



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 29, 2014

Eutona Wilde
Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch
HCR 65 Box 784
McKinnon, WY 82938

Dear Eutona

This letter references the annual meeting held in Manila, Utah on April 14, 2014 with Eutona Wilde, Jon Wilde, Allen Young, and Aaron Zobell concerning grazing on the Hickerson Park Allotment. It will serve as your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) and become part of your permit as provided for in Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of your Term Grazing Permit.

Situations may develop during the grazing season you feel may require changes to these instructions. If you believe this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact us and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registrations provided by each permittee to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment. Confirmation of payment by the Forest Service must be received before your livestock will be allowed to graze on National Forest lands. Jon and RaNae Wilde, Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch, and Allen and Nancy Young will tag their livestock with orange, green, and blue tags respectively prior to livestock entering the allotment.

Table 1.0 Hickerson Park Allotment – Permitted Grazing Numbers, Kind and Class

Permittee	Numbers	Kind	Class
Jon & RaNae Wilde	150	cattle	cow/calf
Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch	100	cattle	cow/calf
Allen & Nancy Young	50	cattle	cow/calf

Table 2.0 Hickerson Park Allotment – Proposed Grazing Schedule and Utilization Benchmarks

Unit	Sequence	Dates of Use ¹	Utilization Benchmarks ²
Carter Dugway	1 st	June 22- July 6	≤ 40% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
Round Park	2 nd	July 7 – August 6	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
Hickerson Park	3 rd	August 7 – Sept. 6	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
Lodgepole	4 th	Sept. 7 – Sept. 17	≤ 30% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline

¹Dates are estimates and may vary based upon range readiness, drought, utilization benchmarks, and/or other factors. ²Utilization benchmarks will be monitored at key areas of the allotment. Key areas are those areas most preferred by livestock, are typically grazed first, and receive the most concentrated use (i.e. bottom areas of Carter Dugway; Round Park, North Fork of Sheep Creek, Hickerson Park, Lodgepole Creek, etc.); RSH = residual stubble height.

Permittees will coordinate with the Forest Service before bringing livestock onto National Forest lands to ensure range readiness has occurred and to allow for any changed condition such as drought. When range readiness has occurred and after coordinating with the Forest Service, permitted livestock numbers for each permittee shown in table 1.0 will be brought onto National Forest lands. Livestock will be trailed from adjacent private or BLM lands to the Carter Dugway unit. Livestock will graze this and each subsequent unit until any utilization benchmark has been reached or until the scheduled date arrives to move livestock into the next scheduled unit to be grazed, whichever occurs first. Livestock will be



removed from National Forest lands when any utilization benchmark has been met in the last unit to be grazed or by September 17th, whichever occurs first. Every effort must be taken to completely remove livestock off the National Forest by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires three days of riding to gather your livestock, then you should start riding three days prior to your scheduled off date. It is the permittees' responsibility to ensure utilization benchmarks shown in table 2.0 are not exceeded.

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where livestock do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows. Livestock need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed. Each permittee is responsible for keeping livestock spread out and not over utilizing the range.

Maintenance of all your improvements listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit and associated AMP will be completed at least one week prior to the proposed on date to the standards listed in your permit. This allows time for the inspection of your improvements and any potential concerns to be addressed before your livestock enter the allotment. *If your maintenance responsibilities have not been completed to the standards listed in your permit, your livestock will not be allowed to enter National Forest lands.* All labor and materials needed for maintenance are your responsibility. Any ATV use in the administration of your allotment is limited to existing roads unless permission is otherwise obtained. Maintenance items and other related items specifically discussed included the following:

