

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

HAMILTON UNIT OFFICE

STATE OF MONTANA

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RECEIVED

December 8, 2014

Dave and Julie Schram
347 Mill Creek Road
Hamilton, MT 59840

DEC 12 2014
Ravalli County Commissioners

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Subject: Forested Grazing License # 3061294 with the State of Montana

GW
received
12/21

Dear Dave and Julie,

Thank you for coming in to the office to discuss the issues in the letter Paul Moore sent out before he retired. Paul's letter requested that the entire parcel be deferred from grazing in 2015. Today we discussed the problems with riparian areas and overgrazing, and came up with a plan that will allow you to graze livestock on the parcel in 2015, but at a reduced level.

Certain things must be completed prior to turn out in the spring and others will be monitored throughout the year. Please keep in mind these stipulations are put in place to protect the range, water, and other resources. If these stipulations are not met, or fail to adequately protect the resources, deferral will still be required. The State would ultimately like to see a rest-rotation grazing system in place, where the section is rested every 3-4 years.

Below are the requirements that must be met to utilize the grazing license in 2015:

- The spring in the SW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 36 must be fenced off from cattle use, and an off-site water source must be provided. This must be done prior to turnout.
 - I would encourage you to contact the NRCS as they may have cost share programs and will have information regarding wildlife friendly fencing.
- Fencing the "mudhole" along the west section line must be done prior to turnout.
 - Additional work, such as backsloping and transplanting shrubs, will be required here to stop the headcutting. A site visit involving the DNRC and the Forest Service will be required to develop a plan.
 - Since the fencing is short term electric fencing is suggested, the Forest Service has expressed that they may be able to help with some materials.
- A "good faith effort" of weed spraying must take place prior to turnout. The DNRC is willing to provide some herbicide that it has available. Additional herbicide may need to be provided by the licensee. Maps of areas sprayed need to be provided to the DNRC.
- To the extent practicable, Section 36 T5N R20W is only to be grazed for 14 days at turnout and 14 days at roundup.
 - I realize cows will try to drift back onto section 36 from the Forest Service Allotment. This must be reduced as much as possible through actions such as salting and wrangling.

It should also be noted that at the meeting I received the signed paperwork from you and Paula Plettenberg to assign the license from Paula to you.

Sincerely,



Neil C. Simpson

Acting Unit Manager

Hamilton Unit - Montana DNRC

CC: Paula Plettenberg
Gil Gale, United States Forest Service
Bob Storer, DNRC
Dave Mousel, DNRC
Jeff Schmalenberg, DNRC
Ravalli County Commissioners Office
License 3061294 file