



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: April 27, 2007

Dear Black Canyon Allotment Permittee:

This letter will serve as our Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Black Canyon Allotment during the 2007 grazing season. The following items were discussed and agreed upon at our annual meeting on April 25, 2007 and will guide our management of the Allotment this year:

Distribution and Grazing (D&G) Strategy

We will follow the enclosed D&G Strategy. The amount of time spent in each unit will depend upon actual grazing utilization and distribution patterns. The dates proposed and the units scheduled are tentative and depend upon the availability of forage, water, and the effects of weather. We will follow the proposed schedule unless there is good reason to change. Please let us know in advance if you anticipate any variance from this strategy.

Proper Allowable Grazing Use

Proper allowable use of riparian areas will be limited to 55 percent utilization on key forage species until July 15. Between July 15 and August 15, grazing use will be limited to 40 percent. After August 15, use on key species in riparian areas will be limited to 30 percent with a remainder stubble height of **no less than 4 inches** left on all stream-side areas at the end of the grazing season. As a steward of the land you are responsible to see that the 4 inches are not exceeded. Of special concern are the Frenches Park and South Fork of Brownie Creek areas. Proper allowable use will not exceed 50 percent, by weight, of current year's growth on key forage species within key upland sites. Once utilization levels have been achieved in key areas, you will be required to move into the next scheduled unit. Therefore, it is important that your livestock be distributed as evenly as possible.

Grazing Fees

Your Bill for Collection for the upcoming grazing season has been sent. Please ensure that this bill is paid by the due date. You will not be allowed to place livestock onto National Forest lands until verification of payment is received in our office.

Herding Responsibilities

The Allotment Management Plan requires you to provide a full-time rider to ensure proper livestock distribution patterns and utilization levels. Please make sure that the rider understands the importance of moving cattle away from riparian areas. Utilization levels achieved in these areas will determine how long you are allowed to stay in each unit.

Range Improvement Maintenance and Construction

All allotment boundary fences and the division fences, water developments and other improvements of the first unit used will be repaired before livestock are allowed onto the



allotment. All water developments, unit fences, and other improvements will be in good working order before the cattle are permitted to enter the next scheduled unit in the rotation. We will be inspecting these fences and developments before livestock go on and also before they move into each unit. If these repairs are not done, you will not be allowed onto the allotment, or you may be required to come off the allotment early.

- We will be investigating the possibility of new improvements:
 - Water system in Hunter Park or Galloway Spring
 - Hicks Park Fence / South Fork of Ashley Fence

Violation Reporting

If you witness vandalism or ATVs that are in violation you can contact John Simons (435) 790-7060 or (435) 781-5131. Please take photos and document the violation to aid in the legal process.

Weed Free Hay

Any hay or straw used in association with your grazing permit will be certified and tagged as noxious weed seed free as directed by Forest Service Order #04-00-097. Please ensure that any hay, straw or mulch used on the Forest complies with this order.

Field Trips

This year we are planning a field trip to visit locations that are proposed for the boundary fences between the Black Canyon Allotment and Taylor Mountain Allotment. Please keep in contact with us so we can further plan these trips we hope that the outcome of these trips will lead to greater conveniences for you and the operation of this Allotment.

Records

The **Actual Use** and **Permittee Expense forms** are for your use in recording the actual livestock use, losses, and operating expenses during the upcoming grazing season. Please ensure that the information recorded on these forms is correct and is returned to our office **before October 21**.

We look forward to working with you again this year and appreciate your cooperation in the proper management of the Ashley National Forest. We hope that the upcoming grazing season is a very productive one for you. If you have questions, please contact Earl Kerns at (435) **781-5175** or (435) **790-7035**, or Heather Garrison at (435) **781-5168** or (435) **790-7030**.

Sincerely,

/S/ NICHOLAS T. SCHMELTER

NICHOLAS T SCHMELTER
District Ranger