- ❖ Sawmill Spring Reservoir (#001019)/Bull Springs Pond (#001029): Reviews indicate Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch maintained these ponds as instructed in their 2013 AOI with only a few exceptions. These exceptions largely relate to the width of the berm of the pond and the amount of freeboard present after maintenance. The amount of freeboard for these ponds needs to be at least 2 ½ ft. with the width of the berm of these ponds widened to the extent feasible. Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch is encouraged to review the relevant section of their 2013 AOI regarding how this is to be done. Similar to Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch's other maintenance responsibilities, this maintenance will need to occur at least one week prior to turn on.
- ❖ John Q Reservoir (#001027): Jon & RaNae Wilde completed some maintenance in 2013 on this pond. However, they indicated additional maintenance is required on this pond. Similar to their other improvement responsibilities, maintenance of this pond to standard having at least 2 ½ ft. of freeboard will occur at least 1 week prior to turn on.
- ❖ Birch Creek Drift Upper fence (#019203A): Large portions of this fence were not maintained to standard in 2013. Similar to Jon & RaNae Wilde's other maintenance responsibilities this fence will be maintained to standard at least 1 week prior to turn on. *Verification by Forest Service personnel of maintenance completed to standard will be required prior to turn on.*
- ❖ Lodgepole-Sheep Creek Boundary Fence (#001043): Portions of this fence were not maintained to standard in 2013. Similar to Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch's other maintenance responsibilities this fence will be maintained to standard at least 1 week prior to turn on. *Verification by Forest Service personnel of maintenance completed to standard will be required prior to turn on.*
- ❖ Birch Creek Boundary Fence (#001103): Permittees have previously indicated with surveys of the area confirming livestock are drifting around the south end of this fence and accessing Birch Creek. A review of this area was tentatively planned this summer by Forest Service personnel, Quarter Circle Three Bar Ranch, and other interested permittees. Due to personnel changes on the District, it is very unlikely that such a review will occur at that time. However, a review of this area and putting a plan together to prevent the unwanted drift of livestock from the Carter Dugway unit into Birch Creek until the desired time remains a high priority. As such scheduling and completing a review of the area is a high priority for 2015.

- ❖ Drift of Livestock between the Carter Dugway and Lodgepole units: Drift of livestock between the Carter Dugway and Lodgepole units has been problematic in recent years. The Carter Dugway-Lodgepole Drift fence (#001094) was extended in an effort to limit this drift. Continue to monitor these two units including drift of livestock between these units preventing to the extent possible any additional drift. Should drift remain problematic between these two units additional plans will be put in place to prevent/minimize this drift.
- ❖ Forest Service Maintenance of Trail #1023: This trail is scheduled to be logged out in 2014 by contract with emphasis on logging out these trails occurring by July 1st. Review this trail prior to your scheduled on date for the Round Park unit and complete any trail work necessary to bring your livestock onto this unit including the McCoy Park area of the unit. When completing this trail maintenance, emphasis should be placed on limiting braiding of the trail by livestock.
- ❖ Carter Dugway/Forest Service boundary fence (#019301): Permittees have reported reconstruction and/or heavy maintenance needs to occur from Spring Creek to Phil Pico Spring. This fence is not the responsibility of any permittee but rather is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Contact us if you notice any unauthorized use occurring on National Forest lands. The Forest Service will take the appropriate action at the point in time to ensure this unauthorized use ceases.
- ❖ Phil Pico Spring Water Development: Jon and RaNae Wilde are encouraged to continue to work on this development as it will allow for improved distribution of livestock during the time they are in the Carter Dugway unit.

The grazing schedule shown in table 2.0 continues to reflect changes discussed at recent annual permittee meetings and implemented in the Hickerson Park Allotment Management Plan. These changes, monitoring activities associated with the changes, and conditions of the changes were explained in detail in permittees' 2011 AOIs. Permittees are encouraged to review their 2011 AOIs to ensure they are aware of monitoring activities to occur as a result of the changes and conditions of the changes. If monitoring indicates conditions of the changes are not being met further adjustments in grazing on the allotment will occur. This may include reducing grazing numbers and/or season of use. *Particular emphasis should be placed this year in ensuring utilization benchmarks are not exceeded in the Carter Dugway unit. Permittees are reminded that livestock will need to be moved by July 6th from the unit or when any utilization benchmark is met, whichever occurs first.*

