



File Code: 2230
Date: 4 June 2013

Denis Kowitz

Declo, ID 83323

Dear Denis,

This letter supersedes my letter of May 22, 2013 and serves as your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions for the Cape Horn allotment, and should be considered an extension of Term Grazing Permit #30012. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Kowitz	2050 ewe/lamb	Term	06/20– 10/01	7009
Kowitz	2 horses ^A	Term	06/20 –10/01	N/A

^APack and saddle stock used for management of livestock

Authorized Use for 2013

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Cape Horn	950 ewe/lamb	Term	06/20 – 10/1	3248

Pasture Rotation

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Dry Creek	950	06/20-6/30	07/05-7/15
Upper Marsh	950	07/06-16	07/31-8/15
Valley Creek ^A	950	08/01-/05	08/10-8/15
Knapp Creek	950	08/11-8/21	09/01-9/10
Beaver Creek ^B	950	09/02-9/11	09/15-9/25
Swamp Creek/Vader Creek/Upper Marsh Creek ^C	950	09/15-9/26	10/01

^ASheep will not graze this unit after August 10 for Chinook and bull trout spawning

^BSheep will not graze this unit before July 15

^C Sheep will not graze below Marsh Creek Bridge located above the confluence with Knapp Creek

The on-date is only a guide since actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moves from unit to unit will occur before forage utilization standards have been met and no later than



the scheduled off-date. It is critical that standards be met in all units at the end of the 2013 grazing season.

The permittee typically weans all lambs around the 1st of September at the Asher Creek Corrals, and then turns the dry ewes back onto the forest to complete the grazing year.

Utilization Standards

Unit	Indicator	Standard
Dry Creek	Greenline	> 4"
	Bank Alteration	< 15%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Vader Creek	Greenline	> 4"
	Bank Alteration	< 15%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Swamp Creek	Greenline	> 6"
	Bank Alteration	< 15%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Beaver Creek	Greenline	> 6"
	Bank Alteration	< 15%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Knapp Creek	Greenline	> 6"
	Bank Alteration	< 15%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Upper Marsh	Greenline	> 6"
	Bank Alteration	< 15%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Valley Creek	Greenline	> 6"
	Bank Alteration	< 15%
	Woody Browse	< 30%

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. *Please inform the authorized officer in charge 3 days prior to initial livestock turn-out.* If you move onto the allotment late and want to stay past your off-date, you must make arrangements early in the grazing season and obtain prior approval from the District Ranger.
2. *Do not wait for the authorized officer to tell you it is time to move to the next unit.* It is the permittee's responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded and to notify the Forest Officer of this move.
3. Riding and herding is necessary to properly distribute livestock. The permittee will provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of livestock, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.

4. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by the permittee to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards.* Range personnel will monitor forage use in riparian and upland areas where livestock are or have been grazing.
5. Salt should be placed on suitable range at least ¼ to ½ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows and other areas where livestock naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.
6. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still the *permittee's* responsibility to keep their animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture within 24 hours of notification by phone or letter. Early use or repeated use of unauthorized pastures could result in an early move or off-date, or cancellation or suspension of your permit. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.
7. Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by a forest officer.
8. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the forest must be Certified Weed Free.
9. The agency requests that you (the permittee) be a pro-active partner in the inventory, management and treatment of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist.
10. *The off date is the date you must have all livestock off the grazing allotment, not the day to start moving livestock off the allotment.*

BA and BO REQUIREMENTS

The conservation measures below are reflected in the grazing system, standards and guidelines outlined in this AOI.

The 2010 Biological Assessment prepared by the Forest Service and the 2010 Biological Opinions from National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service lists the following conservation measures:

1. This allotment has full time riders with both bands of sheep.

2. Livestock grazing is being eliminated from the following locations within the allotment: Cape Horn Creek drainage upstream of State Highway 21; Marsh Creek drainage downstream of Beaver Creek; Marsh Creek between Cape Horn Creek; and Knapp Creek.
3. Sheep will not cross Cape Horn Creek, Knapp Creek, Beaver Creek below Winnemucca Creek, or Marsh Creek below Knapp Creek except on bridges.
4. Sheep will not cross Marsh Creek between Knapp Creek and a point one mile upstream of Knapp Creek except at the bridge.
5. Sheep will not cross Beaver Creek upstream of Winnemucca Creek except at a single location on Beaver Creek approximately one mile upstream of the confluence of Beaver Creek and Winnemucca Creek. Any exceptions to these crossing restrictions will be approved by a forest fish biologist.
6. Sheep will not bed within 300 feet of any perennial stream.
7. Sheep will not bed in the same location more than one night.
8. A bank alteration indicator of $\leq 15\%$ is being added to all units.
9. The woody browse indicator is being reduced from 50% to $\leq 30\%$ on all units.
10. Continue the 6 inch stubble height indicator that is in place on several streams with listed fish.
11. The 6 inch stubble height indicator has been changed from only applying to specific streams to applying to entire units with listed fish.
12. This allotment will be managed as a once-over-grazing scheme where animals will only graze an area or site once during the grazing season.
13. Livestock will not have the potential to impact bull trout redds in 7.5 miles of spawning stream or approximately 18% of the total miles of stream where bull trout spawn on the allotment because livestock will either not graze those areas or will graze the areas prior to bull trout spawning.
14. Livestock will not graze the Beaver Creek Unit prior to July 15 thereby reducing the potential for livestock to trample steelhead redds in Winnemucca Creek and Beaver Creek above Winnemucca Creek. Furthermore, no livestock grazing will occur at any time within the Marsh Creek Lower Fish Protection, Upper Marsh Creek Fish Protection, and Cape Horn Fish Protection units. No livestock grazing will occur at any time within the Marsh Creek Lower Fish Protection, Upper Marsh Creek Fish Protection, and Cape Horn Fish Protection units.
15. No livestock grazing will occur in the Valley Creek Unit after August 10 to avoid impacts to potential Chinook spawning and incubation.
16. All operations shall comply with Salmon-Challis motorized travel restrictions and regulations. Exceptions must be requested in advance and shall be obtained in writing from the District Ranger. Camps may be emplaced and removed using a motor vehicle for the minimum necessary to accomplish this. Routine motorized vehicle use between the camp and a designated route is not authorized.

Range Improvements

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by the permittee or their personnel without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance will be provided to the permittee by the Forest Service whenever possible. Materials for normal yearly maintenance are the responsibility of the permittee.

Thank you for your efforts to continue maintenance and/or reconstruction to structural improvements on your allotment. All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. Range improvements will be maintained *before livestock enter a pasture or the allotment*. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the allotment map. If you have questions regarding what improvements are your responsibilities, please contact your Range Management Specialist. *Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.*

Other Considerations

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

Enclosed is a Year End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use data for 2013 and range improvement needs for future grazing season. Please record the date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs should be returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction.

If you have any questions regarding these Annual Operating Instructions, please call me or Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at 208-879-4161. We are looking forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

CHRIS L. GROVE
District Ranger