



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 14, 2014

Steve Harmsen  
Indian Trail Ranch LLC  
621 Vista View Court  
North Salt Lake, UT 84054

Dear Steve,

This letter is in reference to the annual meeting held in Vernal on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 which was attended by yourself, Aaron Zobell of the Forest Service, Craig Newman of the BLM as well as various UDWR and SITLA personnel. This letter will serve as your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Forest Service portion of the Goslin Mountain Allotment in conjunction with direction you may have already or may yet receive from the BLM. This letter will become part of your Forest Service 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 Craig Newman who will coordinate these proposed changes with the Forest Service. Do not initiate any changes or deviate from these annual operating instructions prior to receiving this approval.

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registration provided by you to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on Forest Service lands within the allotment. The billing for your grazing on Forest Service administered lands will continue to be issued by the BLM via the interagency agreement existing for the allotment.

**Table 1.0 Goslin Mountain Allotment Proposed Grazing Schedule, Numbers, and Utilization Benchmarks<sup>1</sup>**

Numbers	Unit	Date	Utilization Benchmarks <sup>2</sup>
450-500 pair (cow/calf)	Upper Goslin	June 22 – August 1	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" residual stubble height along the greenline
450-500 pair (cow/calf)	East Antelope Flat	August 2 – Sept. 1	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" residual stubble height along the greenline
450-500 pair (cow/calf)	West Antelope Flat	Sept. 2 – Sept. 30	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" residual stubble height along the greenline

<sup>1</sup>Dates are estimates and may vary based upon range readiness, drought, utilization benchmarks, and 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. Livestock will be moved when any utilization benchmark has been met or by the proposed date, whichever occurs first.

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.

Maintenance of all the Ranch's improvements must be completed one week prior to the proposed on date of any units containing National Forest lands to the standards listed in the Ranch's permit. This will allow time for the inspection of improvements and any potential concerns to be addressed before



livestock enter the allotment. *If the Ranch's maintenance responsibilities have not been completed to the standards listed in the permit, livestock will not be allowed to enter National Forest lands.* All labor and materials needed for maintenance are the Ranch's responsibility. Any ATV use in the administration of the allotment is limited to existing roads unless permission is otherwise obtained. Maintenance items and other related items specifically discussed included the following:

- Maintenance of Structural Range Improvements: Maintenance of Structural Improvements as shown in Part III of your Term Grazing Permit was of concern last year (see the Ranch's letter of non-compliance regarding the Cow Springs Water Development and annual permittee meeting notes regarding the lack of maintenance of the Dutch John Draw Drift Fence). Maintenance of these range improvements as well as any other improvements for which the Ranch has been assigned responsibilities for in Part III of its Term Grazing Permit must occur by June 15<sup>th</sup> (i.e. one week prior to turn on). In addition, the Cows Springs Water Development and Dutch John Draw Drift Fence must be inspected by Forest Service personnel prior to any livestock being turned into any unit containing National Forest lands.

*Turn on of livestock into any unit containing National Forest lands prior to completing maintenance to standard and having had Forest Service personnel verify maintenance of these improvements to standard will result in the Ranch once again being in non-compliance to the Terms and Conditions of their Term Grazing Permit. Should this occur, action regarding the Ranch's Term Grazing Permit in the form of a temporary suspension in full or part will be seriously considered.*

- Range Review of the Upper Goslin Unit: A range review consisting of yourself and/or your rider; Forest Service Personnel; BLM personnel; and other interested parties including representatives of UDWR and SITLA lands will occur on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Tentatively all parties will meet at the Goslin Mtn. turnoff adjacent to HWY 191 at 8:00 a.m. Utilization cages within the Upper Goslin unit will be moved on this date with several new locations for cages on Forest Service lands being considered at this time. We encourage you to have your maintenance of the afore mentioned improvements completed by this date so that inspection of these improvements may occur at this time.
- Bare Top Mountain: Every effort should continue to be made to ensure livestock are kept off of Bare Top Mountain. If livestock drift into this area they will need to be promptly removed. Similar to your other maintenance responsibilities, ensure maintenance of the Antelope Bare Top Fence occurs at least 1 week prior to turn on to any Forest Service lands.
- Dutch John, Little Hole, and Rifle Canyon Areas: Cattle drifted into the Dutch John area in 2013. Maintenance of the Dutch John Draw Drift Fence to standard in conjunction with active herding of livestock is expected to eliminate this drift. In addition, to eliminating drift of livestock into this area, the Ranch will need to continue to ensure drift of livestock into the Little Hole and Rifle Canyon areas does not occur.
- Antelope Flat Campground and Boat Launch Area: Cattle need to be kept out of the Antelope Flat Campground including the boat launch area and out of any other popular recreation areas. This is especially important during weekends and holidays such as Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.
- Full-time rider: You indicated that Aaron Rees (435-621-5504) will be your fulltime rider this grazing season. Let us know if this changes.

The control of noxious weeds on National Forest lands continues to be a high priority. Please let Aaron 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 Craig Newman know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to the Forest Service by December 31, 2014.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Craig Newman of the BLM or Aaron Zobell at (435) 781-5279. Thanks for your help in managing this allotment. We look forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR  
District Ranger

Enclosure (1)  
2014 Grazing Use Record

cc: Craig Newman, Vernal BLM Field Office, (170 South 500 East, Vernal UT 84078.)  
cc: Pat Rainbolt, UDWR (318 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal UT. 84078)  
cc: Aaron Rees, Full-time Rider (122 East 1150 South, Vernal Utah. 84078)