Permittees will work together in managing livestock on the allotment. Efforts should be focused on ensuring livestock are only in the correct unit to be grazed and properly distributed within that unit. At a minimum, this would involve having representatives of all permittees present during unit moves and when livestock are removed from National Forest lands. Further, all permittees should be actively involved in ensuring livestock are only in the correct unit to be grazed and properly distributed while within that unit. I expect this will require periodic checks of the allotment throughout the week with necessary riding and herding and salting by all permittees.

A full-time rider is currently not required for the allotment. However, permittees are encouraged to hire a full time rider to provide for improved distribution of livestock and to share in the workload of managing livestock.

A detailed review of various range improvements starting in 2012 and continuing to the present time indicates that while many permittees are maintaining range improvements to standard in some cases these improvements are not being maintained to standard. As such I encourage all permittees to review their Term Grazing Permits – Part 3 Maintenance Standards for Structural Improvements to aid in ensuring any maintenance completed is completed to standard. Items of particular concern as they relate to these field visits are briefly summarized below. These items have been discussed in detail in previous annual permittee meetings and were again an item of discussion during the current year's permittee meeting.

- H-braces and other Braces: Broken and rotting posts and horizontal/diagonal cross braces will be replaced as a part of annual maintenance. Wire strands will be stapled to and/or otherwise

attached (i.e. wire loops) to all posts.

- Use of Trees as Posts and/or Braces including H-braces at Bends and/or Turns: Trees will not be used as posts, or braces including h-braces at any bend and/or turn. At areas where trees are currently used in place of posts, or braces including h-braces at these settings, h-braces will be constructed when these trees fall over and/or otherwise fail.
- Use of Trees as Posts and/or Braces including H-braces at Straight Sections: Use of trees at these areas is discouraged. However, trees of a large diameter may be used when stays of at least two inches in diameter are placed around the tree to prevent girdling of the tree. The number of stays required to prevent girdling of the tree will vary but as a rule of thumb five to six stays should be used. *In no case should trees be used at any bends and/or turns no minor the bend or turn.* In this case and as previously discussed h-braces will need to be used.
- End to End Maintenance: Fences will be maintained from *end to end* to Forest Service specifications and standards.
- Ponds: Freeboard (distance between spillway and to of fill) should be at least 3' minimum. This will aid in preventing headcutting of the dam or spillway and failure of the pond. Ponds to be periodically cleaned out with any material placed on the spillway being tightly packed. Widths of spillways should be adequate to prevent failure of the spillway and allow for compaction of the spillway (i.e. 3-4 ft. at a minimum).

Previous permittee meetings included a brief discussion of the 2012 New Year letter and the increased expectation in permittee performance regarding concerns discussed in this letter. These same expectations are in place for the 2014 grazing season. Items emphasized at the permittee meeting and within this letter included: 1) following the direction of the officer in charge; 2) ensuring range improvements are maintained by dates prescribed in Term Grazing Permits and/or AOIs to the standards listed in Term Grazing Permits; and 3) following protocol described in the New Year's letter regarding the initial move of livestock from one unit to the next and the handling of any potential drift into a unit after the initial removal of livestock from that unit.

The control of noxious weeds on National Forest lands continues to be a high priority. Please let us know if any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. Of highest concern would be new invaders such as Dyer's woad or spotted knapweed.

Keep track of the dates, numbers and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and let us know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to us by the 31st of December.

Thanks for your efforts to manage this allotment. If you have any questions or comments please contact us at (435) 781-5279.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR
District Ranger

Enclosure (1)
2014 Grazing Use Record

cc: Mike Wilde (835 Stephens St. Green River, WY. 82935)
cc: Tim Wilde (HCR 65 Box 788 McKinnon, WY. 82938)

