



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 29, 2014

Glen Tinker  
John Tinker Family Living Trust  
P.O. Box 297  
Manila, UT 84046

Dear Glen,

This letter references the annual meeting held in Manila, Utah on April 14, 2014 with Glen Tinker, Bryan Tinker, Scott Slauch, and Aaron Zobell concerning grazing on the Sheep Creek Mountain 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 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 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. Scott will tag his livestock with green ear tags and John Tinker Living Trust will tag their livestock with yellow ear tags prior to livestock entering National Forest lands.

**Table 1.0 Sheep Creek Mountain Allotment – Permitted Grazing Numbers, Kind, Class and Season of Use**

Permittee	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season of Use
John Tinker Family Living Trust	145	cattle	cow/calf	June 1 – September 15
Scott Slauch	28	cattle	cow/calf	June 1 – September 15

**Table 2.0 Sheep Creek Mountain Allotment – Proposed Grazing Schedule and Utilization Benchmarks**

Unit	Proposed Dates <sup>1</sup>	Utilization Benchmarks <sup>2</sup>
Death Valley	June 1 – June 21	≤ 40% of key forage species
Lost Springs	June 22- July 18	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
Scrapper Springs	July 19 – August 6	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
Elk Park	August 7 – Sept. 15	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥4RSH of graminoids along the greenline

<sup>1</sup>Dates are estimates and may vary based upon range readiness, drought, utilization benchmarks, and/or other factors. <sup>2</sup>Utilization 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 (e.g. Scrapper Springs, Honslinger Creek, Hope Creek, Youngs Spring, Elk Park, 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. Scott will truck his livestock into the yellow pine area of the Death Valley unit and John Tinker Family Living Trust will truck their livestock into the lodgepole trough area of the Death Valley 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 reached in the Elk Park unit or by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 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. The Summit Springs corrals may continue to be used when gathering livestock from the allotment and in preparation for trucking livestock off of National Forest lands.

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 or as described in your enclosed Ashley National Forest Travel Plan Variance permit. Off-road use of OHVs for any other purpose other than the maintenance of fences specifically identified in your Travel Variance Permit is strictly prohibited. The Travel Variance Permit is only for those individuals shown on the permit and must be carried when in use to be valid. Maintenance items and other related items specifically discussed include the following:

- Sheep Creek Mountain Dowd Hole Ponds Water Development: The Forest Service has completed the NEPA and finalized the water right with the Utah Division of Water Rights to allow for the construction of these ponds. John Tinker Family Living Trust will now be responsible for the construction of these ponds including providing the heavy equipment (i.e. CAT) necessary to construct the ponds. Two ponds will initially be constructed. The first will be in the west side of Dowd's Hole in the vicinity of F.S. road 10218. The second will be in the east side of Dowd's Hole. The ponds will be constructed as described in the annual permittee meeting and as shown in Appendix A. John Tinker Family Living Trust's Term Grazing Permit will be modified to show these added responsibilities at a later date. Construction of these ponds is planned for this fall.
- Fence #001076 Extension: The extension of this fence across Carter Creek and parallel to the Carter Creek Bridge is an effective tool in limiting drift from Elk Park to the Lost Springs unit. Scott will continue to be responsible for setting up the extension just prior to livestock entering the Elk Park unit and taking down the extension just after livestock are removed from the unit.
- Lodgepole Spring Water Development: John Tinker Family Living Trust indicated the pipe from the headbox to the trough has deteriorated to the point that the water development is no longer functioning as designed. 1 ½" polypipe is available at the Forest Service and may be used to replace the current pipe. Amount of polypipe estimated to complete this repair is approximately 300 ft. Similar to all of John Tinker Family Living Trust's other improvements, this water development should be operational at least 1 week prior to turn on. Should John Tinker Family Living Trust encounter any unusual difficulties in maintaining this trough they are encouraged to contact us prior to their proposed on date.
- Proposed Scrapper Springs Enclosure: Constructing an enclosure around Scrapper Springs to limit livestock use of this area was discussed and tentatively agreed upon. However, due to personnel changes on the District, this project will not be implemented in 2014. As such the construction of this enclosure should be an item of discussion at next year's annual permittee meeting. Assuming the enclosure is constructed the Forest Service would provide the materials

necessary to construct the enclosure while the permittees would be responsible for building the enclosure. Maintenance of the enclosure would then belong to John Tinker Family Living Trust with possible other changes to maintenance responsibilities occurring at that time.

- Death Valley Ponds: The possibility of developing several ponds within the Death Valley unit has been discussed in previous permittee meetings. Discussions regarding this potential development are expected to continue this grazing season with viable options being considered.

Permittees will ensure utilization benchmarks within wet and mesic areas of the Lost Springs and Scrapper Springs unit are not exceeded. Particular emphasis should be placed at Honslinger and Scrapper Springs. Livestock will immediately be removed from these units into the next scheduled unit to be grazed prior to any utilization benchmark being exceeded in these areas. Permittees will periodically check these units for livestock that may have been missed or drifted back into these units after the initial removal of livestock. Specific direction regarding these units is given below:

Scrapper Springs Unit: Utilization levels at Scrapper Springs continue to be a concern with utilization benchmarks being exceeded last year at this area. *Permittees are to monitor utilization levels at this area and move livestock prior to any utilization benchmark being exceeded.* To aid in the distribution of livestock during the time livestock are in the Scrapper Springs unit: 1) several ponds in the Dowd Hole area will be constructed as previously discussed; 2) permittees will herd livestock every two to three days with herding occurring at various times in the day and starting when livestock first enter the unit; 3) permittees will not salt within ¼ mile of Scrapper Springs; and 4) John Tinker Family Living Trust will install a three-strand electric fence around the spring, adjacent willows, and the old pond at Scrapper Springs prior to livestock entering the unit and remove the temporary fencing shortly after livestock are removed from the unit. Mitigation measures two-four have been implemented in previous grazing seasons and have provided for improved distribution of livestock. Mitigation measure 1 (pond construction) will provide for further improved distribution of livestock. A fifth mitigation measure, the proposed Scrapper Springs enclosure, is also now being considered.

