



**File Code:** 2210/2230

**Date:** May 9, 2007

Dear Diamond Mountain Allotment Permittee:

This letter will serve as our Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Diamond Mountain Allotment during the 2007 grazing season. The following items were discussed and agreed upon at our meeting on April 23, 2007. These items 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 and 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 change from this strategy.

### **Proper Allowable 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 45 percent. After August 15, use on key species in riparian areas will be limited to 30 percent, with a remaining stubble height of **no less than 4-6 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 4-6 inches are not exceeded. Since we will be using a deferred-rotation grazing system this season, proper allowable use will not exceed 50 percent, by weight, of current years 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.

### **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.

### **Association Responsibilities**

The Allotment Management Plan (AMP) requires the Association 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 since utilization levels achieved in these areas will determine how long you are allowed to stay in each unit. At



our meeting you indicated that Claryn Gardner would again be your rider for the year and that his cell phone number is 790-1147. Claryn plans to stay at the Cowboy Camp for the summer.

### **Range Improvement Maintenance and Construction**

All allotment boundary fences will be maintained and operational by June 1. The division fences, water developments and other improvements of the first unit used must also be maintained and operational before the cattle are allowed onto the allotment. All improvements will be in good working order before livestock 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. There has been concern about the responsibilities for the fence in Little Brush Creek Gorge shared with the Diamond Mountain Allotment, enclosed is a map showing the fence and the portions of the fence that each allotment is responsible for.

We also discussed the need to develop a list of needed range improvements that we would prioritize throughout the summer. While we don't expect to have any Forest Service range improvement funding for this allotment any time soon, having this list prepared will help the Diamond Mountain Association to compete for Utah Grazing Improvement Program funding which you plan to pursue. This effort will also help to rank your allotment's needs with other Forest Service allotments to eventually to get improvement work done on the ground. We will begin this effort on April 27 when we will meet with you on the allotment to look at needed reconstruction work beginning at Aspen Springs.

### **Salting and Distribution**

Salting must be done within the guidelines specified in your grazing permits. Salting grounds will be located more than **100 feet** from roads and trails, and no closer than **300 feet** from watering sources. Following these standards will help to achieve better grazing distribution. Compliance with these guidelines will be monitored again this grazing season.

### **Noxious Weeds**

Your help will go a long ways towards containing the spread of noxious weeds or preventing their establishment on your allotment. We will be providing each permittee information describing the noxious weeds we're most concerned about. Please be aware. Let us know if you discover any Dyer's Woad, any knapweeds, Scotch Thistle or Leafy Spurge. If we can prevent these species from becoming established then we can keep our ranges productive. If you discover any of these species please let us know their specific location so that we treat them. Digging them up and removing the seeding portion of the plant in a plastic bag can also be an effective treatment. When you remove the plant we still need to know where that weed was located so that we can put that information into our database and continue to check the site to make sure they don't come back the next year(s). Thanks for your help.

### **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.

### **Violation Reporting**

**If you witness vandalism or ATVs that are in violation you can contact John Simons 790-7060 or 781-5131. Take photos and document the violation to aide in the legal process.**

### **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 returned to our office by October 15.

We look forward to working with you again this year, and appreciate your willingness to cooperate with us in the proper management of the Ashley National Forest. We hope that the upcoming grazing season proves to be a very productive one for you. If you have questions, please contact **Ross Catron** at (435) **781-5268** or (435) **790-5964** (cell), or **Heather Garrison** at (435) **781-5168** or (435) **790-7030** (cell).

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS T SCHMELTER  
District Ranger

Enclosures (3)

cc: SF Phosphates, ATTN: Dennis Glines  
Claryn Gardner, Association Rider  
Brad Horrocks