

Lower Cedar C&H Allotment 2008 Annual Operating Instructions

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

Approved By: /s/ Diane L. Weaver 5/6/2008
Diane L. Weaver Date
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ Carmela Leavitt 5/6/2008
Carmela Leavitt Date
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: /s/ Ken Buckwalter
Ken or Julie Buckwalter Date
Permittee

/s/ S. McAfee 5/6/2008
Scott McAfee Date
Permittee

Below are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Lower Cedar Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Lower Cedar Allotment. 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.

Permitted Cattle Authorized

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>On/Off</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Ken or Julie Buckwalter	40	0	40	5/1-6/30	
Scott McAfee	19	0	19	5/6-6/30	

Allowable Use Standard: End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas, 50% utilization of upland key species. 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 conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches be used in drier conditions to plan cattle moves. Upland standards for utilization are 50% use of key species (Idaho Fescue and Bluebunch wheatgrass) on current year’s growth for a deferred rotation system.

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 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 changes in grazing behavior, such as a change 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 standards are met, a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified.

Cleaning Grazing Units: Grazing units should be thoroughly cleaned of cattle to ensure allowable use standards are met. Enough time should made to thoroughly clean the unit, in most cases 7 days is 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 during breeding or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. Frequent back-riding indicates there is a herd management problem. It is the permittee’s responsibility to correct grazing management disruption due to cattle location.

Fence & Water Improvements: Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit for a list of improvements to be maintained. Allotment boundary fences should be checked and maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should be checked and maintained at this time or before cattle

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

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: The grazing fees for the 2008 season is \$1.35/head month. Your grazing fee will need to be received prior to turning livestock on the National Forest. Receipt of payment could take up to 2 weeks from the date the payment is sent for our National Finance Center to receive.

Actual Use Report: An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you shortly after cattle leave the allotment. Please notify this office when that occurs. The association President will need to provide a consolidated report with dates when cattle entered the allotment, when the main herd was moved from unit to unit, when cattle were removed from the allotment. Each permittee will need to provide an individual report with dates when cattle entered and left the allotment. Please return the report 2 weeks after it's received to help expedite billing credits for next season and provide data for end of season reports.

Questions regarding these instructions should be directed to Carmela Leavitt at 588-2224.