United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Ashley National Forest | Flaming Gorge Ranger District
PO Box 279
Manila, UT 84046

File Code: 2210/2230-3
Date:

Jon and RaNae Wilde
HCR 65 Box 785
McKinnon, WY 82938

Dear Permittee,

This letter references the annual meeting held March 6th, 2009, in Manila with Glen Tinker, Brian Tinker, Jon Wilde, Allen Young, and Aaron Zobell concerning grazing on the Sheep Creek Park Allotment. This letter will serve as your 2009 operating instructions and will become part of your permit as provided for in Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

Please note situations may develop during the grazing season which you feel may require changes to these instructions. If you believe this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions contact Aaron Zobell and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Sheep Creek Park permittee 2009 operating instructions are as follows:

Sheep Creek Park Allotment Dates and Numbers

Permittee	Numbers	Non-Use	Season of Use
John Tinker Family Living Trust	75 (*150 total)	0	June 23 to Sept. 20th
Jon Wilde	38 (*75 total)	0	June 15th to Sept. 20th
Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch	25 (*50 total)	0	June 15th to Sept. 20th
Allen Young	12 (*25 total)	0	June 15th to Sept. 20th

*Beginning on July 1st.

Unit	Sequence	Dates of Use
*Conner Basin/Sols Canyon	1st	June 15th - June 30th*
Sheep Creek Park (North of FR014/Mann Creek Crossing)	2nd	July 1st – July 10th
Sheep Creek Park (South of FR014/Mann Creek Crossing)	3rd	July 11th – July 30th
Half Moon Park	4th	July 31st – August 20th
Browne/Beaver	5th	August 21st – Sept. 20th

*John Tinker Family Living Trust starting on June 23rd

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registrations provided by each permittee to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment. Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process must be received before livestock will be allowed to graze on National Forest lands.

On June 15th Wilde's, Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch, and Young's (38, 25, and 12 pair respectively) will be trailed into the Conner Basin area of the Conner Basin/Sols Canyon unit from the Carter Military Trail and then east into Conner Basin. Cattle will graze there until utilization benchmarks are reached or until June 30th, whichever comes first. On June 23rd John Tinker Family Living Trust cattle (75 pair) will be trucked to the bottom end of Sols Canyon and trailed up the canyon to the Coal Mine area of the Conner Basin/Sols Canyon unit. Cattle will graze there until utilization benchmarks are reached or until June 30th, whichever comes first. Cattle will then be trailed to Sheep Creek Park via Sols Canyon where they will be joined by the balance of permittees cattle (300 pair total). I strongly suggest permittees continue the practice of initially grazing north of FR014/Mann Creek crossing within the Sheep Creek Park as shown in the proposed grazing schedule as this practice has worked well over the past three years. Should permittees decide holding 300 pair north of FR014/Mann Creek crossing is not feasible for approximately 11 days this does not have to occur. However, be aware that when utilization benchmarks are reached in Sheep Creek Park itself it will be time to move out of the unit regardless of utilization levels throughout the rest of the unit. Cattle will be moved to the Half Moon Park unit when grazing is completed in the Sheep Creek Park unit. Cattle will be moved to the Browne-Beaver unit when utilization benchmarks are reached in the Half Moon Park unit or by the proposed off date for this unit, whichever occurs first. Cattle will be removed from Forest Service lands when utilization benchmarks are reached in the Browne-Beaver unit or by the proposed off date for the allotment, whichever comes first. Wilde's, Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch's, and Young's cattle will be trailed home by way of Carter Dugway. John Tinker Family Living Trust cattle will be gathered in the Sheep Creek Park Corrals and trucked home.

Utilization benchmarks for the Sheep Creek Park Allotment are presented below in table 1.0. Utilization will generally be monitored at key areas of the allotment. Key areas are those areas of the allotment most preferred by livestock and are typically grazed first and receive the most concentrated use (e.g. Half Moon Park, Sheep Creek Park, Beaver Creek, Coal Mine area of Sols Canyon, etc.) Cattle will be removed from each unit before utilization benchmarks are exceeded at key areas. Cattle will be removed from National Forest lands when utilization benchmarks have been met at key areas in the Browne-Beaver unit or by the off date for the allotment, whichever comes first. It is the permitees' responsibility to ensure utilization benchmarks shown in table 1.0 are not exceeded. The proposed grazing schedule and utilization benchmarks listed above are per the 2009 Sheep Creek Park Allotment Management Plan. Every effort must be taken to completely remove cattle off the National Forest by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires 3 days of riding to gather your cattle, then you should start riding 3 days prior to your scheduled off date.

