

**File Code:** 2210/2230-3

**Date:** May 7, 2007

Glen Tinker  
John Tinker Family Living Trust  
PO Box 297  
Manila, UT 84046

Dear Glen,

This letter is in reference to the annual meeting you, Floyd Briggs, and Aaron Zobell had on April 22, 2007, in Manila concerning grazing on the Sheep Creek Mountain Allotment. This letter was written as a follow-up to this meeting, will serve as your 2007 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI), and will become part of your permit as provided for in Part 2, Number 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

Your Operating Instructions are as follow:

**Sheep Creek Mountain Allotment dates and numbers**

<b><u>Numbers</u></b>	<b><u>Unit</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
Tinker 145	Death Valley	June 1 – June 21
Briggs 28	Scraper Springs	June 22 – July 21
	Lost Springs	July 22 – August 6
	Elk Park	August 7 – September 15

You plan to truck two loads of cattle (~90-100) to the Lodgepole Trough area in Death Valley and then to immediately start grazing this unit. Forage utilization should not exceed 40% in Death Valley or 50% elsewhere on the allotment. Once proper use has been reached it will be time for your cattle to move to the next scheduled unit. It is important that an even distribution of your cattle be maintained since any area reaching the proper utilization level means it is time to move into the next scheduled unit. Once 50% utilization is reached in the Elk Park Unit it will be time to come home.

Extra emphasis should be placed on reducing livestock use within the riparian areas of the Lost Spring Unit, especially within the Honslinger and Carter Creek (below the Browne Lake enclosure) areas. This will require complete removal of cattle from each unit by the scheduled off date for that unit. For example, if it requires 3 days of riding to gather your cattle within the Elk Park Unit, then you should start riding 3 days prior to your scheduled off date of the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. After cattle are removed from a unit they should not return to that unit.

In 2006, we also agreed that we would make two changes to the Sheep Creek Mountain



grazing schedule to reduce grazing pressure within riparian areas of Honslinger Creek and Carter Creek, below the Browne Lake enclosure. The first change includes a four-day reduction in grazing use within the Lost Springs Unit, with a corresponding four day increase of grazing in the Elk Park Unit. The second change is a modification of the deferred rotation schedule in the Scrapper Springs and Lost Springs Units. This change defers the Lost Springs Unit two out of three years and the Scrapper Springs Unit once every three years. This grazing season is the second that the Lost Spring Unit will be deferred and the Scrapper Springs Unit will be grazed first. I anticipate that the Scrapper Springs Unit will be deferred and the Lost Springs Unit will be grazed first in the 2008 grazing season. We will cooperatively continue to evaluate the effects of these changes at the end of this grazing season and at the end of the 2008 grazing season to determine if these changes should be permanently implemented into the Sheep Creek Mountain Allotment grazing schedule.

As requested, the Young's Spring area (located in the west end of the Elk Park Unit) may be grazed in conjunction with the Lost Springs Unit. When either utilization for the Young's Spring area or the Lost Springs Unit reaches 50% it will be time to move your livestock into the Elk Park portion of the Elk Park Unit that should not have been previously grazed this year. I expect that livestock will not return to Young's Spring once they are moved into the Elk Park Unit.

Please keep track of the dates, numbers, and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the attached Grazing Use Record form. Any changes to the grazing schedule must be coordinated in advance with Aaron.

All salting should be done at least 100 feet from all roads, trails and other visible sites and at least 1,000 feet away from any streams or riparian areas as required in your permit.

All maintenance needs to be completed one week prior to your cattle entering any particular unit. This will allow Aaron time to verify that all range improvements in your permit are at the standards listed in your permit. Permittee maintenance includes both the cost of materials and labor needed to bring your improvements up to an acceptable standard. These costs are reflected in your grazing fees, which have been reduced to allow for the cost of maintenance. Other items specifically needing permittee attention that were discussed included the following:

- ❖ Scrapper Springs reconstruction: The Scrapper Springs' reconstruction must occur this year before John Tinker Family Living Trust cattle will be allowed to graze on the Sheep Creek Mountain Allotment. Specifically at the old water development site the trough as well as other materials need to be removed and the old site needs to be rehabbed. The new site should be located in the area discussed and built to meet Forest Service standards found on page 15 of their permit. At the John Tinker Living Trust's earliest convenience they should contact Aaron and set a date to complete this reconstruction.

- ❖ Reconstruction of the Lodgepole/Spring Creek fence (#001045): Fence needs to be maintained and reconstructed where needed from McCoy Pond east before John Tinker Family Living Trust cattle are allowed on the allotment this year. At the John Tinker Family Living Trust's request, the Forest Service can provide the materials necessary to reconstruct this fence. Reconstruction of this fence must meet the standards and guidelines found on page 14 of their permit. The John Tinker Family Living Trust should notify Aaron when they have completed this reconstruction so that he may inspect this development before their on date.
  
