

File Code: 2210/2230

Date:

Glenn and Caryl Elzinga

May, ID 83253

Glenn and Caryl,

The following letter will document your meeting with Sara Norman on May 1st, 2013 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Hat Creek C&H allotment for the 2013 grazing season.

The authorized use for the Hat Creek C&H allotment for cattle with the  brand will be as follows:

Permitted Use:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Classes</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hat Creek C&H	Glenn and Caryl Elzinga	311 c/c	879	7/1-9/24
		207 c/c	585	7/1-9/24

Authorized Use for the 2013 Grazing Season:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Classes</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hat Creek C&H	Glenn and Caryl Elzinga	120 yearling	339	7/1-9/24
		50 c/c	141	7/1-9/24

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hat Creek C&H	Little Hat Creek	120 yearling and 50 c/c	173	7/1-7/31
	Park-Moose	120 yearling and 50 c/c	84	8/1-8/15
	Iron Mountain	120 yearling and 50 c/c	146	8/16-9/10
	Big Hat	120 yearling and 50 c/c	73	9/10-9/24

There is currently a non-use agreement for 141 c/c pairs on permit #10576 and for 207 c/c pairs on permit #10578.

Only cattle with the  brand are authorized to graze on the Hat 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 Sara 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. No authorizations beyond permitted dates will be allowed.

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 Sara Norman at (208) 768-2505 as soon as you are aware of the need for changes in the planned use schedule. Any extension of use beyond the dates that are authorized must be requested at least two weeks in advance to allow my staff time to complete utilization inspections.

Allowable Use

The allowable use standards for the Hat 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 Sara Norman 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 Locations	Unit	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM M203 and M236 ¹	Iron Mountain Unit	Greenline stubble	4 in	Hydric spp	5 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	20%
MIM M235	Big Hat Creek Unit	Greenline stubble	6 in	Hydric spp	7 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	15%
Upland Sites	All Units	Utilization	50%	Upland grass species	45%
Riparian Areas	All Units	Utilization by Key Species	50%	Riparian grass species	45%

Conservation Measures:

The following measures will be implemented as part of the Hat Creek Allotment’s Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA-listed fish.

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Resting the Iron Mountain Unit every other year 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 stream channels. 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) at least once every two weeks, 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.
7. Livestock do not use the Middle Fork Hat Creek area of the Iron Mountain Unit. This area is heavily timbered and the permittee has lost livestock to wolf predation here in the past.

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.”

No improvement reconstruction needs were discussed.

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 Sara and she will determine a suitable location with your input.

You have received a letter explaining the Salmon-Challis National Forest concerns with the predicted below average precipitation levels and predicted above average temperatures. During the 2013 grazing season you should be prepared to be vigilantly monitoring forage conditions and stock water availability, and plan for prompt livestock moves to meet allowable forage and riparian browse use standards identified. In dry years it is critical to meet identified annual use indicators for resource health. We appreciate your ongoing cooperation and flexibility in this matter.

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 30 days 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 Sara at (208) 768-2505, or myself at (208) 756-2547.

Sincerely,

Jay Winfield
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records