



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 25, 2014

Peterson Land and Livestock
PO Box 85
Leadore, ID 83464

Ed,

The following letter will document your meeting with Sara Norman, Ingrid Drieling and myself on April 7th, 2014 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Lee Creek C&H allotment for the 2014 grazing season. The authorized use for the Lee Creek C&H

allotment for cattle with the , , and  brands will be as follows:

Permitted Use:

<u>Permitee</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H. M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
James Whittaker	Lee Creek C&H	151 c/c	303	6/16-8/15
Udy Estates	Lee Creek C&H	58 c/c	116	6/16-8/15
Peterson Land and Livestock	Lee Creek C&H	254 c/c	509	6/16-8/15

Authorized Use for the 2013 Grazing Season:

<u>Permitee</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H. M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
James Whittaker	Lee Creek C&H	151 c/c	303	6/16-8/15
Udy Estates	Lee Creek C&H	58 c/c	116	6/16-8/15
Peterson Land and Livestock	Lee Creek C&H	254 c/c	509	6/16-8/15

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit(s)</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Lee Creek C&H	Big Eightmile	463 c/c	228	6/16-6/30
	Everson	463 c/c	228	7/1-7/15
	Lee Creek & Walters	463 c/c	472	7/16-8/15

Only cattle with the , , and  brands are authorized to graze on the Lee 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 Drieling and obtain approval before initiating changes or 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 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 permitted dates will not be authorized.

Allowable Use

The allowable use standards for the Lee 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.

Key Area Location	Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM M257	Everson Unit-Stroud Creek	Greenline stubble	6in	Hydric spp.	5 in
		Bank alteration	15%	N/A	15%
MIM M292	Everson Unit- Everson Creek	Greenline stubble	4 in	Hydric spp.	5in
		Bank alteration	<20%	N/A	15%
MIM M256	Big 8mile Unit- Big 8mile Creek	Greenline stubble	6in	Hydric spp.	5 in
		Bank alteration	15%	N/A	15%
		Browse Use	30%	Willow	45%
MIM M315	Big 8mile Unit- Dairy Creek	Greenline stubble	6in.	Hydric spp.	5in.
		Browse Use	30%	Willow	45%
		Bank alteration	15%	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 our meeting we discussed moving the Stroud Creek DMA site because the location is not representative of livestock use in the unit. This site also receives heavy pressure from recreational uses. An interdisciplinary team from the SCNF will need to make a field visit to the site before a new location can be determined.

Conservation Measures:

The following measures will be implemented as part of the Lee Creek C&H Allotment's Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA-listed fish. Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout considerations are:

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 creeks. This will continue to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
5. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) two days a week, reducing potential impacts on spawning areas and 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 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 range improvements and temporary improvements for the **Lee Creek C&H** allotment were discussed in the meeting:

We discussed the possibility of developing a spring in the Everson Unit and putting in a pipeline to the Big Eightmile Unit. By developing this spring, it could help to distribute cattle away from the creek and utilize a greater portion of the unit. The Lee Creek C&H Allotment is in the initial stages of the NEPA process which could provide the opportunity for construction of this improvement. During the 2014 grazing season we discussed putting in a temporary development at this site; please contact Ingrid to receive materials for this project.

We also discussed the possibility of developing a spring in the Lee Creek unit, to help distribute cattle away from the meadows in the lower elevation portions of the unit. The Lee Creek C&H Allotment is in the initial stages of the NEPA process which could provide the opportunity for construction of this improvement. During the 2014 grazing season we discussed putting in a temporary development at this site, please contacted Ingrid to receive materials for this project.

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 Sara 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 2013 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.

The Lee Creek C&H Allotment is in the initial stages of the NEPA process. During our meeting we spoke about your role in this process and the potential to adjust management. We will be working with you throughout this process and will schedule field visits with you this summer. If you have any questions or concerns about the NEPA process please contact Ingrid Drieling at (208)768-2516 or myself at (208)756-5247. We welcome your involvement and input in this process and look forward to 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: James Whittaker, Les Udy and Tom Udy
Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records