



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 5, 2014

Bruce, Dave or Tom McFarland
PO Box 125
Carmen, ID 83462

Dear Tom, Dave, and Bruce,

The following letter will document your meeting with Concetta Brown on April 9th, 2014 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H allotments for the 2014 grazing season. The authorized use for the Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H allotments for cattle with the  and  brands will be as follows:

Permitted Use:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Burns Basin C&H	Bruce, Tom or Dave McFarland	126 c/c	381	6/1-8/31
Carmen Creek C&H	Bruce, Tom or Dave McFarland	55 c/c	193	6/16-9/30

Authorized Use for the 2014 Grazing Season:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Burns Basin C&H	Bruce, Tom or Dave McFarland	126 c/c	365	6/1-8/31
Carmen Creek C&H	Bruce, Tom or Dave McFarland	55 c/c	87	7/15-8/15 and 9/15- 9/30



<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/ Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Burns Basin C&H	Little 4th	126 c/c	62	6/5-6/19
	Middle Wagonhammer	incidental use from trailing to next unit		
	Burns Basin	126 c/c	91	6/20-7/11
	Lower Silverleads	126 c/c	46	7/12-7/22
	Upper Silverleads	126 c/c	91	7/23-8/13
	Upper Wagonhammer	126 c/c	21	8/24-8/28
Carmen Creek	Carmen Creek	55 c/c	58	7/15-8/15
	Carmen Face	55 c/c	29	9/15-9/30

Only cattle with the  A/ and  I brands are authorized to graze on the Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H allotments. 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 Burns Basin C&H and Carmen Creek C&H 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.

Burns Basin C&H:

Riparian sites:

A minimum stubble height of **5 inches** on the current year's growth of key riparian

species

Upland sites:

Maximum of **50%** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species

Carmen Creek C&H:

Key Area Location # Unit Name / Creek Name	Monitoring Attribute ¹	Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM 334 This site was converted to a photo point in 2011 Baseline data was collected in 2014	Browse Use	50%	Willow	45%
		30%	Alder	25%
	Greenline stubble	4 in.	Hydric spp	5 in.
	Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	15%
Upland Sites-All Units	Utilization	50%	Upland Grasses	45%
Riparian Areas-All Units	Utilization by key Species	50%	Rip. grass species	45%

The Biological Opinion for the **Carmen Creek 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. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness. This will reduce the potential for bank alteration. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
2. 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. Annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel.
3. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks. This will continue to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
4. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks reducing potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
5. 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 spawning areas and designated 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.”

The following is a list of improvements for the **Burns Basin C&H** Allotment that were discussed in the meeting:

Drift Fence #2220 is not in an ideal location and you would like to move it a quarter mile down the canyon. Where the fence is now, cattle can get around the fence but then get stuck above it. Moving the fence farther down the canyon would allow it to be tied into natural barriers to prevent cattle from getting around it. Drift Fence #2219 is in a similar situation and could benefit from being moved also. Concetta will find out if what needs to be done in order to move the fences. Concetta will also GPS the potential new locations this season.

Last year we discussed your desire to extend drift fence #2049 in the Lower Wagonhammer Unit about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. You mentioned extending the fence would prevent drift into the private to the East of the allotment. Concetta explained that it would require NEPA to permanently extend the fence. For the 2014 season, you are going to install electric fence to help prevent drift into private property.

You told Concetta that the seeps in the Silverlead units are getting hit hard due to the lack of available water lower in the allotment. Concetta presented the option of the water collectors that were used last season on the Hawley Creek Allotment. You will contact her if you are interested in using them this season.

Along fence #2042 and fence #2055 you are going to replace wire gates with swinging gates to make access to the trail easier for recreationalists. This will help prevent fences from being left open and cattle drift into unauthorized units. Thank you for developing a working solution to the issue.

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. Please pay particular attention to the trailhead at Wagonhammer, a new infestation of bur buttercup was discovered this spring.

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 or 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

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records