

Wildhorse C&H Allotment 2008 Annual Operating Instructions

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

Approved By: /s/ Diane L. Weaver 5/28/2008

Diane L. Weaver
District Ranger

Date

Prepared By: /s/ Joshua L. Edwards 5/15/2008

Joshua L. Edwards
Rangeland Management Specialist

Date

Accepted By: /s/ Herb Whitworth 5/21/2008

Herb Whitworth
President, Wildhorse Grazing Association

Date

2008 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

WILDHORSE ALLOTMENT

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Wildhorse Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Wildhorse Allotment and reflects information discussed during the spring meeting on April 18, 2008. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on, off and move-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>Term</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Clint/Esther Bitton	104	6/9-9/30	0	104	6/9-9/30	
Dickey Livestock	491	6/9-9/30 6/28-9/30	46	145 300	6/9-9/30 6/28-9/30	
D & L	55	6/9-9/30	0	55	6/9-9/30	
Walt Johnson	108	6/9-9/30	0	108	6/9-9/30	
VerNon Roche	51	6/9-9/30	0	51	6/9-9/30	
Nolan Sayer F&R	277	6/9-9/30	277	0	6/9-9/30	
H. Whitworth Jr.	670	6/9-9/30	0	670	6/9-9/30	
Williams L&L	136	6/9-9/30	0	136	6/9-9/30	
Total	1892		323	1569		

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days</u>	
Pinto/Burnt/Garden FS/BLM	17	6/9-6/25
Lake Cr/Twin Bridges	17	6/26-7/12
North Fork & Tributaries	17	7/13-7/29
Kane & Summit Creek	15	7/30-8/13
Newton Creek	7	8/14-8/20
Wildhorse Creek	14	8/21-9/4
East Fork	14	9/5-9/18
Grant Cr.	12	9/19-9/30

Cattle may be in up to 2 units simultaneously while trailing is occurring with the exception of Newton Creek, which is a smaller unit that is used to gather cattle into in order to place them on the next unit. There may be cattle in 3 units at the same time on either side of Newton Creek. Therefore, periods of use can overlap.

Cattle should be discouraged from using trailhead areas that access high mountain lakes.

Kane Canyon: salt should be placed at least ½ mile below Kane Lake trailhead and in all areas ¼ mile from water.

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 conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches be used to plan livestock 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 in a lower state of ecological condition and should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Woody Browse use of riparian shrubs will not exceed 50% of new leader production.

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.

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 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.

The grazing units should be used more evenly. There has been a tendency to use the early units heavier than the late 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 to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

During the spring meeting it was discussed to use a temporary electric fence to extend the Castle Creek/Stag fence ¼ mile. This should help with herd management problems that have been recurring in that area.

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

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