



File Code: 2230

Date: May 30, 2008

Denis & Laurie Kowitz
171 North Highway 77
Declo, ID 83323

Dear Denis & Laurie:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operation Instructions for the Cape Horn Allotment for the 2008 grazing season and should be considered as an extension of the Cape Horn Allotment S&G Permit # 300012

I. Authorized Use:

PERMITTEE	NO'S	DATES	Head Months
Kowitz	900 Sheep	6/20-10/1	3077
	1000 Sheep	08/01-10/1	2038

II. Pasture Rotation

BAND	UNIT NAME	DATES	REMARKS
1	Dry/Kelly Creek	6/20 - 7/17	trucked in
1	Marsh Creek	7/18 - 8/3	between Marsh & highway
2	Valley Creek	8/1 - 7/26	trailed in
2	Knapp Creek	7/27 - 8/3	between Marsh & highway
1&2	Beaver Creek	8/6 - 8/13	lambs off early Aug.
1&2	Cape Horn Creek	8/14 - 8/29	
1&2	Lower Swamp/Vader Crk	8/30 - 9/14	above Station
1&2	Swamp/Vader Crk	9/15 - 10/1	trailed off



III. Use Standards

KEY STREAM & REACH	GREENLINE STUBBLE HEIGHT
Marsh, Beaver, Cape Horn, Valley Creeks (all reaches)	6"
Thatcher, Swamp, E. Fork Valley, Winnemucca (within allot)	6"
Knapp Creek (mouth to junction of Road 032 and Trail 034)	6"
Camp, Asher, Kelly Creeks (lower 1/2 mile of each)	6"
All other riparian areas along perennial streams	4"

AREA	ALLOWABLE USE IN PERCENT
Upland Ecosystems and Other Riparian	45%
Woody Browse (new leader growth)	50%

Riparian areas will be used as the key area for monitoring forage utilization levels. In riparian ecosystems grazing use is limited to the extent that retains a minimum of 4" to 6" of forage stubble along the stream greenline based on the entire growing season plant production (measured at seasons end). Additional allowable use is set at 45 percent by weight on upland grasslands. Use on new leader growth of upland woody browse is prescribed at 50 percent.

IV. Permittee Management Responsibilities

- The dates of use and sequence of use may be changed due to forage and/or weather conditions. If for these reasons, or others, you wish to make changes in the dates of use or grazing sequence as described in this plan of use, please discuss it with us before you do so.
- Proper distribution of sheep bands is very important to proper forage utilization. Proper distribution can be attained through routing, choice of bed grounds, salting, and herding. Salt should be placed away from all heavily used trails, all roads, all natural concentration areas, and at least 300 yards from any running water or live spring. Sheep handling under the "teepee" system of herding, assuring herds are constantly tended, once-over grazing, and not bedding more that one night in the same place during the season will help route sheep to unused grazing areas and prevent them from over-utilizing stream bottoms or other riparian areas. **Sheep will not be bedded within 300 yards of any running stream or live spring.**
- Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from live water, trails and roads. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas. Dead or sick animals receive close public scrutiny and should be dealt with quickly.

- A Forest Weed Free Hay Special Order #04-00-097 is in effect as February 11, 2003 – “Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as weed free.
- At the end of the grazing season, we would appreciate it if you would please let us know what your actual use was for the season. We will mail you an actual use form to fill out after the end of the grazing season. This information is one of the many forms of data used to determine how the range is responding to the management practices applied to it.
- It is the **permittee’s** responsibility to keep their animals in the proper unit. Sheep found in wrong pastures should be removed and returned immediately to the correct pasture within 24 hours of notification by phone or letter. Early use or repeated use of grazing units could result in an early move-off date. Routine checks need to be made by you and your herder. This is a requirement of your term grazing permit.

V. Range Improvements Maintenance/Construction

- The Marsh Creek Sheep Bridge, Thatcher Creek Bedgrounds, and Asher Creek Sheep Corrals will be checked and maintained before Sheep enter the pasture or Allotment. Range Improvements should be kept to a standard of repair, which is functional, safe and acceptable to the Forest Service. Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should first be coordinated with the Range Specialist. Improvements are listed in your grazing permit and are shown on the allotment map.
- No construction scheduled for the 2008-grazing season.
- No ground disturbing activities should be conducted on the forest by the permittee or their personnel without approval from the Range Specialist or other District staff. Under the Cultural Resource Settlement, costs to correct a damaged cultural site will be billed to the person who caused the damage. Ground disturbances can no longer be permitted, accepted or allowed to occur on National Forest lands with out prior, proper clearance.
- Please notify the Range Specialist, Barry Dopp 208-879-4161 before cattle are turned on the Forest.

VI. Billing Information

Grazing fees must be paid to **USDA Forest Service P.O. Box 894183 Los Angeles CA 90189-4183** by the date specified on the Bill for Collection and in advance of livestock entry onto the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Grazing fees must be paid before livestock can be onto the Forest.

VII. Forest Service Responsibilities

- Sheep move on counts may be conducted on randomly selected allotments this year. Brands will be checked periodically throughout the grazing seasons.

- Range Inspections will be made several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. You will be invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

VIII. Special Considerations for the 2008 Grazing Season

- If drought conditions persist, you may be asked to remove livestock from the Forest earlier than normal this year if water and/or forage are limited.

IX. MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures will be adhered to in order to keep grazing use on this allotment consistent with a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" finding (Marsh Creek Watershed Biological Assessment, March 3, 1994 Addendum, April 1995 NMFS concurrence; Biological Assessment for Grazing Annual Operation Plans for the Valley Creek Watershed Analysis area, March 18, 1994; 1996 AOP Consultation with NMFS with updated PACFISH screen):

- A. Implementation of the above mentioned utilization standards and herding/routing system of management, herd bedding requirements.
- B. The following areas will be closed to crossing, watering, and streamside grazing on August 15. These areas are those currently used by chinook salmon for spawning.
 - 1) All of Marsh Creek downstream from Knapp Creek/Marsh Creek confluence within the allotment boundaries.
 - 2) Knapp Creek from it's confluence with Marsh Creek upstream for 1 1/2 miles ending at the sheep bridge along the historic stock driveway located in T12N, R12E, SWNW Sec. 18.
 - 3) All of Cape Horn Creek from it's confluence with Marsh Creek within the allotment boundaries.
 - 4) All of Valley Creek from the allotment boundary upstream to it's confluence with Summit Creek.
- C. Sheep bands will cross Knapp Creek, Winnemucca Creek and Upper Beaver Creek only at locations approved by the Forest Service. Pre-approval of these locations will be necessary as well as an examination of designated crossings prior to use during Chinook spawning season to ensure that salmon are not using the crossing spot.

D. Maintenance of improvements in place at the start the grazing season, which are needed to make this grazing system work, will be done before livestock enter any unit dependent on the improvements.

Enclosed is a Year End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use data for the 2008 grazing season. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned on to the allotment, the dates the cattle are moved to and from each pasture on the rotation, and the number of cattle removed from the allotment. Accurate records of these dates should be kept. These records will be requested the end of the season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvement.

If you have any questions concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please call Barry Dopp at 208-879-4161. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions. We are looking forward to the grazing season and hope it will be productive.

Sincerely,

THOMAS GIONET
Acting District Ranger

Cc: Beth Bratlie

Enclosure: Actual Use Report