

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: June 10, 2013

Beyeler Ranches, LLC
c/o Merrill Beyeler

Leadore ID 83464

Dear Merrill,

The following letter will document your meeting with Concetta Brown and Ingrid Drieling on April 11th, 2013 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Swan Basin C&H allotment for the 2013 grazing season. The authorized use for the Swan Basin 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>
Swan Basin C&H	Beyeler Ranches LLC	245 c/c	862	6/16-9/30
Swan Basin C&H	Leadore Land Partners	90 c/c	317	6/16-9/30
Swan Basin C&H	<u>Steve Johnson</u>	<u>100 c/c</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>6/16-9/30</u>
	Total	435 c/c	1,531	107 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>
Swan Basin C&H	Beyeler Ranches LLC	220 c/c	564	6/16-9/1
Swan Basin C&H	Leadore Land Partners	90 yearlings	231	6/16-9/1
Swan Basin C&H	<u>Steve Johnson</u>	<u>100 c/c</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>6/16-9/1</u>
	Total	320 c/c and 90 yearlings	1,051	



<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/ Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Swan Basin C&H	Chandler Springs	320 c/c 90 yearlings	148	6/16-6/26
	Lower Grove	320 c/c 90 yearlings	189	6/27-7/10
	Lower Timber	320 c/c 90 yearlings	202	7/11-7/25
	Upper Timber	320 c/c 90 yearlings	202	7/26-8/9
	Upper Grove	320 c/c 90 yearlings	229	8/10-8/26
	Riparian Pasture	320 c/c 90 yearlings	81	8/27-9/1
	Middle Fork	-	-	Rest

In the Swan Basin C&H Biological Assessment (BA) you were scheduled to use year three of the scheduled rotations for the 2013 grazing season. Merrill informed us that it is too early in the season to use the Lower Grove unit first and requested to swap the Chandler Spring and Lower Grove units for the 2013 Season. The Chandler Springs and Lower Grove units do not contain ESA fish species.

Only cattle with the  brands are authorized to graze on the Swan Basin 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 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 Swan Basin 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.

Sawn Basin C&H:

Key Area Locations	Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM M250	Lower Timber Creek Unit – Big Timber Creek	Browse use	50%	Willow	45%
		Greenline stubble ¹	4 in.	Hydric spp.	5 in.
		Bank Alteration	20%	N/A	15%
MIM M251	Upper Timber Creek Unit – Big Timber Creek	Browse use	50%	Willow	45%
		Greenline stubble ¹	4 in.	Hydric spp.	5 in.
		Bank Alteration	10%	N/A	10%
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%

¹Browse use and greenline stubble will be used until next trend reading is completed to determine which attribute will be best suited to attain long term objectives.

The Biological Opinion for the **Swan Basin 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.
2. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the Allotment at range readiness (bluebunch wheatgrass in the first boot stage). This will reduce potential for streambank alteration.
3. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between Units or off the Allotment, within the terms of the term grazing permit. Annual use indicators will be monitored by SCNF personnel to help meet long term riparian management objectives (RMOs).
4. Salt and/or mineral blocks will not be placed within one-fourth mile of springs, streams, or riparian habitats.
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 designated critical habitat.
7. The monitoring attribute of browse use will be added to sites that are dominated by woody browse species.

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 **Swan Basin C&H Allotment** were discussed in the meeting:

At the 2012 AOI meeting Merrill requested to replace a section of the Ted Whittaker unit fence with jack and pole. The section of fence is on the south west side of the unit. This section of fence is knocked down by elk each year in the winter. It would take approximately 4-5 spans of jack and pole.

It was also discussed that Merrill would like to construct a section of fence where the Upper Timber, Upper Grove, and Lower Timber units meet. This section of fence is hard to maintain between heavy elk traffic and snow. Merrill would like 10 spans of jack and pole to reconstruct this section.

By reconstructing these sections of fence with jack and pole the fence would provide a safer crossing for wildlife and increase the lifespan of the fence.

Trough #4420 in the Upper Timber unit needs a new headbox, 4 to 5ft of replacement pipe and materials for a new spring enclosure. The permittees will get with Concetta for the amount of materials needed.

Fence #4092 needs reconstructed. The permittees will get with Concetta for the amount of materials needed.

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.

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.

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.

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: Steve Johnson, Leadore Land Partners, and Karl Tyler
Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Reports