- ❖ Scrapper Springs Unit: Proper distribution with the Scrapper Springs Unit remains a concern. Last year utilization that far exceeded 50% was observed at Scrapper Springs while other portions of the unit experienced light to moderate use. The Allotment Management Plan that is part of your permit directs that Scrapper Springs should not receive greater than 50% utilization total use by livestock and big game. Permittees agreed to the following strategies in an attempt meet utilization standards within Scrapper Springs this grazing season. Following this grazing season and implementations of these new strategies, the Forest Service and permittees will cooperatively evaluate if utilization standards were met at Scrapper Springs. If utilization standards have not been met, then the Forest Service with permittee input will decide what step needs to be taken.
  - An electric fence needs to be put around the spring and adjacent willows within Scrapper Springs prior to cattle entering the Scrapper Springs Unit. This electric fence should be at least two and preferably three strand. Floyd agreed to install and remove this fence.
  - Scrapper Springs reconstruction: Reconstruction of Scrapper Springs water development must occur before the John Tinker Family Living Trust cattle enter the allotment. As previously discussed this is the John Tinker Family Living Trust's responsibility.
  - Herding every two to three days: Permittee herding of cattle while within the Scrapper Springs Unit should occur at least every two to three days. Last year no herding occurred at Scrapper Springs until at least 1 ½ weeks after cattle entered the Scrapper Springs Unit. I expect permittees will be able to maintain an overall better distribution with their cattle in this unit by herding cattle earlier in the grazing season and more often. Generally speaking herding later in the day appears to be more effective than herding first thing in the morning.
  - No salting adjacent or within at least ¼ mile of Scrapper Springs.
  
- ❖ Lost Spring Unit: Using strategies that were implemented last grazing season it appears permittees were successful maintaining proper distribution throughout this unit during the 2006 grazing season. Unfortunately many areas within this unit were heavily grazed by the end of the growing season because cattle were not completely removed from this unit as scheduled. As I result I expect the following will occur this year:

- Strategies that were implemented last grazing season continue through this grazing season. These strategies included:
  - Herding by permittees: As with the Scrapper Springs Unit I expect herding by permittees to occur at least every two to three days. Generally speaking herding later in the day appears to be more effective than herding first thing in the morning.
  - Electric fence around Hope Creek adjacent to Sheep Creek Geological Loop: Prior to cattle entering the Lost Springs unit an electric fence needs to be put up. This electric fence should be at least two and preferably three strand. Floyd agreed to install and remove this fence.
- Cattle should not come into this unit before their on date and cattle need to be removed from this unit by their off date.

Permittees had questions about the following:

- ❖ Road Maintenance: I have agreed to allow permittees to voluntarily maintain approximately ½ mile segment of Forest Service Road #1063 just north of the boundary between the Death Valley and Lost Springs Units. Permittees need to make sure that maintenance of this road is properly done. Also, please let the Forest Service know when you plan on maintaining this road so that after your maintenance I can verify that this maintenance was conducted to the correct standard.
- ❖ Summit Springs water development using Utah Grazing Improvement Program Grant: Aaron is currently looking into the possibility of using water from Summit Springs for this water development. He will contact Floyd when he has found out more about the feasibility of this project. I expect permittees will take the lead in filling out the enclosed Grant Application and submitting a plan that would be approved by the Forest Service. However, permittees need to make sure that range improvements currently within the Sheep Creek Mountain Allotment are maintained as their permit directs, before this project takes priority. We have already developed several water sources in this allotment that permittees are having trouble maintaining at a level that would be beneficial to their livestock.

Per permittees request, we have attached a travel variance request form for ATV off-road access to help with fence maintenance responsibilities. Please fill out this request and return it to the District Ranger for my approval. Any approval would allow ATV use along existing fences to maintain them where this use has previously occurred. Off-road use of ATVs for any other purpose such as cross-country travel would still be prohibited.

We also need your help to control noxious weeds. By removing musk thistle seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base, the spread of this plant can be controlled. We are especially concerned about Dyer's Woad and any other "new" weeds. Please let Aaron know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established.

Finally, we sent out a letter in December to all permittees discussing the drought situation. Since December the Flaming Gorge Ranger District has continued to receive needed precipitation and if the current trend continues into the rest of the spring and summer, I do not plan on having to reduce permittee permitted animal months. However, should the weather pattern change and we receive little to no precipitation between now and your on date, I expect that we will need to adjust your permitted animal months to better reflect forage that is available for consumption by your livestock and to protect rangeland resources. You should have a contingency plan ready in case this occurs.

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

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeff E. Schramm*  
JEFF E. SCHRAMM  
District Ranger

Enclosure (3)  
Grazing Use Record  
Travel Variance Form  
UGIP Application