



**File Code:** 2210/2230

**Date:** June 30, 2016

Glenn and Caryl Elzinga  
7073 Custer Road  
May, ID 83253

Dear Glenn and Caryl,

The following letter documents the meeting you had with Tina Ruffing, Carren Morgan, Ace Hess and Peggy Redick on April 26, 2016. It will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Hat Creek C&H allotment for the 2016 grazing season. AOIs are part of the term grazing permit identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8 of the term grazing permit.

**Permitted Use**

Allotment	No/Class	HMs	Season of Use
Hat Creek C&H	311 c/c	879	7/1-9/24
	207 c/c	585	7/1-9/24

**2016 Authorized Use and Unit Schedules (dates are approximate and depend on meeting forage use standards)**

Allotment	Unit	No/Class	HMs	Season of Use
Hat Creek	Little Hat Creek	225 yearlings	303	7/1-8/10
	Park-Moose	225 yearlings	163	8/11-9/1
	Big Hat	225 yearlings	170	9/2-9/24
	Iron Mountain	N/A	N/A	REST

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of proper use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Tina Ruffing, to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.** Any extension of use outside the permitted dates cannot be authorized.

**Allowable Use**

It is your responsibility to be aware and recognize utilization and alteration use indicators (sometimes called use standards). Watch the results on the land and make plans to move your livestock in time to not exceed these indicators. Regardless of the Unit Schedule shown above you must move your livestock to the next unit planned, or off the allotment, prior to exceeding these indicators. If you need assistance determining use levels please contact Tina and she will assist you.



Once cattle are removed from a unit in accordance with use indicators and/or unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Please ensure that you clean all livestock from each unit as you move livestock to the next unit or as you remove them from the allotment.

The following annual use indicators identify proper use criteria that apply to the Hat Creek allotment. Permittees will evaluate the use indicators using the triggers to plan livestock movement to ensure that the proper use criteria are met.

Key Area Locations	Unit Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM M203	Iron Mountain Little Hat	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Hydric spp	5 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	20%
MIM M236	Iron Mountain Trib. to Big Hat	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Hydric spp	5 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	20%
MIM M235	Big Hat Creek Big Hat Creek	Greenline Stubble	6 in	Hydric spp	7 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	15%
MIM M205	Iron Mountain Middle Fork Hat	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Carex spp	4 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	20%
MIM M208	Park-Moose Unit Moose Creek	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Carex spp	4 in
		Browse Use	50%	Willow	50%
Riparian Sites (other than DMAs)	Use on current year's growth of key riparian species			maximum 50%	
Upland Sites	Use on current year's growth of key herbaceous species			maximum 50%	

The Forest Service may monitor your compliance with allowable use standards. Monitoring typically occurs within two weeks of your move. Please contact Tina if you would like to join range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotments.

### **Biological Assessment and Opinion Requirements**

The Biological Opinion for the Hat Creek Allotment outlines the following measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish. The measures are as follows:

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used.
2. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness.
3. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from streams.
4. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks.

### **Range Improvements**

Range improvements listed in Part 3 of your grazing permit must be maintained to the standards in Part 3 of your grazing permit, prior to livestock being placed in the unit. If you find you

cannot meet these standards this year please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Tina Ruffing as soon as possible.

During the meeting, you discussed that the cattleguard on the Morgan Creek allotment needs to be cleaned to prevent horses from a neighboring allotment accessing your BLM and the Hat Creek allotment. BLM agreed to clean the cattleguard.

### **General Management**

The grazing fees for 2016 are \$2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing bill is due 10 days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. **Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.**

You may make payment in any one of three ways:

1. mail your payment to NFC at:

USDA Forest Service  
C/O Citibank  
P.O. Box 301550  
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

Please include the Bill No. and Payer Code no. on your check.

2. pay online at: [WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY). Save your receipt of payment.
3. pay at any Ranger District Office or the Public Lands Center during regular office hours. Please bring a copy of your bill with you.

The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motorized use are shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle use maps may be obtained at any Salmon-Challis Ranger District office. These prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (as detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a). **The Salmon Challis National Forest requires a Vehicle Use Permit, signed by the District Ranger, for ALL closed roads or off road travel. This permit must be displayed in the windshield of trucks or carried on ATV's, UTV's and motorcycles. Contact your Rangeland Management Specialist to obtain a Vehicle Use Permit if it is necessary for you to travel on closed roads or off-road in the administration on your allotment(s).**

Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free.

Return your completed actual use form (attached) to Tina Ruffing within 30 days after your authorized off date. Filling it out as the summer progresses may help with completion.

You are required to meet all criteria that qualifies you to hold a term grazing permit throughout the term of the permit. If you plan on making changes in the ownership of livestock, or the base property listed on your permit; or plan on waiving all, or part, of your term permit in preference to another party based on the sale of base property and/or permitted livestock, notify me in writing prior to making these changes or selling your base property or permitted livestock.

Compliance with all other terms of your grazing permit is required. These instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

As a reminder, dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from any water source and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

**Other Information/Non-Binding Requests**

Tina discussed with you that there is sage grouse habitat in the Little Moose, Park Creek, Iron Mountain and Big Hat Creek Units of the allotment. She provided a map that showed the habitat and also handouts that outlined standards, guides, objectives and required design features from the Record of Decision (ROD) and Forest Plan Amendment. She discussed the guidelines that would apply to the summer/early fall habitat on your allotment and indicated that there would be crews assessing habitat over the next two summers to determine if it was capable of meeting the guidelines outlined in the ROD. You may be receiving under separate letter an outline of our planned work this year that would help prepare us to implement the Sage Grouse Forest Plan Amendment in 2017 or at the latest prior to the 2018 grazing season. And, as per the Forest Supervisor's promise earlier this year, you will receive phone notification prior to any habitat survey work on your allotment.

During the meeting, it was discussed that there were potentially some issues with noxious weeds being carried higher into the allotment along roads that were bladed last year. Diane Schuldt will be working with you to address the issue this summer. The potential for a cooperative monitoring agreement between you and the forest Service and BLM was also discussed.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance in identifying weed locations on your allotment is appreciated.

The number for reporting a wild fire is: Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center (208) 756-5157.

If you have any questions regarding any of these instructions please call Tina Ruffing at (208) 756-5226 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jay T. Winfield*

JAY T. WINFIELD  
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Forms (blank)  
Vehicle Use Permit