

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: June 10, 2013

Ellsworth Angus

Leadore, ID 83464

Dear Carl,

The following letter will document your meeting with Concetta Brown on April 11th, 2013 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Nez Perce C&H allotment for the 2013 grazing

season. The authorized use for the Nez Perce 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>
Nez Perce C&H	Ellsworth Angus	150 yearling	404	7/1-9/20
Nez Perce C&H	Y Livestock	50 yearling	135	7/1-9/20
	Total:	200 yearling	539	82 days

Authorized Use for the 2013 Grazing Season:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Nez Perce C&H	Ellsworth Angus	150 yearling	404	7/1-9/20
Nez Perce C&H	Y Livestock	33 c/c and 10 yearling	116	7/1-9/20
	Total:	33 c/c 160 yearling	520	82 days



<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/ Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Nez Perce C&H	Dry Gulch	33 c/c 160 yearling	140	7/1-7/22
	Mountain Boy	33 c/c 160 yearling	203	7/23-8/23
	Nez Perce	33 c/c 160 yearling	178	8/24-9/20
	Deer Creek	-	-	Rested

Only cattle with the **O** and **Y** brands are authorized to graze on the Nez Perce 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 Concetta Brown 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.

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 Concetta Brown at (208) 768-2503 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 Nez Perce 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 Concetta Brown 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.

Nez Perce C&H:

Key Area Locations	Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM M 228	Deer Creek Unit – Deer Cr.	Browse use	50% 30%	Willow Alder	45% 25%
		Greenline Stubble	4 in.	Hydric spp.	5 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%

The Biological Opinion for the **Nez Perce C&H** Allotment laid out the following measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish. The measures are as follows:

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Resting a unit each 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 streams. This will continue to reduce potential impacts on riparian areas, spawning areas and designated and proposed critical habitat.
5. Permittees will use riders to direct livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas at least once every two weeks, reducing potential impacts on 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 riparian areas, spawning areas and designated and proposed 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.”

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 Concetta 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.

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. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Concetta Brown, Ingrid Drieling or myself.

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 within **30 days** of the end of the grazing season.

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 Concetta at (208) 768-2503, Ingrid Drieling at (208) 768-2516 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

Jay Winfield
District Ranger

cc: Leslie Young-Y Livestock
Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records