Table 1.0 Utilization and Residual Stubble Height Benchmarks for the Sheep Creek Park Allotment-by unit

Utilization Benchmarks	Sols Canyon/Conner Basin	Sheep Creek Park	Half Moon Park	Browne-Beaver
Utilization-by key species	<40%	<50%	<50%	<50%
Residual Stubble Height	>4 inches	>4 inches	>4 inches	>4 inches

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing

season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where the cattle do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows. Cattle need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed. It is especially important cattle be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and an even distribution of your cattle be maintained while in a unit, since any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next unit or to come home. Each permittee is responsible for keeping cattle spread out and not over utilizing the range.

Maintenance of all your improvements must be done 1 week before cattle enter the allotment and maintenance needs to be completed to the standards listed in your permit. Completing your maintenance responsibilities 1 week before your on date will allow Aaron time to inspect your improvements and address any concerns before your cattle enter the allotment. You are responsible to provide all materials and labor needed to complete this maintenance. Any ATV use in the administration of your allotment is limited to existing roads. Other item(s) discussed during the permittee meeting are as follows:

- Range Improvements
    - Relocation of a Portion of Browne-Beaver Log Worm Fence: Aaron has started the process of relocating the portion of the Browne-Beaver log worm fence as discussed in the annual permittee meeting and shown in Map A. He should be completed with this process sometime by the end of this year. I expect relocation of this fence will commence before the 2010 grazing season and be completed by the end of the 2010 grazing season. I expect all permittees will participate in relocating this fence and that afterwards Allen and Nancy Young will be responsible for maintaining this fence.
    - Sheep Creek Park unit fence extension (0.80 miles): Cattle have been drifting around the west end of the Sheep Creek Park unit fence and grazing the Browne/Beaver unit before the on date for this unit. Permittees worked with Aaron last grazing season in determining where an extension on the Sheep Creek Park unit fence (#001502) needed to occur (see attached Map A) and supplies were purchased by the Forest Service. Aaron has received approval from our Wildlife Biologist and Heritage personnel will review the area proposed for extension in May. Work on this fence will commence once the area has been approved by Heritage personnel. The Forest Service will haul the materials to the end of the fence extension (in the vicinity of the Sheep Creek Irrigation Canal) and work by the permittees will then commence. I expect the fence to be worked on prior to, during, and after the grazing season with the fence being substantially completed by the end of the 2009 grazing season. I also expect this fence will be completed before livestock graze the allotment in 2010. Jon Wilde, Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch, and Allen & Nancy Young will be responsible for constructing the fence from where the fence currently ends halfway up (approximately 0.40 miles). The John Tinker Family Living Trust will be responsible for constructing the fence from this point onward to the end of the fence (approximately 0.40 miles including up to and just crossing the Sheep Creek Irrigation Canal).

- Panels below Long Park Reservoir: Panels below Long Park Reservoir need to be set up and extended as was done in the 2008 grazing season. John Tinker Family Living Trust has again agreed to provide and set up the panels. These panels need to be installed before cattle enter the allotment. We are willing to continue this practice if we continue to be successful and you and the other permittees are willing. However, we will require an extension of this fence if we find the panels are not successful in keeping cattle from coming up Sols Canyon prior to when they are scheduled.

- Conner Basin Ponds: The development of several ponds in the Conner Basin area of the Conner Basin/Sols Canyon unit was discussed to allow for better distribution of water and possibly a more reliable water source(s). Aaron will contact permittees to schedule a ride to review several areas where ponds may possibly be developed.

- Sols Canyon: Sols Canyon was grazed for approximately 1 week last year after being rested in 2007. Monitoring data currently supports continued grazing of Sols Canyon for approximately 1 week as described in this AOI. Use should not exceed 40% within the Coal Mine area or elsewhere in Sols Canyon. Additionally, the Sols Canyon water development including the trough needs to be functioning to the standards listed in the John Tinker Family Living Trust's permit before their cattle graze this area.

- Excess Use at Willow Park: Permittee cattle from the Sheep Creek Park Allotment in the 2006 and 2007 grazing seasons drifted into and utilized the Willow Park area of the Commissary Park Allotment which resulted in a shortened grazing season for the permittee of the Commissary Park Allotment. While this did not occur last grazing season, permittees should be aware of the situation and continue to manage their cattle so that Sheep Creek Park permitted cattle do not again drift into the Willow Park area of the Commissary Park Allotment. I expect permittees from the Sheep Creek Park Allotment will continue to work with the permittee from the Commissary Park Allotment as needed to ensure this occurs.

- Salting: Please become familiar with the salting standards listed in your permit. I expect all permittees to follow these standards. A violation of this standard will result in a letter of non-compliance and if done again will result in permit action.

- Half Moon Park: I anticipate that your cattle will be in Half Moon Park for three weeks. Permittee cattle will need to be adequately distributed while within this unit to ensure utilization benchmarks at key areas are not exceeded. Please pay particular attention to the riparian areas located around the north side of Browne Lake. When these areas reach a four inch stubble height, it will be time to move your cattle into Sheep Creek Park regardless of the proposed grazing schedule.

Please keep track of the dates, numbers and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and let Aaron know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to Aaron by December 31st.

