United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Ashley National Forest | Flaming Gorge Ranger District
PO Box 279
Manila, UT 84046

File Code: 2210/2230
Date: April 29, 2014

Dale and Glenna Anderson
P.O. Box 558
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

Dear Dale and Glenna,

This letter references the annual meeting held in Manila, Utah on March 10, 2014 with Dale Anderson, Richie Anderson, Carol Gardiner, Raymond Terry, and Aaron Zobell concerning grazing on the Lewis-Allen Allotment. It will serve as your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) and will 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. Carol Gardner will tentatively tag her livestock with purple and red ear tags. Dale and Glenna Anderson will tentatively tag their livestock with yellow tags. Directions regarding the Swett Ranch portion of the allotment are included in Appendix A.

Table 1.0 Lewis-Allen Allotment[1] – Permitted Grazing Numbers, Kind, Class and Season of Use

Permittee	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season of Use
Dale and Glenna Anderson	42	cattle	cow/calf	May 15 – September 30
Carol Gardiner	43	cattle	cow/calf	June 1 – September 30

[1]Does not include the Swett Ranch portion of the allotment.

Table 2.0 Lewis-Allen Allotment – Proposed Grazing Schedule and Utilization Benchmarks

Permittee	Unit	Sequence	Dates of Use[1]	Utilization Benchmarks[2]
-Dale and Glenna Anderson	Alabama Flat	1st	May 15 – May 31	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
-Dale and Glenna Anderson -Carol Gardiner	North Unit	2nd	June l – July 28	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
-Dale and Glenna Anderson -Carol Gardiner	South Unit	3rd	July 29 – Sept. 30	≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline

[1]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. [2]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 (e.g. adjacent to Camper World, old pasture areas adjacent to Swett Ranch, etc.).

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.

Dale and Glenna Anderson will truck their cattle to the Greendale overlook and then trail them to the Alabama Flat unit. Herding of livestock will occur at least every two to three days with protein and/or salt blocks being provided to livestock during the time they are in this unit. Areas selected for salting and/or mineral supplement will be the various rocky/scabby areas found on the far north and east ends of the unit. Dale and Glenna are encouraged to continue to work cooperatively with the Trail Creek Ranch to aid in ensuring their livestock do not access the ranch during the time they are in this unit. Livestock will be trailed to the North unit on June 1 or when any utilization benchmark has been met, whichever occurs first.

Carol Gardiner's cattle will have been previously brought onto private lands associated with the Trail Creek ranch via the Greendale overlook with these cattle having been trailed from this location across National Forest lands to these private lands. On or around May 24th these livestock will be trailed from the Trail Creek Ranch to the Swett Ranch where they will take part in the Swett Ranch Branding Day. When activities relating to the Swett Ranch Branding Day are concluded and no later than May 26th, these livestock will be trailed out of the Swett Ranch and back onto private lands. On June 1st, these same livestock will then be trailed from private lands to the old Bear Canyon unit adjacent to the Flaming Gorge Resort where grazing as shown in table 2.0 will occur. Salting of areas adjacent to the Flaming Gorge Resort and other preferred areas of the old Bear Canyon unit is not permitted. Instead salt according to directions found in relevant Term Grazing Permits and this AOI. Use of a short electric fencing adjacent to Allen Creek in the northwest area of the old unit is again authorized to aid in controlling livestock while within the old unit. This electric fence will be promptly removed after being used. Livestock will be trailed into other areas of the North unit on June 15 or when any utilization benchmark has been met in the old Bear Canyon unit, whichever occurs first. Livestock will be kept out of the old Bear Canyon unit after this point in time.

Permittees' livestock will graze the North unit until July 28 when grazing of the South unit will commence. Livestock will be removed from National Forest lands when any utilization benchmark has been met in the South unit or by September 30, whichever occurs first. Every effort must be taken to completely remove livestock off National Forest lands 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. Livestock will be gathered using temporary corrals just east of Swett Ranch or at the Red Canyon holding corrals.

