

Willow Creek C&H Allotment 2008 Annual Operating Instructions

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

Approved By: /s/ Diane L. Weaver 5/11/2008
Diane L. Weaver Date
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ Carmela Leavitt 5/9/2008
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Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: /s/ Gordon Fulton 5/13/2008
Dickey Livestock., Gordon Fulton Date
Permittee

/s/ Jake Johnson 5/21/2008
Rena Ranch, Scott Johnson Date
Ranch Manager

Below are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Willow Creek Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Willow Creek Allotment. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. This AOI reflects information discussed at the meeting on April 22, 2008. The Willow Creek allotment is cooperatively managed with BLM lands. 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>Term/HMs</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2008 Season/HM's</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Dickey Livestock	108 6/1-9/30 433	267 HM	300 6/1-6/27 266	
Rena Ranch	126 6/1-9/25 485	233 HM	75 6/15-9/25 252	

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days</u>		<u>Estimated Days</u>	
Dickey Livestock			Rena Ranch	
Willow Springs-split	27	6/1-6/27	Double Springs	50 6/15-8/3
Poison Springs-split	27	6/1-6/27	Rock Creek	52 8/4-9/25
BLM Seeding			BLM Whisky Springs	
Total Days	27			102

Dates reflect FS portions of use; BLM on date is 5/16. Normal off dates are 9/25 and 9/30 for Rena Ranch and Dickey Livestock, respectively. Dickey Livestock cattle will graze separate from Rena Ranch Cattle. The allotment head months are split between 48% FS and 52% BLM. Each unit has unequal amounts of FS and BLM head months.

Allowable Use Standard: End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas, and 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.

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 be 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. Allotment boundary fences should be checked prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should be checked 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 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. **The permittees will report actual numbers that are sent to the allotment and the Forest and BLM will calculate the use on each of the lands.**

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.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Carmela Leavitt at (208) 588-2224.