



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Flathead
National
Forest

650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-5200
Fax (406) 758-5367

File Code: 6270

Date: September 20, 2016

Kathryn QannaYahu
513 1/2 W. Curtiss St.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Ms. QannaYahu,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) email dated August 24, 2016. In this email you requested "copies of all complaints and records/reports resulting, submitted against Outfitter Patrick M. Tabor, license no. 11300, his company Swan Mountain Outfitters, LLC. or one of his guides."

In response to your request, I have provided you 11 pages of records with this response letter.

Please note that Pursuant to Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subtitle A, Part 1, Subpart A, Appendix A, there is no charge for the records enclosed as the amount falls below the minimum amount required for the Forest Service to collect fees.

Your request is identified by the following identification number: 2016-FS-R1-05371-F. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Draggoo at 406-758-5269.

Sincerely,

CHIP WEBER
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure



Dunham, Joleen -FS

From: Kari Gunderson <cnd2543@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9:49 AM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS
Subject: Re: Tabor's Camp

Hi Joleen,

Thanks for your quick response. I figured as much. Mr. Tabor needs to be monitored. I'll take some photos and send them your way. If you want to walk back there sometime I'd be happy to go back there with you. We can walk back there from my house in about 15 minutes.

All the best,
Kari

On Mar 30, 2016, at 9:36 AM, Dunham, Joleen -FS <jdunham@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Hi Kari,

Thanks for the note!

Yes, Tabor has been authorized to dump manure back behind his camp on FS lands. We have asked him to do all of those things you bring forward in regards to the manure dumping but our monitoring has not been conducted at the level that is needed; capacity for me to get out there regularly has been an issue. I will take you up on the photos of the bailing twine left in the manure piles that you've acquired on your treks out there.

I will pursue conducting increased monitoring of his dumping operations this upcoming season but will also welcome any observations you see when you're out there and weed monitoring you can do with documentation and photos as we go forward if that is possible?

Thanks for your efforts in picking up the twine and providing the correspondence. I envision continued communications back and forth on what we observe and document this upcoming season.

Joleen

<image001.jpg> **Joleen Dunham**
Recreation Forester
Forest Service
Flathead National Forest, Swan Lake Ranger District
p: 406-837-7538
f: 406-837-7503
jdunham@fs.fed.us
200 Ranger Station Road
Bigfork, MT 59911
www.fs.fed.us
<image002.png><image003.png>

From: Kari Gunderson [<mailto:cnd2543@blackfoot.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9:13 AM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS <jdunham@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Tabor's Camp

Hi Joleen,

Happy spring! I hope you had a good winter, what little there was of it. It's great to see the snowpack continues to build this late in the season.

I live east of Salmon Prairie and often take walks back behind my place onto FS land. It has come to my attention over the past few years that Mr. Tabor is now dumping his manure from corrals at his FS base camp behind Lion Creek onto adjacent FS land. I see a few issues that I hope can be easily resolved in the future.

I have been pulling a LOT of baling twine out of the piles he has dumped out of his corrals onto adjacent FS land. So much that it accumulates to at least 2 large garbage bags worth. I see it as garbage and a potential problem for wildlife. I would like to recommend that his permit be adjusted so that if he continues to dump loads of manure from his corral on adjacent FS land that: 1) it is clean with no baling twine or other garbage before he dumps it; and 2) that he spread it out rather than leave it in piles; 3) that the FS monitors whether these manure piles become noxious weed patches; and, 4) he does not dump it near riparian areas. I can document the baling twine left in the manure piles with photos if you want me to and I'm happy to help with weed monitoring.

Thanks for your consideration.

Happy trails,
Kari

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Dunham, Joleen -FS

From: Kari Gunderson <cnd2543@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 7:52 AM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS
Subject: Tabor's baling twine photos

Hi Joleen,

I've made 3 trips back to pull, pile, and pack out the baling twine left in horse manure piles near Tabor's camp on FS land.

I think I'll be able to get the last of it in one more trip. I'm glad I saved my old Kelty frame backpack for this job.

Here are a few photos for your files. Hopefully this issue will be resolved in the future.

I see that the horse concessionaire permit is up for bids in Glacier that he's had for the past 10 years.

Enjoy these lovely spring days.

Happy trails,
Kari



Manure piles (after twine removal)



Baling Twine Mess



More baling twine mess



Collected Baling Twine

From: Owens, Michelle L -FS on behalf of FS-Flathead Contact Us
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS
Subject: FW: WWW Mail: caches in Swan District

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

Good morning Joleen,

Can you help with this? Thanks!