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. 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 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:

- Allen Creek Unit Fence (#001529): This fence was removed in 2013. However, materials including rolled barb-wire and T-posts remain on National Forest lands. Using the enclosed and

approved ANF Travel Plan Variance permit, Dale and Glenna Anderson will remove barbed-wire and T-posts remaining on site returning the T-posts to the Vernal Ranger District and properly disposing of the barbed-wire (the enclosed Travel Variance Permit is only for those individuals shown on the permit and must be carried when in use to be valid). Removal of materials associated with this fence is to occur prior to turn on in 2014. Term Grazing Permits including maintenance responsibilities will be adjusted at a later date to reflect the removal of this fence.

- Swett Ranch and Trail Creek Drift Fences and Gates: Permittees have indicated that willow stays used in either the Swett Ranch Pasture fences or Trail Creek drift fences have been replaced with wood stays. Permittees have also indicated there is a continuing need to place additional wood stays on the Swett Ranch and/or Trail creek drift fences. Wood stays are available for pickup at the Flaming Gorge Ranger District or may be cut from available material on site.
- Flaming Gorge Lodge-Cart Creek Fence (#001116): Carol has indicated and preliminary reviews indicate heavy maintenance of the Flaming Gorge Lodge-Cart Creek Fence has been completed. A final review by F.S. personnel is pending.
- Green's Lake Extension Boundary Fence (#001522): Reconstruction of this fence totaling approximately 3,000 ft. will start in 2014 with a completion date tentatively set prior to turn on in 2015. Specs for the fence are included as an enclosure to this letter with specific direction as to the reconstruction of this fence being handwritten into the various pages on this enclosure. Permittees will need to carefully review these specs prior to starting the reconstruction of this fence. The Forest Service will provide all the materials necessary to reconstruct this fence. Dale and Glenna Anderson will be responsible for the reconstruction of this fence from the west end to the ½ way point. Carol Gardiner will be responsible for the reconstruction from this point to the end of the fence. Maintenance responsibilities after the reconstruction of this fence will remain as assigned. Permittees may dispose of any materials used in the original construction of this fence as they see fit. Materials from the old fence are not to be used in the reconstruction.

  Materials are available for pickup at the Manila Office and include among other items treated 20 ft. poles having 3" minimum diameters and 250 12 ft. six inch minimum diameter round posts (50 of these are available at the Vernal Ranger District – not treated). The 20 ft. poles are to be cut to a 15 ft. length with the cut occurring on the small end of these poles. The 15 ft. section of these poles will then be used for poles on the buck and pole section of the fence creating approximately 14 ft. spans. The remaining 5 ft. end of the original 20 ft. pole will then be used as stays to be placed vertically and in the center of each span. The 250 six inch minimum diameter X 12 ft. round posts will be cut in ½ creating two equal logs of six foot length each. Bucks will then be built at a 60 degree angles using a premade jig. When cut and put together but prior to nailing and/or bolting, bucks should securely fit together (i.e. not loose in their fittings). 3 poles are to be placed on the front side of the fence with a 4th being placed on the back side. One in every 5 spans will have a 20 ft. horizontal brace post at areas of level to semi level ground. At areas of more moderate slopes one in every 3 spans will have a horizontal brace post. Permittees are encouraged to build a few bucks and then submit these for approval prior to building all bucks required for the reconstruction. Similarly permittees are encouraged to reconstruct only a few spans of the actual fence and submit these for approval prior to building all spans required for reconstruction.
- Swett Ranch Loop Road: Use of the Swett Ranch Loop Road within the North unit has changed to exclude all vehicular traffic other than OHVs. Permittees have tentatively indicated having access to this Swett Ranch Loop Road using this or other approved methods is sufficient for the management of livestock on the allotment. Should this change, permittees will need to contact F.S. personnel and obtain approval prior to accessing this area using vehicular traffic other than OHVs. Permittees are encouraged to obtain a combination lock to be locked in sequence with Forest Service locks at gated areas between the North and South units to aid in management of livestock on the allotment.
- A range ride of the lower Skull Creek area was discussed. Due to personnel changes on the District, it is very unlikely that such a range ride will occur this year. However, completing a range ride of this area is encouraged in 2015.

