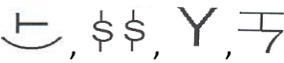


**File Code:** 2210/2230

**Date:** 05/02/2014

Shiner Ranches Inc.  
PO Box 26  
Lemhi, ID 83465

Dear Dean and Stephen,

The following letter will document your meeting with Sara Norman and Ingrid Drieling on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Hawley Creek C&H allotment for the 2014 grazing season. The authorized use for the Hawley Creek C&H allotment for cattle with the  brands will be as follows:

**Permitted Use:**

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hawley Creek C&H	Leadore Land Partners	316 c/c	956	7/1-9/30
	McFarland Livestock	302 c/c	913	7/1-9/30
	Shiner Ranches	247 c/c	747	7/1-9/30

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

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hawley Creek C&H	Leadore Land Partners	253 c/c	765	7/1-9/30
	McFarland Livestock	242 c/c	732	7/1-9/30
	Shiner Ranches	198 c/c	599	7/1-9/30

\*Reduction in accordance with 2013 suspension

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hawley Creek C&H	Little Bear/Stove		REST	
	Upper Ranch	693 c/c	456	7/1-7/20
	Lower Ranch	693 c/c	957	7/21-8/31
	Little Bear	693 c/c	387	9/1-9/17
	Big Bear	693 c/c	296	9/18-9/30
	Little Bear Riparian Pasture			Incidental Use Before 8/15
	Fish Pasture			Incidental Use Before 8/15

Only cattle with the  brands are authorized to graze on the Hawley Creek 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 Ingrid and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Changes can be made within the permitted dates to the rotation listed above 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 Ingrid Drieling at (208) 768-2516 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 Hawley Creek 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 Ingrid Drieling 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.

<b>Key Area Location</b>	<b>Unit – Creek</b>	<b>Monitoring Attribute</b>	<b>Annual Use Indicator</b>	<b>Key Species</b>	<b>Trigger</b>
MIM M302	Little Bear/Stove Creek Unit – Reservoir Creek	Greenline stubble	6 in	Carex	7 in
		Bank alteration	15%	N/A	15%
MIM M276	Big Bear Unit – Big Bear Creek	Greenline stubble	5 in	Carex	6 in
		Bank alteration	10%	N/A	10%
MIM M304	Fish Pasture Unit – Big Bear Creek	Greenline stubble	6 in	Carex	7 in
		Bank alteration	15%	N/A	10%
MIM M303	Lower Ranch Unit – Reservoir Creek	Greenline stubble	6 in.	Carex	7 in.
		Bank alteration	15%	N/A	10%
MIM M298	Little Bear Unit – Little Bear Creek	Greenline stubble	5 in	Carex	6 in
		Bank alteration	20%	N/A	15%
MIM M280	Big Bear Unit – Meadow Creek	Greenline stubble	5 in	Carex	6 in
		Bank alteration	20%	N/A	15%
Upland sites	All Units	Utilization	Up to 50%	Upland grass species	45%
Riparian Areas	All Units	Utilization by Key Species	50%	Riparian grass species	45%

During the 2014 grazing season, SCNF will be completing the MIM monitoring protocol at some of the DMA locations. This may lead to a change in annual use indicator standards based on the condition. If you are interested in assisting with this process, please let Ingrid know.

You were issued a Notice of Suspension (NOS) for exceeding allowable use standards in 2013. The NOS reduced authorized head months on the allotment by 20% and will be implemented during the 2014 and 2015 grazing season. To follow up on this Ingrid Drieling will be conducting mid-season monitoring with you and/or your riders to assess the triggers on units where standards were exceeded. She will coordinate dates with President Dean Shiner and the Hawley Creek riders.

In addition to the 20% suspension, the following responsibilities/actions are expected of the permittees and of the FS. These responsibilities are:

### **Forest Service Actions**

1. Continue management within the permitted dates established to protect fish populations and habitat, while placing more emphasis on standards and indicators for triggering pasture move dates and exiting the allotment.
2. Provide education opportunities for permittees about use limits, which trigger moves.
3. Define "Incidental Use" within the Fish Pasture Unit. Incidental use constitutes supervised trailing through this unit, with no strays left longer than 6 hours.
4. Based on follow-up monitoring a portion or all of Little Bear/Stove Creek will be rested during the 2014 grazing season.
5. Provide temporary improvement materials to improve distribution across the allotment and to exclude specific springs, and aspen locations from livestock use.
6. Work with permittees to better design a grazing system that would address resource needs and be practical to implement on the Hawley Creek Allotment.

### **Permittee Actions**

1. Implement unit moves based on timely recognition of use standards and indicators.
2. Remove all livestock from the allotment once standards and indicators are met in the last grazing unit, regardless of authorized end of grazing season date.
3. Implement a year of rest on all or a portion of the Little Bear/Stove Creek Unit based on follow-up monitoring performed by the Range staff.
4. Re-install that temporary improvements that were installed in 2013, to aid in livestock distribution while excluding livestock grazing in specific spring and aspen locations and discuss the possibility of addition temporary improvements.
5. Coordinate with the Rangeland Management Specialist on the design of a potential rest rotation grazing management system applicable to the Hawley Creek Allotment.

### **Conservation measures:**

The following measures will be implemented as part of the Hawley Creek Allotment's annual operating instructions (AOI) to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish:

1. A deferred rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Early season use 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 continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) one day every two weeks, reducing potential impacts on riparian areas, spawning areas and designated and proposed 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.
7. Little Bear Riparian Unit has a fence around Little Bear Creek. The fence helps manage use along Little Bear Creek.

### **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 range improvements and temporary improvements for the **Hawley Creek C&H** allotment were discussed in the meeting:

Portions of the fence between the Reservoir Unit and the Upper Ranch Unit, near Quaking Aspen (#4067) need to be reconstructed. Contact Ingrid to pick up materials for the project.

The fence around the spring source of the Little Bear Water Development (#4193) needs to be reconstructed during the 2014 grazing season. Contact Ingrid to pick up materials for this project.

We discussed the use of temporary improvements on the allotment again in 2014, due to the successful implementation of them on the allotment during the 2013 grazing season. Only one of the temporary troughs implemented during 2013, did not provide an adequate water source. This temporary improvement, in the Bog Creek drainage, will be moved to a new location.

### **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 are designated by the 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 Ingrid Drieling 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 at the end of the grazing season. Please return the completed forms within a month of leaving the allotment.

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 Ingrid Drieling at (208)768-2516 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jay Winfield*  
Jay Winfield

District Ranger

cc: Leadore Land Partners, Carl Lufkin and McFarland Livestock  
Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records