Lost Springs Unit: Utilization levels within various locations of the Lost Springs unit, including Honslinger, have been of concern in previous grazing seasons. However, monitoring shows recent changes in management and summarized here appear to have adequately resolved this concern. These changes include: 1) increased herding of livestock by permittees so that livestock are herded at least once every other day and at various times during the day with herding starting when livestock first enter the unit; 2) extending fence # 001076 across Carter Creek so drift of livestock from the Elk Park unit to the Lost Springs unit is minimized; 3) regularly checking the unit after grazing has been completed and promptly removing any livestock found in the unit; and 4) installing a three-strand electric fence around Hope Creek adjacent to the Sheep Creek Geological loop prior to livestock entering the unit and removing the electric fence shortly after grazing of the unit is completed. Permittees will work cooperatively on items one-three with particular emphasis being placed at Honslinger and a number of other smaller drainages in the unit. Scott will ensure item number four occurs (i.e. electric fencing).

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 of 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 December 31, 2014.

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 (3)  
Appendix A  
2014 Grazing Use Record  
Travel Plan Variance Permit

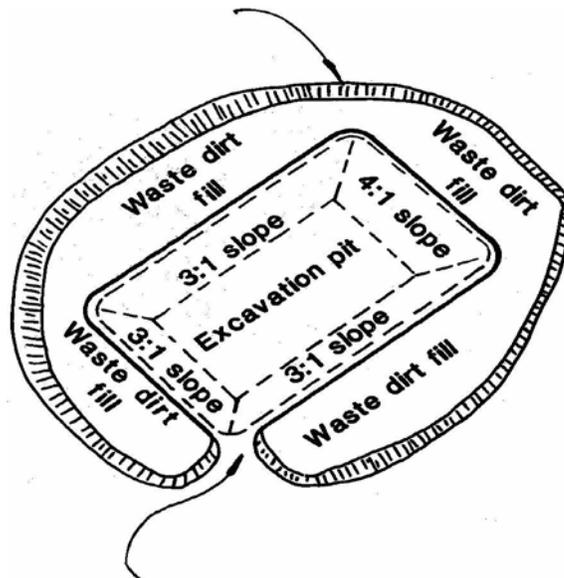
cc Brian Tinker (P.O. Box 261 Manila UT. 84046)

## Appendix A: General Specifications for Dowd Hole Ponds

*Specifications*—The size and depth of stock ponds are important because the amount of water used by livestock is minor compared with losses from evaporation and seepage. A deep pond with minimum surface area will have noticeably less evaporation than a shallow one. Livestock will drink from ponds with relatively steep sides, but usually will not wade in the water. Stock ponds designed to provide direct access for livestock to the water should have at least two sides with slopes no greater than 3:1; a 4:1 slope is preferred. Water should be at least 8 feet deep, or deeper to minimize evaporation loss.

*Pit tank or dugout*—Pit tanks should have three sides with a 3:1 slope; the fourth side should have a 4:1 slope (fig. 79). Extracted material is used to build an embankment around the excavation except for the spillway area. The spillway should lead water back to a natural stream course. The distance between the high-water level of the tank and the top of the fill should be at least 3 feet. Each layer of excavated dirt should be packed as it is deposited. An alternative design is to place all the excavated material on the downhill side of the excavation to form a small dam. This method is commonly used in small drainages to catch and store surface runoff. Pit tanks can also be constructed next to streams such that the overflow channel provides an inlet to fill the pit tank during high flow.

Site must be scarified before excavation or fill. Each layer of fill must be compacted before another layer is added. Side slopes will be a minimum of 3:1 and one slope 4:1.



Spillway must drain into existing natural channel or vegetation to avoid erosion. Freeboard (distance between spillway and top of fill) shall be 3' minimum. Freeboard 3'

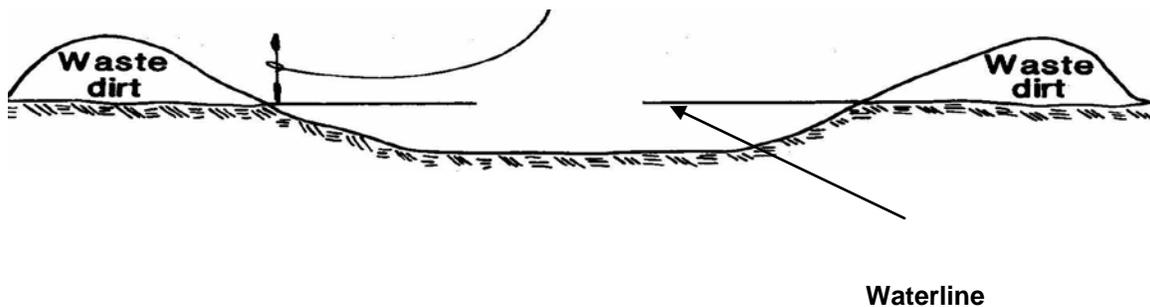


Figure 79—Specifications