Livestock | 50 yearling | 135 | 7/1-9/20 |

**Authorized Use for the 2014 Grazing Season:**

| Allotment | Permittee | Number/Class | H.M. | Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nez Perce C&H | Ellsworth Angus | 150 yearling | 404 | 7/1-9/20 |
| Nez Perce C&H | Y Livestock | 35 c/c and 7 yearling | 113 | 7/1-9/20 |

| Allotment | Unit | Number/ Class | H.M. | Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nez Perce C&H | Deer Creek | 35 c/c<br>157 yearling | 189 | 7/1-7/30 |
| | Dry Gulch | 35 c/c<br>157 yearling | 139 | 8/1-8/22 |
| | Mountain Boy | 35 c/c<br>157 yearling | 183 | 8/23-9/20 |
| | Nez Perce | | Rested | |

Only cattle with the O and Y brands are authorized to graze on the Nez Perce C&H allotment. The Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your Term Grazing Permit as per Part 2, item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Regulations. Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Concetta Brown and obtain approval before initiating changes of deviating from these instructions. Changes can be made based on resource objectives, provided the changes are first approved and documented by an authorized officer.

The dates listed in the authorized use section may vary based on management needs or range readiness and proper use standards. If a change is necessary, please notify Concetta Brown at (208) 768-2503 as soon as you are aware of the need for changes in the planned use schedule. Any extension of use beyond the permitted dates will not be authorized.

**Allowable Use**

The allowable use standards for the Nez Perce C&H allotment are listed below. It is your responsibility to monitor utilization levels and to move your livestock to the next unit planned or off the allotment when the standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Concetta Brown and she will assist you. Cattle removed from a unit after utilization levels have been reached are not allowed to return to the unit. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

**Nez Perce C&H:**

| Key Area Locations | Unit – Creek | Monitoring Attribute | Annual Use Indicator | Key Species | Trigger |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MIM<br>M 228 | Deer Creek Unit – Deer Cr. | Browse use | 50%<br>30% | Willow<br>Alder | 45%<br>25% |
| | | Greenline Stubble | 4 in. | Hydric spp. | 5 in. |
| | | Bank Alteration | 20% | N/A | 15% |
| Upland Sites | All Units | Utilization | 50% | Upland grass species | 45% |
| Riparian Areas | All Units | Utilization by Key Species | 50% | Riparian grass species | 45% |

The Biological Opinion for the **Nez Perce C&H** Allotment laid out the following measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish. The measures are as follows:

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Resting a unit each year provides benefits to riparian vegetation. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for greenline successional status.
2. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness. This will reduce potential for bank alteration. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
3. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment within the terms of the term grazing permit including moves in response to fish spawning. This will help us meet our long term riparian resource objectives. Annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel.
4. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from streams. This will continue to reduce potential impacts on riparian areas, spawning areas and designated and proposed critical habitat.
5. Permittees will use riders to direct livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas at least once every two weeks, reducing potential impacts on designated critical habitat.
6. Fences and water developments have been placed to reduce livestock use on streams and their associated riparian areas. This will continue to reduce impacts on riparian areas, spawning areas and designated and proposed critical habitat.

**Range Improvements**

Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment.

Part 2, Section 8(i) of your term grazing permit states:

> "This permit is issued and accepted with the provision that the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or government-owned, that are assigned for maintenance to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements to be maintained are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The Government may maintain or otherwise improve said improvements when, in its opinion, such action will be to its advantage."

Portions of division fence #4080 between the Deer Creek and Mountain Boy units needs reconstructed. Carl will get with Concetta on the amount of materials needed.

**General Management**

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 motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the 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. ATVs may be used off of designated routes for improvement maintenance prior to livestock entering Forest lands. This means, once livestock are on the allotment, ATV use off of designated routes should be limited to the unit cattle are currently in and the unit scheduled to be grazed next only for managing your livestock and/or maintaining improvements.

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. In situations where terrain does not allow proper placement of salt, please contact Concetta and she will determine a suitable location with your input.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

The grazing fees for 2014 are the base rate of $1.35 per head month.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay their grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting ***a minimum of 35 days prior*** to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

If you spot a wild fire, report it immediately to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center in Salmon, ID at **(208) 756-5157.**

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return within **30 days** of the end of the grazing season.

In addition, approval of requests for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Requests for non-use must be done in writing and the approval of a request for non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment resources. If you have any ideas of suggestions that will improve the management of the allotment, we would like to hear from you.

If you have any questions regarding any of the allotments for which you have permits, please call Concetta at (208) 768-2503, Ingrid Drieling at (208) 768-2516 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jay Winfield*
District Ranger

cc: Leslie Young-Y Livestock
Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records