



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, California 94956

REPLY REFER TO:

L3019

March 21, 2007

Joe and Joan Lunny
17300 Sir Francis Drake Road
Inverness, California 94937

Dear Joe and Joan:

This letter will serve as a follow-up to our February 12, 2007, letter requesting information about the number of animals in your grazing operation. At our January 30, 2007, meeting, we appreciated your assurance that you would provide this information to us. However, we have not received any information from you as of today. In addition, three years have passed since your previous Special Use Permit (SUP) expired and you have yet to sign the new SUP for the current time period that began December 7, 2004 through December 6, 2009. We hope we can rectify these two issues as soon as possible.

Park staff documented your ranch stocking rates on December 4, 2006, and recorded that the stocking rates were out of compliance with permit conditions. We conducted recounts on December 7, 2006, January 18, 2007, and February 27, 2007. During a brief survey on March 12, 2007, we observed that a high number of cattle remain on G Ranch and a feed lot in your feeding area. Based on our estimates, you have 250 animal units (AUs) on G Ranch, exceeding the 90 AUs that are authorized under the current permit. On April 14, 2007, you will have met your allowable animal unit months (AUMs) of 1080 annually for the year that began on December 4, 2006. This means that you will have to remove all cattle from G Ranch on April 14, 2007. No cattle will be returned to G Ranch until December 4, 2007.

As stated in the SUP:

"At the option of the Permittee, Permittee may, in lieu of voiding and terminating this permit, assess a penalty of \$100.00 per day for any failure by Permittee to keep and perform any of the Provisions of this Permit. In such case, Permittee shall be given notice in writing of a grace period (from one to thirty days) to remedy the situation before a penalty will be assessed. Payment of any penalty under this provision shall not excuse Permittee from curing the Default. This provision shall not be construed as preventing Permittee from issuing citations or initiating enforcement proceedings under Applicable Laws."

In addition, any exceedance of 1080 AUMs in a single year will also result in the charging of \$7.00 per AUM. At the current stocking rate of 250 AUs for a 30-day month, 8.3 AUMs will be charged per day for a total of \$58.10 daily. This charge would be in addition to the \$100.00 per day for violation of the terms of the STP.

It is imperative that we manage G Ranch according to the clauses in your STP. Currently your overstocking is out of compliance with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion. G Ranch supports, or is immediately adjacent to, populations of the endangered Myrtle's silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene myrtilae*); the threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*); and the endangered plant species Sonoma alopecurus (*Alopecurus aequalis* var. *alopecurus*), Sonoma spurneflower (*Chorizanthe villosa*), beach larkspur (*Layia carnosa*), and Tidestrom's lupine (*Lupinus tidestromii*). There are numerous other rare plant species that occur on and around G Ranch. The lack of compliance with the USFWS could jeopardize the overall Biological Opinion for the ranch complexes.

Enclosed is an updated version of the STP for the period from December 7, 2004 through December 6, 2009. Changes have been made to the previous STP that you did not sign to further clarify allowable stocking rates on G Ranch and to update the penalty clause. Changes were also made to address your concerns that were expressed during the January meeting regarding artichoke cultivation and the no till silage language. Please sign both copies as soon as possible and return both copies to this office. We will return a fully executed copy to you for your records.

We reiterate that the 190 acres designated on the silage map included with the enclosed permit is the only area where silage harvest may occur on G Ranch

We anticipate that you will bring your operation into compliance. Please give us a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Don L. Neubacher
Superintendent

Enclosures