

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 29, 2014

Vance Broadbent  
JRB, LLC  
P.O. Box 58627  
Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0627

Dear Vance,

This letter references the annual meeting held in Manila, Utah on March 10, 2014 with you, your manager Hugh Straatman, and Aaron Zobell concerning JRB LLC's grazing on the Linwood-South Valley Allotment. It will serve as JRB's 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) and become part of JRB's permit as provided for in Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of JRB's Term Grazing Permit.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which JRB feels may require changes to these instructions. If JRB believes this becomes necessary, or if JRB 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 JRB to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment. Confirmation of payment by the Forest Service must be received before JRB's livestock will be allowed to graze on National Forest lands.

Grazing of the Linwood pastures as prescribed continues to be contingent upon your irrigation of these pastures. If these pastures are not irrigated or if adequate irrigation does not occur, JRB's Term Grazing Permit and/or future AOIs will be adjusted to reflect this.

**Table 1.0 Linwood/South Valley Allotment – Proposed Grazing Schedule and Utilization Benchmarks**

| Numbers | Class     | Unit                               | Dates             | Utilization Benchmarks  |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 225     | Yearlings | South Linwood Pasture              | June 15 – June 30 | ≥ 4" stubble height – irrigated pastures and intermittent/perennial drainages including Birch Spring Draw <sup>1</sup>                    |
| 225     | Yearlings | South Linwood Pasture              | July 14 – July 27 | ≥ 4" stubble height – irrigated pastures and intermittent/perennial drainages including Birch Spring Draw <sup>1</sup>                    |
| 112     | Yearlings | North Linwood Pasture <sup>2</sup> | July 28 – Aug. 6  | ≥ 6" stubble height <sup>3</sup>  |
| 100     | Cow       | South Valley                       | Nov. 15 – Dec. 14 | ≤ 50% of key forage species<br>≥ 4" stubble height – irrigated pastures and intermittent/perennial drainages including South Valley Creek |

Dates are estimates and may vary based upon range readiness, drought, any utilization benchmark being reached prior to the proposed move date, and/or other factors. Utilization 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. <sup>1</sup>≥4" preferred species (average residual stubble height of all species ≥6"); <sup>2</sup>Grazing outside of the North Linwood Pond Enclosure only (inside rested); <sup>3</sup>Livestock are to be removed when any segment of this pasture reaches an average 6" stubble height.

Livestock will be trailed from adjacent private lands to the South Linwood Pasture where they will begin grazing as shown in table 1.0. Livestock will be removed from National Forest lands from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup> to allow for regrowth of vegetation and to reduce potential recreation conflicts. On July 14<sup>th</sup> livestock will once again be placed on the South Linwood Pasture with grazing of this pasture occurring until July 27<sup>th</sup> or until any utilization benchmark is met, whichever occurs first. ½ of these livestock will then be removed from National Forest lands while the other ½ will graze the North Linwood pasture excluding the enclosure area. Grazing of this pasture will conclude on August 6<sup>th</sup> or when an average six



inch stubble height is reached, whichever occurs first. At this time all livestock will be removed from National Forest lands until November 15<sup>th</sup>. On November 15<sup>th</sup> livestock will be trailed from private lands and graze the South Valley unit. Emphasis will be placed on grazing the South Valley portion of this unit this year with emphasis being placed on grazing the Reeves portion of this unit in 2015. Livestock will continue to graze this unit until December 14<sup>th</sup> or when any utilization benchmark is met, whichever occurs first. Every effort must be taken to completely remove livestock off of National Forest lands by the dates shown in table 1.0. It is JRB's responsibility to ensure 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 salting/mineral supplement areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place salt in good forage producing areas where cattle do not go by preference. Do not place salt next to water, roads, and trails. Cattle need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed.

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

North and South Linwood Pastures: Irrigation will occur throughout the normal irrigation season including prior to and after grazing. Reconstruction of ditches should occur after livestock are removed from the unit. Maintenance of previously reconstructed ditches will occur prior to the normal irrigation season to ensure pastures are adequately irrigated and benefits to waterfowl habitat are maximized. All work completed will be to the maintenance standards listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Pastures and ditches will be checked periodically during the irrigation season with problem areas being promptly addressed and water flowing as planned. Treatment of noxious weeds will occur late spring and/or early summer by the Forest Service and/or Sweetwater County Weed and Pest or Daggett County. You will be contacted prior to this occurring to remove water from the pastures so that herbicides are applied per label direction.

- South Linwood Pasture: A high-intensity short duration grazing system will be used. Actions to occur prior to grazing this pasture and for which you are responsible are listed below.
  - Electric fence to be installed at the west end of the pasture tying into the Linwood West Boundary Fence (#001051) and extending parallel and just south of the Linwood road and tying into the northeast corner of the old Linwood horse pasture (#001053). Fence will be installed just prior to and removed promptly after grazing of this pasture.
  - The headgate and the berm located just below the headgate will be checked regularly and maintained as needed to ensure the ditch including the associated headgate and berm operate correctly throughout the entire irrigation season.
  - The ditch and berm adjacent to the Linwood road will be checked periodically and maintained as needed to ensure water does not spill over the berm and flow down or adjacent to the Linwood Road. *As discussed in the permittee meeting this will require maintenance of the ditch at the bottom of the old horse pasture in the vicinity of the old road.*
  - Water should not be allowed to flow uncontrolled down the old horse road and into Birch Springs Draw.

- North Linwood Pasture: A high-intensity short duration grazing system will be used to graze areas outside of the Linwood pond enclosure. Actions to occur prior to grazing this pasture and for which you are responsible are listed below.
  - Maintenance of the North Linwood Pond Enclosure (#001518) to the standards listed in your Term Grazing Permit.
  - Two segments of electric fence to be installed. The first segment starting at the south end of the newly constructed boundary fence as you enter the allotment from the Linwood road and extending to the southwest corner of the enclosure (#001518). The second segment starting at the northeast side of the enclosure adjacent to the dirt road leading to HWY 530 and extending adjacent and parallel to this road and tying into the northeast corner of the Linwood West Boundary Fence (#001051). Segments to be set up just prior to and removed promptly after grazing.

South Valley Unit: *Review your maintenance responsibilities for this unit and complete all maintenance necessary to maintain your improvements to standard at least one week prior to the turn on date for the unit. Particular emphasis should be placed on fences #001084 and #00123. Additionally “close the gate” signs will need to continue to be placed at the Forest boundary on the South Valley Creek road. This fence will need to be checked periodically when your livestock are present on adjacent private lands. Any drift of your livestock onto National Forest lands prior to your scheduled on date, is excess use and a violation of the terms and conditions of your permit. Further, livestock drift into the area prior to the scheduled on date reduces the amount of AUMs available for your livestock during the permitted grazing season.*

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 the National Forest lands continues to be a high priority. Please let us know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. Of highest concern are new invaders such as Dyer's woad and 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 attached below and return it to us by December 31, 2014.

Thank you for your efforts in managing the Linwood/South Valley Allotment. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at (435) 781-5279.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR  
District Ranger

Enclosures (1)

2014 Grazing Use Record

cc: Hugh Straatman, P.O. Box 181, Manila, UT. 84046

cc: Dave Olsen, Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT. 84078