We also need your help to control noxious weeds. By removing musk thistle seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base, the spread of this plant can be controlled. Please let Aaron know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. We are especially concerned about Dyer's woad and any other “new” weeds.

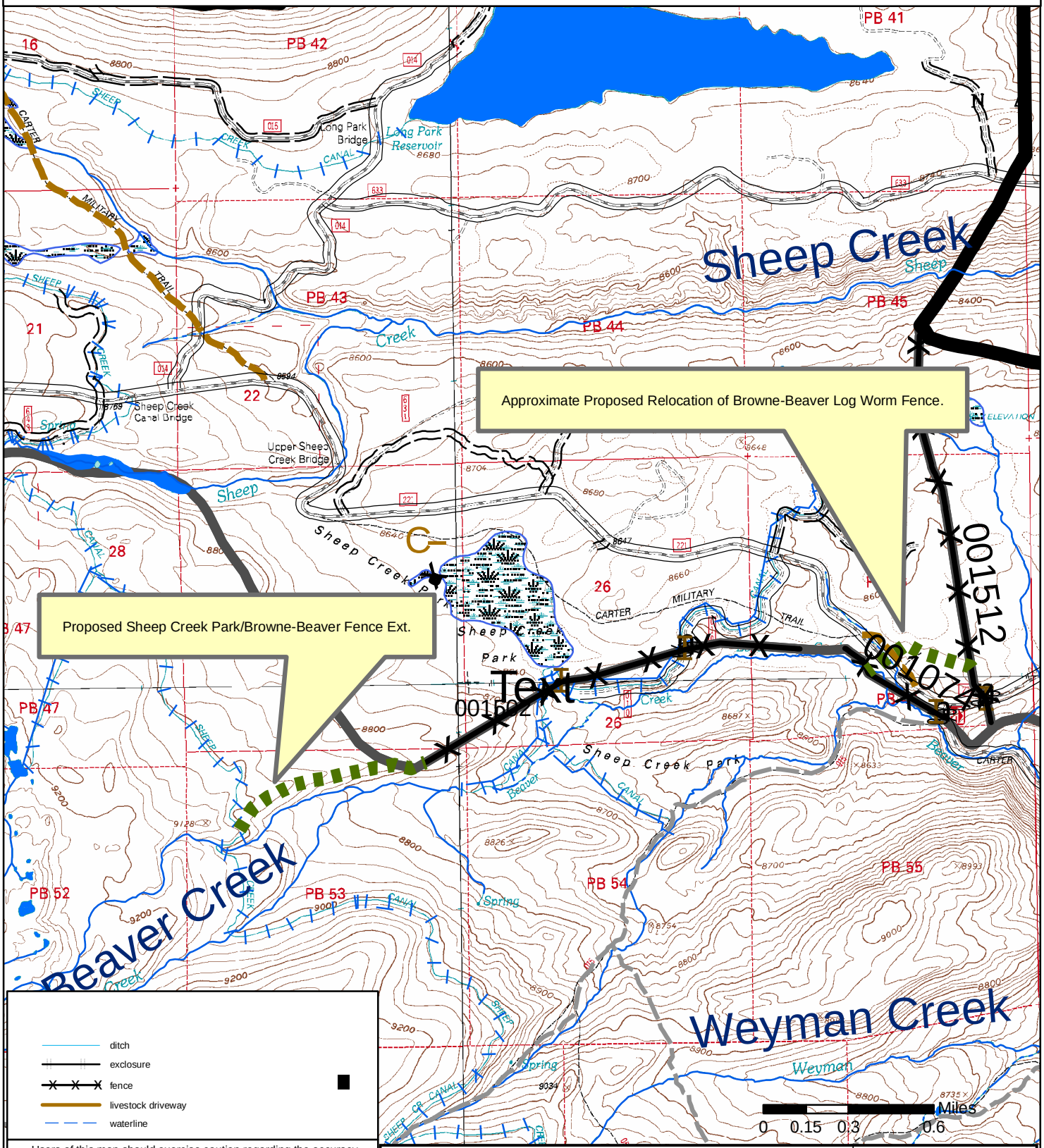
Thanks for your efforts to manage this allotment. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Aaron Zobell at (435) 781-5279.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR
Acting District Ranger

Enclosures (2)
Map A
2009 Grazing Use Record

Map A: Proposed Sheep Creek Park/Browne/Beaver Fence Extension



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Project Name: Sheep Creek Park (#109) Allotment Improvement Map

Project Location: Township(s): T1N, T2N Range(s): R18E, R19E Section(s): multiple
Baseline & Meridian: Salt Lake B & M State: Utah County: Daggett

Map Projection: UTM Zone 12N, NAD 1983 | Nominal Map Scale: 1:75000

Drawn By: A. Zobell-Range Specialist/Hydrologist | Date Drawn: 27 January 2009

File Loc.: C:/workspace/GIS

Flaming Gorge Ranger District
Manila, Utah

USDA