- Carol Gardiner's maintenance responsibilities in her Term Grazing Permit inadvertently show portions of the Green's Lake campground that do not serve as a unit boundary. Carol's permit will be updated at a later point in time to correct this error.
- Alabama Flat ponds: Consideration as to the construction of a pond in Alabama Flat will continue to occur.

Highway safety remains a major concern for this allotment. The following measures will continue to be implemented to provide for continued highway safety:

- Livestock will be kept in the North unit until after the July 24 weekend. Successful implementation of this strategy will require extra riding and herding by permittees. Permittees should notify us if they feel this will result in any utilization benchmark being exceeded in the North unit prior to the proposed move date.

- Five signs with flagging and flashers will be placed by permittees along Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 191 to warn oncoming motorists of the possibility of livestock on or in the vicinity of Highway 44 and 191. Signs will be put in place approximately three days before livestock enter the South unit, will be maintained during the time livestock are in the unit, and will be promptly removed after livestock are removed from National Forest lands. One sign will be placed next to the Highway 44 before entering the allotment when traveling southbound (Carol's responsibility). A second sign will be placed next to U.S. Highway 191 traveling northbound just after turning onto this highway from Highway 44 (Dale and Glenna's responsibility). A third and fourth sign will be placed next to U.S. Highway 191 with one sign located at the north end of the allotment in the vicinity of the Camper World turnoff (Dale and Glenna's responsibility) and the other located at the south end of the allotment (Carol's responsibility). The last sign will be placed adjacent to the Red Canyon cattleguard on Highway 44 (Carol's responsibility). Permittees will continue to coordinate with UDOT in the placement of signs and type of signs used.

- Continued use of fluorescent ear tags by permittees is encouraged. These ear tags make animals more visible at night and will aid in highway safety.

Permittees also enquired as to the possibility of restoring the historic Swett Ranch pasture #4 and incorporating this pasture into a grazing scheme. In response to this letter I direct permittes to the correspondence sent out in various letters in the fall of 2010.

Carol has asked her son Raymond Terry be allowed to graze up to 12 pair on the allotment. I have approved this request per direction found in FSH 2209.13 - 12.22. Terry's livestock must be branded according to the Lazy RT brand. These livestock will count towards Carol's total permitted numbers.

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 visitis 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 (435) 781-5279.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR
District Ranger

Enclosures (3)
Appendix A
Fences (pp. 200 – 204)
2014 Grazing Use Record

cc: Chris Nichols (Flaming Gorge Ranger District – Dutch John Office, Dutch John UT. 84023)
cc: Jeff Rust (Ashley National Forest – Supervisor's Office, Vernal UT. 84078)

Appendix A – Operating Instructions for Carol Gardiner regarding the Swett Ranch portion of the Lewis Allen Allotment

Carol 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 shown in table 1.0 will be trailed from adjacent private lands to the Swett Ranch with these cattle having been previously trailed across National Forest lands via the Greendale Overlook onto these private lands. Grazing will occur in each pasture until the relevant utilization benchmark (i.e. four to six inch average stubble height and no less than four inch on moderate to preferred species) is met or by the date shown to move livestock into the next scheduled unit to be grazed, whichever occurs first. Grazing within the Swett Ranch Yard will occur to reduce the threat of fire to historic buildings in the area. Livestock will be removed from National Forest lands when any utilization benchmark has been met in the last pasture to be grazed or by September 10, whichever occurs first. Grazing results from this and past grazing seasons will continue to be used to refine grazing management in subsequent grazing seasons.

Table 1.0 Swett Ranch – Proposed Numbers, Grazing Schedule and Utilization Benchmarks

Pasture	Numbers (cattle – cow/calf)	Grazing Season[1]			Utilization Benchmark[2]
		1st Cycle	2nd Cycle	3rd Cycle	
Pasture 1	40	June 1 – June 6	----------	Sept. 8- Sept. 10	≤50% by key species
Pasture 3	40	June 7 – June 13	July 21 – July 27	Aug. 24 – Aug. 26	≥4 inches by key species
Pasture 2	40	June 14 – June 25	July 28 – Aug. 9	Aug. 27 – Sept. 7	≥4 inches by key species
SRY[3]	40	June 26 – June 28	Aug 10 – Aug. 12	----------	≥4 inches by key species
Rest[4]	----------	June 29 – July 20	Aug. 13 – Aug. 23	----------	Not Applicable

