

2008 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

COPPER BASIN ALLOTMENT

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Copper Basin Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Copper Basin Allotment and reflects information discussed during the meeting on April 10, 2008. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for general and special terms for: range and livestock management, grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, salting, and forest plan standards and guidelines. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related or other unexpected circumstances.

Permitted Cattle Authorized

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Terrence Donahue	503	0	200	6/6-10/15	
			261	7/1-10/15	
Scott McAfee	350	0	350	7/1-10/15	
Bart/Tina	187	0	187	6/6-10/15	
Wojciechowski	50		50	7/1-10/15	
Parsons Creek	100	100	0	6/6-10/15	
	275	0	275	7/1-10/15	
Bret Zollinger	188	68	120	6/6-10/15	
	50	0	50	7/1-10/15	
6 X Ranch	704	107	165	6/6-10/15	
			120	7/1-10/15	
			312	7/15-10/15	
No Tellum Cr Ranch	410	0	410	6/6-10/15	
Total	2817	275	2500		

Grazing Unit Rotation

Estimated Days

Notes

Lehman Basin	6/6-7/4	25	
Lehman Canyon	6/20-7/4	15	
Horse Wallow*	7/5-7/14	10	
Little Lake Creek*	7/15-7/22	8	Depending on Poison
Lower Riparian*	7/23-7/25	3	
Potholes/Basin Flats	7/26-8/15	21	
Little Canyons*	8/16-8/25	10	
Anderson*	8/26-9/9	15	
Swamps*	9/1-9/9	9	Used with small herd of cows
Mine Canyon*	9/11-9/16	7	
Upper Riparian*	9/17-9/21	5	
Cabin Creek*	9/22-9/28	7	
Corral Creek/Sugarloaf*	9/29-10/8	10	
Coyote*	10/9-10/13	5	
Hamilton	10/14-10/15	2	
Mine Hill	Rest		
Right and Left Navarre	Rest		
High Canyons	Rest		

* small units to be used this year

Overlap in unit use is expected, cattle may be in up to 3 units at once while trailing and placing livestock in the units designated with the *. When the Lehman Basin, Lehman Canyon, and Basin Flats/Potholes units are used there are to be cattle in no more than 2 units. There are a number of units in this allotment that are small and using them with the entire herd at one time would increase the potential for resource damage. Managing the herd in these smaller units with a lead, middle and rear group of cattle has proved to be the most effective way to graze and is recommended in the management plan. Movements will be based on move triggers (**discussed below in Allowable Use Standard**). This will be done with the understanding that end of season annual indicators must be met. Small numbers of livestock that are left behind or in units not authorized at such time can cause severe resource damage, so immediate removal of such livestock is expected.

The Swamps unit will be used this year. As discussed in the spring meeting it is not to be grazed with the entire herd of cattle. If cattle are not dispersing and are congregating on the fence they need to be moved to the next unit. The use in this unit needs to be light due to the condition of the riparian system.

Modifications to the grazing unit rotation and estimated days of use must be requested by the permittee in advance and approved by the Forest Service. The Forest Service may initiate modifications in consultation with the permittees when changes to scheduled use are needed due to unexpected deficiencies in range conditions such as but not limited to: predatory issues, forage production, soil moisture, precipitation, insect damage, fire, hail, plant growth/recovery during drought condition.

The Allotment Management Team process, described in the Association by-laws, will be used this year in addressing issues on the allotment. The team will be made up of Brett Zollinger, Scott McAfee, and Terrance Donahue. The Forest Service and the Association will have meetings at a minimum of one per month, prior to significant moves to ensure agreement on the management of the allotment.

There was a **Notice of Non-Compliance** issued last year for “*Failure to Follow Management Instructions*”. There were two actions required to remedy the situation and the first was to have cattle removed from the Copper Basin Allotment by October 3rd, 2007. This action has been done. To remedy the second action you must not allow livestock to graze in areas that they are not authorized to use at that point in time. Some stragglers are to be expected but must be immediately moved to the appropriate unit. Large numbers of cattle in the wrong unit or area will be seen as unacceptable.