Michelle Owens
Customer Service Representative
Forest Service
Flathead National Forest, Tally Lake Ranger District
p: 406-758-5208
mowens02@fs.fed.us
650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
www.fs.fed.us

Caring for the land and serving people

-----Original Message-----

From: carellens@gmail.com [<mailto:carellens@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 12:51 PM
To: FS-Flathead Contact Us
Subject: WWW Mail: caches in Swan District

I have heard through the grapevine that Swan Mountain Outfitters has a large cache in the wilderness up Lion Creek in the Swan Lake district. Also that the access to the trail is not user friendly to the public as it is almost exclusively used by SWM guides and clients and that the attitude toward public users is very negative. Parking and stock containment is minimal at best and non-existent at worst due to trucks and trailers belonging to students, guides, clients and employees of Swan Mountain Outfitters private camp. Does Swan Mountain Outfitters own that property or is it public land?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Carellen

Dunham, Joleen -FS

From: Dunham, Joleen -FS
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 10:30 AM
To: 'Kari Gunderson'
Subject: RE: Weeds in manure piles from Tabor's stock

Thanks Kari. Yes, we will get them sprayed.



Joleen Dunham
Recreation Forester
Forest Service
Flathead National Forest, Swan Lake Ranger District

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Bigfork, MT 59911
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Kari Gunderson [mailto:cnd2543@blackfoot.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS <jdunham@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Re: Weeds in manure piles from Tabor's stock

Hi Joleen,

Thanks for the clarification. If you see the weeds I am describing I hope the FS or Mr. Tabor will treat the weeds so they don't spread.

~ Kari

On Aug 3, 2016, at 10:16 AM, Dunham, Joleen -FS <jdunham@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Hi Kari,

Yes, I was talking the same locations behind the gate as you where I authorized him to dump. All I was saying is that the hay and grain that he is using at his Lower Camp is certified based on my inspection.

It's entirely possible that some of his horses eat non weed free hay before they come in to the Lower Camp and could have resulted in the weeds. We can only control the weed free hay regulation on FS lands....they might have come from his private property. I will go out and take another look ...It's variable for me when I get a break so I will just head out there as soon as I can.

Thanks....Joleen

<image001.jpg> **Joleen Dunham**
Recreation Forester
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Kari Gunderson [<mailto:cnd2543@blackfoot.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 6:10 PM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS <jdunham@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Re: Weeds in manure piles from Tabor's stock

Hi again,

The weeds I am reporting to you are not in Tabor's lower camp. They are where you authorized him to dump manure from his corrals. If he's using weed free feed then why are these manure piles filled with weeds (and the surrounding area is not). I can take photos for you or as I offered earlier this spring, I am happy to walk back there with you and show you what I have observed. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Happy trails,
Kari

On Aug 2, 2016, at 2:03 PM, Dunham, Joleen -FS <jdunham@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Kari,

Thanks for this info also. I will make another trip out there and take a look. Yes, Mr. Tabor is in compliance with the Certified Weed Free Hay Regulation. I inspected his Lower Camp in June for both hay and grain and all looked good.

Our Trails Program Manager inspected the Upper Camp last summer and did not document weed issues there. We will be visiting the Upper Camp again this summer.

I forgot about your question on the Crystal Lake rescue last weekend on the last email. I understand that a female had a possible broken ankle and was taken via wheeled litter to the TH and Bigfork Ambulance did the transport. I also understand that Life Flight staged at the Condon Airstrip but did not go into wilderness. Is that the information you have?

Thanks...Joleen

<image001.jpg> **Joleen Dunham**
Recreation Forester
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Kari Gunderson [<mailto:cnd2543@blackfoot.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 10:33 AM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS <jdunham@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Weeds in manure piles from Tabor's stock

Hi Joleen,

I've been meaning to send you a quick note regarding the manure pile dumps on FS lands near Tabor's outfitting camp.

The manure piles have been leveled but everywhere where there was manure dumped is now filled with Canada Thistle and St. Johnswort. If you need photos I can go back and take some to send to you. **My bigger concern is if the manure is filled with noxious weed seed then is Mr. Tabor abiding by the certified weed free seed feed regulation at his base camp and is his upper camp also filled with noxious weeds from horse manure?**

Thanks for your consideration.

Happy trails,
Kari

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From: Mike Childs <mdm2@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:50 AM
To: Dunham, Joleen -FS
Subject: Pony Lake

Hi Jolene,

Many people, including you, have been curious and/or upset about the presence of Swan Mountain Outfitters at Pony Lake. On a trip to Pony on Sept. 6th of this year, volunteer Diann Ericson and I saw a wall tent set up, horse manure in the stream running into the lake and horse tracks on the beach. Litter about the camp was no worse than in previous years. I talked to Pat Tabor Jr. about watering the horses upstream from the lake and possibly soon putting a high line up for the horses. He seemed willing to do this and as usual was very pleasant to converse with. Diann and I noticed the trail up to the lake was very dusty and heavily used. On Aug. 16th of this year, one of the SMO wranglers, Shaun, told me a crew in association with SMO "improved" the trail. Indeed the trail has been widened with stumps and trees sawed out of the way and rocks pried from the tread and narrow spots pulaskied back into the hill to make the tread wider. The question I am being asked is--can an individual or group open up or "improve" a trail into a site designated as proposed wilderness. Obviously the trail in question does not meet Forest Service specifications and I can see the potential for problems as the trail erodes.

Let me know if you need more info. Mike