



File Code: 2230/2210

Date: April 11, 2013

Scott and Rayma McCarrel
4556 US HWY 40
Vernal, UT 84078

Dear Scott and Rayma,

This letter references the annual meeting held in Vernal, Utah on April 5, 2013 with you and Aaron Zobell concerning your grazing on the Birch Creek Little Hole and Little Davenport allotments. It will serve as your 2013 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 which 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 Aaron Zobell and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registrations provided by you 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.

Table 1.0 Birch Creek/Little Hole & Little Davenport Allotments. – Proposed Grazing Schedule and Utilization Benchmarks

Allotment	Kind/Class	Numbers	Proposed Dates ¹	Utilization Benchmarks ²
Little Davenport	cattle (cow/calf)	9	June 1 – July 15	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
Birch Creek/Little Hole (East and West Units)	cattle (cow/calf)	148	July 15 – Sept. 20	≤ 50% 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 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 (e.g. Button Hook, Low Line meadow, etc.); RSH = residual stubble height.

Coordinate with Aaron prior to bringing your livestock onto National Forest lands to ensure range readiness has occurred and to allow for any changed condition such as drought. After coordinating with Aaron and making any necessary adjustments to table 1.0 grazing of the Little Davenport and Birch Creek/Little Hole allotments will commence. The Little Davenport allotment will be grazed per the on-and-off provision of your term grazing permit. Grazing of this on-and-of allotment will conclude when any utilization benchmark has been met or by July 15th, whichever occurs first. At this point in time, grazing of the Birch Creek/Little Hole allotment will commence with livestock being trailed from adjacent BLM lands through the Little Davenport allotment and onto the Birch Creek/Little Hole allotment. Livestock will graze the Birch Creek/Little Hole allotment until any utilization benchmark is reached in either the west or east units, or until September 20th, whichever occurs first. Livestock will be trailed off of National Forest lands using the same route they were trailed onto these lands. Every effort will be taken to completely remove livestock off the National Forest by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires 3 days of riding to gather your livestock, then you should start riding 3 days prior to your scheduled off date. It is your responsibility to ensure utilization benchmarks shown in table 1.0 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. It is especially important livestock be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and an even distribution of your livestock be maintained while in a unit, since any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next scheduled unit or to come home. You are 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 one week prior to your scheduled 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, 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 or the enclosed travel variance form. Maintenance items and other related items specifically discussed include the following:

- ❖ Button Hook Springs Water Development: At least one week prior to the proposed on date for the Birch Creek/Little Hole allotment maintenance of this water development will occur as discussed in the annual permittee meeting. This will include reworking the spring source including replacing the headbox and setting the new head box at a lower elevation or further uphill; and 2) cleaning out the pipe from the headbox to the trough. As discussed in the annual permittee meeting, this will most likely require the use of a small backhoe. To this end, you filled out a travel variance form which I have subsequently approved and enclosed in this letter. This form must be in your possession or the individual's possession performing the work within the timeline indicated (i.e. May 1st – August 15th) to be valid. This travel variance form also allows you to conduct maintenance of the Antone Springs Water Development. After maintenance is completed on these developments material moved to access these developments will need to be placed in the original locations to minimize the likelihood of future unauthorized OHV or vehicular use of the area. While within the Button Hook Springs Water Development and at your discretion, reworking the second spring source within the enclosure including replacing the head box may occur.
- ❖ Pipe Creek Drift Fences (#001070 & 001070A): Inspection of this range improvement indicated this fence had not been maintained to standard in 2012. Similar to your other range improvement responsibilities these fences will need to be maintained to standard at least one week prior to your proposed on date for the Birch Creek/Little Hole allotment.
- ❖ Pipe Creek Gate and Lock: In previous grazing seasons the gate at Pipe creek has been locked prior to its designated closure of August 15th. This has resulted in problems in maintaining improvements designated in your term grazing permit prior to your scheduled on date. A key at the Vernal Ranger district is available for your use to avoid this issue in the future. Contact Aaron just prior to conducting your assigned maintenance responsibilities and he will verify the key is ready for you to pick. Concerns have also existed about the gate being left open during the grazing season. A “close the gate” sign is available at the district if needed. Please let Aaron know if you are interested in picking up a sign or if the gate continues to be locked prior to August 15th.

In addition to the items discussed above, a detailed review of many range improvements occurred in 2012. This review showed that while many permittees were maintaining range improvements, various concerns did exist as to the type of maintenance that was occurring in some situations. To aid in

clarifying what it means to maintain fences to standard and to address these concerns I expect the following to occur when completing annual fence maintenance. These expectations were discussed in detail at the annual 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.

All 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 2013 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.

We are treating a spotted knapweed site on the Birch Creek-Little Hole Allotment. You are aware of this site. Should you observe this plant or any other "new" weeds in other areas of the allotments on which you graze let Aaron know so that prompt treatment can occur. Control of musk thistle also remains a concern. The spread of this plant can be controlled by removing seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base.

Keep track of the dates, numbers and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and let Aaron know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to Aaron by December 31, 2013.

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

Sincerely,

/s/Rowdy Muir
ROWDY MUIR
District Ranger

Enclosure (2)
Travel Variance Permit
2013 Grazing Use Record

cc Dusty Carpenter, BLM, 170 South, 500 East, Vernal, UT. 84078