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Date:

Shiner Ranches Inc.

Lemhi, ID 83465

Dear Dean and Stephen,

The following letter will document your meeting with Sara Norman and Ingrid Drieling on April 26th, 2013 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Hawley Creek C&H allotment for the 2013 grazing season. The authorized use for the Hawley Creek C&H allotment for cattle with the , , ,  and  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 2013 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	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

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hawley Creek C&H	Little Bear/Stove	316 c/c (LLP)	104	7/1-7/10
	Lower Ranch	549 c/c	180	7/1-7/10
	Upper Ranch	856 c/c	1435	7/11-8/30
	Little Bear	856 c/c	535	8/31-9/17
	Big Bear	856 c/c	366	9/18-9/30
	Little Bear and Riparian Pasture			

Only cattle with the , , ,  and  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 Sara 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 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 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 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 Location	Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM M302	Little Bear/Stove Creek Unit – Reservoir Creek	Greenline stubble	6 in	Carex	7 in
		Bank alteration	20%	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	10%	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 2013 grazing season, SCNF will be completing the MIM monitoring protocol at 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 Sara know.

You were issued a NONC for exceeding allowable use standards in 2012. Sara Norman 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 Hawley Creek riders.

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 improvements for the **Hawley Creek C&H** allotment were discussed in the meeting:

We discussed changing the location of part of the Fish Pasture fence (#4581). A new section of the fence would be constructed between the private land inholding to a rock face. This improvement would further keep cattle out of the Fish Pasture unit. In order to complete this project it will be necessary to conduct NEPA. Sara Norman and Ingrid Drieling will visit with you and GPS the site this summer. In addition to the fence, we will look at the possibility of developing the spring near the H-brace.

We discussed reconstruction of portions of the #4070 fence. We will be providing you with approximately 50 t-posts and two roles of smooth wire.

We discussed reconstruction of the gate between Upper and Lower Wheetip (#4261). Approximately 200-300 yards of fence need to be reconstructed around the gate. Contact Sara Norman for availability of materials.

We discussed reconstruction of the Reese Creek and Stove Creek Riparian exclosures. Materials needed for this project are 30 rails and 16 jacks for the Reese Creek exclosure and 36 rails and 24 jacks for the Stove Creek exclosure. The Reese Creek exclosure is a higher priority than the Stove Creek exclosure. Contact Sara Norman for availability of materials. Please contact Sara Norman to arrange a time to pick up materials.

We discussed looking at additional fencing between the Frank Hall unit of the Grizzly Creek C&H Allotment and the Hawley Creek C&H Allotment.

General Management

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.

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 Norman 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.

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

Sincerely,

Jay Winfield

District Ranger

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