RANGE USE PLAN
FOR GRAZING

PLAN HOLDER(S)

LEE BUTLER

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TATLA LAKE, BC

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Range Act Agreement at time of plan preparation:

RAN074334

This plan has been prepared in accordance with The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and associated regulations.

Plan Holders Signature

Lea Butler

Beverley J. Butler

Lee Butler

1) **Map**

The attached map dated January 24, 2017 shows the grazing area, pastures and fences.

2) **Actions to be carried out on the area to deal with issues identified by the District Manager**

There are no issues identified by the District Manager.

3) **Management of the Area**

a) Salting –
   i) Salt will be provided to the cattle as they are in a pasture. Salt will not be placed within 200 meters of water, riparian areas or tree plantations that are less than 5 years old. Salt will not be placed on grasslands. There are natural salt licks distributed throughout the tenure so the cattle utilize these as well as the commercial salt,
   ii) Salt will be used to draw cattle to areas that are less preferred by cattle
   iii) Sites for salting will be changed from year to year whenever possible to allow a healing period.

b) Fences and trails
   i) Fences will be checked annually to ensure that they are in an effective operating condition
   ii) All fences on Crown range and within the grazing area will be maintained or removed.
   iii) Trails within the grazing area will be checked and cleared to ensure cattle can move through the area
   iv) We need a fence between Little Sapeye and Patterson Lake due to the fire break trail that was supposed to come over the mountain. Need a short piece of fence to shut this off.

c) Range Readiness
   i) Turn-out dates in the spring have been selected (with discussions with the Range Agrologist) so that on an average year the grass is "ready" to be grazed. Generally this is fourth leaf stage for most native grasses and 3 for tame. Pinegrass is ready when it is "nodding".
   ii) By having a solid date that is based on Range Readiness, it balances the plant community health and the requirements for the ranch.
   iii) Range Readiness will continue to be monitored.

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   i) Turn-out dates in the spring have been selected (with discussions with the Range Agrologist) so that on an average year the grass is "ready" to be grazed. Generally this is fourth leaf stage for most native grasses and 3 for tame. Pinegrass is ready when it is "nodding".
   ii) By having a solid date that is based on Range Readiness, it balances the plant community health and the requirements for the ranch.

e) Browse Use
   i) Browse use will not exceed 25% of the current year's growth.

f) Range Riding
   i) Grazing will be monitored once a week by ATV, horseback and or vehicle depending on location and cattle will be dispersed throughout the pastures. Livestock in areas that are receiving localized overuse will be moved to other areas of the pasture.

g) Pastures/Units

i) We turn out on May 20 when the grass looks good and push them up to Sapeye following the Old Bluff Lake Road to Little Sapeye and Big Sapeye Lakes. The cattle move between the Horn Lake Pasture and the Sapeye Lake Pasture. They rotate through these pastures on their own although we frequently monitor their location and welfare due to predator problems in the area.

(1) Sapeye/Water Lilly Lake/Little Sapeye – one week and the travel across to

(2) Soap Lake for the next week and then they

(3) Move onto the end of Horn Lake following the Mountain Range Hidden Trail for a week. They seem to move through this circuit throughout the grazing season.

(4) Deer Creek/Valleau Creek – we would like to utilize this pasture however the trail is covered with blowdown. We have made a request to Parks to have them come in when they have available resources to clear the trail as we can no longer keep up with the task as we do not have the resources to do so. Some of the access has been cleared but there is still approximately 20 kilometres that need to be cleared to get the livestock into the meadows on top.

The cattle stay pretty consistent in how they travel. They do separate into two groups later on in the summer, so we have been out riding more to keep them together with the bulls. We do not utilize the south end of our tenure as it is difficult to access and limited grazing opportunity there. We wish to maintain our range tenure presence on this area as a buffer to discourage trespass livestock from entering our tenure area. Rush Lake area has an abundance of grass – especially Redtop.

4) Ungulate Winter Ranges

a) The area contains Mule Deer Winter Range. There are no current objectives under the Government Actions Regulations for Mule Deer. The turn-out dates have been selected to ensure that there is adequate forage for Mule Deer coming out of winter. Mule deer do use browse species, but the current grazing level rarely exceeds even 10% of the current year's growth.

5) California Bighorn Sheep – we have no sheep

a) Due to the concern of disease transmission, domestic sheep and/or goats will not be released onto range without the express permission of the district manager.

6) Domestic Water Licences

a) There are several domestic water licences within the area. We have not heard or seen any concerns in either the use of the water or the damage to domestic intakes. Point of Diversion on Valleau Creek for power purposes as well as one for irrigation purposes. Bluff Lake and Horn Lake - Ministry of Transportation for Road dust control. Niut Spring for Domestic, Niut Creek for private irrigation, 2 domestic Licences on Horn Lake, Sapeye Creek for irrigation, Sherri Creek has two domestic licences and one irrigation

7) Species of Concern – there are none in our tenure area

8) Measures to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants likely to be the result of the holder's range practices

a) The grazing area contains the following known invasive species: scattered plants of diffuse knapweed and spotted knapweed at the north end of Horn Lake.

b) By following the grazing schedule and distributing the cattle, we will limit soil disturbance and are not likely to cause the introduction or spread of invasive plants. Any invasive plants fount will be reported to FLNR

9) Concerns

Area contains some grassland benchmark areas. We will keep our livestock from over grazing these areas in order to maintain the integrity of the designated grasslands.

Trail clearing to Valleau Pasture: The upper meadows of this pasture are inaccessible due to the dead timber that has fallen across the trail. We used to be able to keep up with the debris and clear the trails annually however the deadfall has become overwhelming these past few years. We got the beginning of the trail cleared in 2017; however we have a long ways to go with that.

Trespass livestock: Lars Satre yearlings trespass into the tenure throughout the grazing season.

They opened up a fire break from Halfway South to Little Sapeye. This provides a trail for Walt Fosters cattle, Lars Satre's and Ken Dyck's cattle to trespass into our tenure.

Lars needs to install the Cattlegard he was given on the Old Bluff Lake Road at the wooden gate that is difficult to open. Tourists' etc. pass through this gate and leave it open.

Would like the tenure boundary to Patterson Lake to be changed to what it was historically.

Grazing Schedule

Number	Class	Dates in	Dates Out	Unit/ pasture	Days	Proportion	AUM's
26	Cow/calf	May-20	May-31	Sapeye Unit - North of Sapeye Lake	12	1	10
6	Yearling	May-20	Jul-20	Sapeye Unit - Southeast of Horn Lake	62	0.7	9
26	Cow/calf	Jun-01	Jul-20	Sapeye Unit	50	1	43
2	Bull	Jun-01	Jul-20	Sapeye Unit	50	1.5	5
26	Cow/calf	Jul-21	Sep-30	Deer Creek Unit - Valleau Creek drainage	72	1	61
2	Bull	Jul-21	Sep-30	Deer Creek Unit - Valleau Creek drainage	72	1.5	7
6	Yearling	Jul-21	Sep-30	Deer Creek Unit - Valleau Creek drainage	72	0.7	10
26	Cow/calf	Oct-01	Oct-15	Sapeye Unit	15	1	13
6	Yearling	Oct-01	Oct-15	Sapeye Unit	15	0.7	2
					Total AUM's		160