United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Salmon-Challis National Forest
Challis-Yankee Ranger District
HC 63 Box 1669, Hwy
Challis, ID 83226
208 879-4199

File Code: 2230/2210
Date: June 16, 2014

Jim and Maria Dowton
1630 Dowton Lane
May, ID 83253

Dear Jim & Maria,

This letter serves as your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions for the Lawson Creek allotment, and should be considered as an extension of Term Grazing Permit #20049. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

Salmon Valley Stewardship will be collecting rangeland data on the allotment this summer and may be contacting you for allotment information.

Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Judy Madsen	33 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	126
Lyle Hutchison	42 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	160
Kathleen Latimer	90 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	343
Scott Hayes	171 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	652
Jim Dowton	280 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	1068

Authorized Use for 2014

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Judy Madsen	33 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	126
Lyle Hutchison	42 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	160
Kathleen Latimer	90 cow calf	Term	6/13 – 10/6	343
Scott Hayes	Nonuse	Nonuse	Nonuse	Nonuse
Jim Dowton	Nonuse	Nonuse	Nonuse	Nonuse

Pasture Rotation

The on-dates listed above are only a guide. Actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moving off the allotment must occur before forage utilization standards have been met, and no later than the scheduled off-date.

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
White Hills/Leaton Gulch	165	6/13	8/19
South Fork/Dodge Basin	165	8/20	10/6
North Fork/Gerry Gulch	0	Rest	

Utilization Standards

Unit	Indicator	Standard
All	Riparian Greenline	4”
	Woody Browse	Multi Stemmed Species (i.e.Willows)- Single Stemmed Species (i.e. Aspen)
	Stream Bank Alteration	20%

Permittee’s Management Responsibilities

1. Three days prior to initial cattle turn-out, please inform the authorized officer in charge.
2. It is your responsibility, to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded. You must notify the Rangeland Management Specialist of this move.
3. Riding and herding are necessary to properly distribute livestock. You must provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of cattle, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.
4. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards.* Do not rely on range personnel to monitor use.
5. Salt should be placed on accessible range at least ¼ to ½ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows and other areas where cattle naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.
6. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to

be made by you and/or your rider.

7. Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails and roads within 24 hours of notification by the Rangeland Management Specialist.

8. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw or mulch brought onto the forest for the feeding of horses must be Certified Weed Free.

9. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention and inventory of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist.

10. *The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the Allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the Allotment.*

Range Improvements

As identified during the April 2nd 2014 AOI meeting, fences that will require maintenance during the 2014 season include:

- Lawson Creek boundary fence (#220291)
- Jack fence between White Hills and South Fork (#220298)
- Shep Creek fence (#220290)

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you, the Permittee, or any of your personnel without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal yearly maintenance is your responsibility

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the Allotment map. Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.

Other Considerations

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the Allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your Allotment.

Enclosed is a Year-End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use data for 2014 and range improvement needs for future grazing seasons. Please record the date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs must be returned to our office by December 1. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. The Forest Service will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction. These reports are also requested annually by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the forms is appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding these Annual Operating Instructions, please contact Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4100. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

/s/Katherine L. Wood
KATHERINE L. WOOD
District Ranger

Enclosure

Salmon-Challis National Forest

Challis-Yankee Fork & Middle Fork Ranger Districts

Please fill out this report and return one copy to the District Ranger by: December 1, 2014.

Allotment Name: Lawson Creek Permittee: Jim and Maria Dowton

Actual Number Grazed:
Cows _____ Calves _____ Bulls _____ Horses _____ Ewes _____ Lambs _____

Unit	Number	Date In	Date Out

Losses	Number	Value	Causes of Losses
Cow			
Calves			
Bulls			
Horses			

Calf Weights: On _____ Off _____

Maintenance of Range Improvements:
Permittee Costs for Material $_____
Permittee Man Hours Invested _____ @$_____ per hour
Herding: Days Spent by Permittee _____ @$_____ per day
Days Spent by Rider _____ @$_____ per day
Salting: Amount Placed _____ $_____ per unit

Other Costs:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

In an effort to better serve your needs, we are implementing this portion of the annual use report to identify any structural range improvement that is priority for reconstruction. This will help us make plans to authorize money for out-years; we are anticipating a five year schedule..

Range Improvements in Need of Attention:

Unit Name	Improvement Name	Feature Type	Location
Example: Sheep Creek	*Bernard/Flying B Boundary Fence*	*Fence*	*Between the Flying B and Bernard GS*

Comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signature:_____ Date:_____