

2008 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

LEADBELT ALLOTMENT

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Leadbelt Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Leadbelt Allotment. Please read this information and sign the included signature page. The district ranger and current range management specialist will sign once all permittee signatures for an allotment are received. We believe that this process better represents the cooperative nature of managing these areas and indicates an understanding of the information in this document as well as the information in your term grazing permit(s). In the case of allotments running as unofficial associations, the elected president may sign for all permittees on an allotment with approval from the group.

Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. 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 circumstances.

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Season</u>
P.U. Ranch	290		290	07/07-09/21
Moj Broadie	250		250	07/07-09/21
Triple M Land	200		200	07/07-09/21
Rich Wootan	120		120	07/07-09/21

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days/Dates</u>		<u>Riparian/Upland/Woody</u>
Horsethief/Deer Creek	25	07/07-07/31	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%
Leadbelt	35	08/01-09/04	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%
Upper Camp Creek	7	09/05-09/11	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%
Lower Camp Creek	10	09/12-09/21	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%

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 standard being met. While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average growing conditions. Special attention should be given to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches be used in drier conditions to plan cattle moves.

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 possibly in a lower state of ecological condition and should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Other factors should be considered for planning cattle moves between units. These 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.

INFISH Grazing Module Implementation: We will continue to randomly select key areas for monitoring grazing utilization with permittee participation. Key areas are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit. Key area 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 indicators are met, a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified. Please understand that utilization monitoring will be conducted in all units.

Cleaning Grazing Units:

Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height standard being met to ensure allowable use standards are met. This is especially important during drought conditions. In most cases 7 days should be adequate. 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.

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 cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

Responsibility for fence maintenance was determined at the November 15, 2002 meeting with the Leadbelt permittees. The rider will maintain all fences for the allotment prior to cattle entering the unit following the above listed agreement. If you need a copy of this agreement, please contact our office.

Water developments that were discussed for partial or total reconstruction this season were Big Buck spring fence, Deer Creek spring fence, Cabin Creek trough reconstruction, and Lower Pine Creek trough reconstruction. Contact the office to arrange a time to pick up materials and make sure all necessary clearances have been completed prior to construction.

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

Grazing Fees: Grazing fees for the 2008 season have been set at \$1.35 per head month. Bills for Collection must be paid prior to the entry of livestock onto Forest System Lands. Timely payment of grazing fees is required. Receipt and processing of payments could take up to a week before our office is notified of the payment. Should livestock enter Forest System Lands prior to our notification of payment, the permittee is in noncompliance and excess use fees may be charged in addition to normal grazing fees.

Response to Predators: We have enclosed an attachment of questions and answers provided by Idaho Fish & Game for your information. This attachment outlines information you will need in the event that you have predator issues on your allotment. If you have any questions regarding this information, you are encouraged to contact Idaho Fish & Game.

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

In conjunction with current NEPA requirements for allotment management plan revision we collected data in the upland and riparian areas on the allotment in order to determine the effects of current management and establish records of long term trend in some areas and are in the writing phase of the NEPA process. If you would like to see how this information is used or have additional questions about your permit(s), please call the district office in Mackay.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Jessica Dhaemers at 208-588-3414.

Leadbelt C&H Allotment 2008 Annual Operating Instructions

Salmon-Challis National Forest
Lost River Ranger District
PO Box 507
Mackay, Idaho

Approved By: /s/ Carmela Leavitt for: 5/13/2008
Diane L. Weaver Date
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ Jessica M. Dhaemers 5/13/2008
Jessica M. Dhaemers Date
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: /s/ Moj Broadie 5/15/2008
Moj Broadie Date
President, Leadbelt Grazing Association

Signing for all members of the Leadbelt Grazing Association
Rich Wootan, Permittee
Monte MacConnell, Triple M Land
Chris Lord, Manager, P.U. Ranch LTD

Please sign and return this page to the above address.