Allowable Use Standard: End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height indicator being met. While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches and less than 50% browse use be used to plan cattle moves. Woody Browse use of riparian shrubs will not exceed 50% of new leader production.

Riparian areas with greenlines dominated by Kentucky bluegrass and tufted hairgrass should also receive special attention to achieve end of season stubble height. Greenlines dominated by these plants have less bank stability than greenlines dominated by deep-rooted plants. Greenlines dominated by these plants are sometimes in a lower state of ecological condition and should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Full time riders are required this year, it is important that association members assist with riding duties throughout the season. The extra riding is important in maintaining and achieving acceptable resource conditions and control of livestock. Factors that should be considered for planning cattle moves between units include prevention of stream bank trampling, increase in rate of stubble height removal, changes in grazing preference from grasses and grass-like plants to young willows and other shrubs, large groups of cattle congregating in fence corners, at gates, or riparian areas for long periods of time. Cattle should be removed from a unit prior to resource issues occurring regardless of scheduled dates. And if the date is met the livestock need to move to the next unit.

Special attention is needed in the swamps to manage the livestock use. The stream banks in that area are

unstable and the use levels need to be appropriate for improving bank stability.

Designated Monitoring Areas(DMA's): DMA's are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit. DMA monitoring establishes a record of utilization trend, a location for observation to plan cattle moves, a location to record whether end of season stubble height standards are met, a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified. Permittee monitoring, documentation and photos are encouraged before entering and when leaving each unit.

Cleaning Grazing Units: Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height or woody browse indicators being met to ensure allowable use standards are met. This is especially important during drought conditions. In most cases 7 days should be adequate to clean a unit. Permittees should be prepared to assist range riders in checking that the unit cleaned stays clean. Range riders should keep permittees informed of problems cleaning grazed units. Bulls should be kept with the main herd or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. Frequent back-riding indicates there is a herd management problem. It is also the permittee's responsibility to correct problems caused by drift from other units.

Permittees should notify the Forest Service when unauthorized livestock use from adjacent allotments occurs.

Fence & Water Improvements: Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should also be maintained prior to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements. The temporary electric fence should be put in place around Willow Springs in the Potholes Unit before entering. This will be done to improve the condition of the spring source. The temporary electric fence around the aspen stand in Charcoal Creek will be used again this year and needs to be kept clean of livestock. As discussed in the spring meeting you should look at putting in gates in on the Little Canyons/Upper Riparian unit boundary fence to help with the movement of cattle between those two units.

Weed Free Hay: In accordance with State Law, please ensure that range riders bring hay that is certified and tagged noxious weed free.

Gray Wolf: The Copper Basin Allotment is an area of known wolf activity. Any knowledge of wolf activity on the allotment needs to be exchanged between the permittees and the Forest Service. If any livestock is found dead or injured and predation is suspect the local Idaho Fish and Game Conservation Officer, Cole Wilkie, should be contacted as soon as possible at: Cell (208)390-7326 or Home (208)588-2527. If a kill is not reported immediately it may be impossible to confirm.

Grazing Fees: The grazing fees for the 2008 season are \$1.35/head month. Your grazing fee payment will need to be received prior to turning livestock out on the National Forest. Receipt of payment could take up to a week from the date payment is sent.

Actual Use Report: An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you shortly before cattle leave the allotment. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District two weeks after you have removed livestock from your allotment. The Association President will need to provide a consolidated report with the numbers and dates when cattle entered the allotment, moved from unit to unit, when cattle were removed from the allotment. Each permittee will need to provide an individual report with dates when their cattle entered and left the allotment. This information is used for the purpose of evaluating and analyzing: grazing allotment and grazing unit use, compliance with annual operating instructions, and planning next season's grazing management strategy

Applications for credits for unused portions of your allotment must be requested and filed separately. Please contact our office if you need an application for credit.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Josh Edwards at 588-2224.