[1]Dates are estimates and may vary based upon range readiness, drought, irrigation practices, utilization benchmarks being met before prescribed move dates, and/or other factors; [2]Utilization will be determined by key species (e.g. species highly to moderately palatable to livestock); [3]SRY pasture to be rotated as needed during any grazing cyle (i.e. 1st cycle; 2nd cycle or 3rd cycle). [4]All livestock will be removed from National Forest lands with pastures 2 and 3 being irrigated during the scheduled periods of rest. If no irrigation or inadequate irrigation occurs the grazing scheduled will be modified to reflect this.

Prior to turn on, review the letter sent to you by the Forest Service dated July 26, 2011. This letter describes expectations for you in regards to the management of Swett Ranch. Items emphasized in the letter and again at the meeting included 1) receiving approval before implementing any changes to your AOI (i.e. changes to the proposed grazing schedule, range improvements, etc.); and 2) continuing to work in close cooperation with the Forest Service in developing and implementing the Swett Ranch activity days. Your point of contact for the Swett Ranch activity days for this grazing season will be Chris Nichols. Chris Nichols may be reached at 435-781-5241. Any public announcements relating to the Swett Ranch Days will be reviewed by Chris and the current Rangeland Mgt. Specialist and approved by Chris prior to being sent out. Items specific to the management of the ranch and discussed in the meeting include the following:

- Swett Ranch Historic Days: Two Swett Ranch historical days are planned for 2014. The first will be a Branding Day. This day is currently planned for May 24th (Saturday). Activities occurring on this day will be similar to those that have occurred in previous years including the branding of all of your calves permitted to graze on the allotment (83 pair in total). Livestock brought onto the ranch and planned for grazing the Swett Ranch pastures may remain on these pastures until May 26th at which point in time they will be removed from National Forest lands until your proposed on date of June 1st. This should allow sufficient time for your calves to acclimate after being branded. The second day is planned around the 3rd week of September. Activities tentatively planned on this day include a variety of Historic and Range monitoring events with high-schools from Daggett, Uintah, and Duchesne county being invited to participate. These days as well as details of activities to occur on these days will need to be finalized with Chris. These historical Swett Ranch days continue to be a part of the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit and will continue to occur on an annual basis.
- Livestock Signs: Place signs at gates and along fences adjacent to the Swett Ranch Yard to remind the public to stay out of the pastures during the times they are being grazed by livestock. The design and placement of the signs should be coordinated with Chris. Should you decide to

use temporary electric fencing to split any of the pastures into smaller units you will need to have signs warning the public about this fence.

- Irrigation and Ditch Work: Continue to reconstruct the ditches that were surveyed and approved by Bighorn Archaeology using mechanized equipment (i.e. top ditch on south end with all other ditch work being completed). Ditches not surveyed by Bighorn Archaeology and which need to be reconstructed may only be reconstructed by shovel, not mechanized equipment. Should you wish to complete any other work in the area using mechanized equipment you will need to contact Jeff Rust, Forest Archeologist, prior to conducting any work.
- Greendale Canal and Swett Ranch Ditches: Irrigation of the Swett Ranch pastures remains a concern and has been problematic due in part to the Allen Creek and Ross springs diversion structures being in poor condition. The Greendale Canal Company met in August of 2010 and among other things discussed the replacement of these structures. The Forest Service is currently looking into replacing the Allen Creek diversion structure. Mark Wilson is responsible for replacing the Ross Springs diversion structure. In preparation for this work you and Terry indicated that you would like to submit a proposed design for the diversion structure. At your convenience submit this design to us so that we may review and if acceptable submit it for approval. In addition and in preparation for installation of the diversion structure, a field trip of the area where the structure is to be installed was tentatively planned for late spring with the Forest Service visiting with the Utah Division of Water Rights about the diversion structure prior to this field trip. Due to personnel changes on the District, we are uncertain if this will be able to occur until this fall or later.
- Noxious Weeds: Contact us should you find treatment of noxious weeds is once again required in the Swett Ranch Pastures. Ensure water is removed from the field prior to any proposed treatments.