

2008 Annual Operating Instructions
Brown Creek C&H Allotment
New Meadows Ranger District
Payette National Forest

The Annual Operating Instructions are for implementing grazing management activities on the Brown Creek C&H Allotment for the 2008 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittee on May 16, 2008. Those in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

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| 1. Jim Kranz | Permittee |
| 2. Tim Hanson | Permittees Foreman |
| 3. Brian McMorris | Range Specialist |
| 4. Rick Belnap | Idaho Dept. of Lands |
| 5. Joe Koontz | Potlatch Corporation |

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. Any changes in management from these instructions require approval by the Forest Service prior to implementation. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions that apply to these instructions. Maps indicating open and closed plantations for grazing will be provided, and are hereby incorporated as part of these Annual Operating Instructions.

Grazing fees of \$1.35/head month must be paid prior to livestock entering the National Forest. The New Meadows District Office must receive confirmation from Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest.

2008 AUTHORIZED USE

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</u>	<u>SEASON</u>	<u>ANIMAL MONTHS</u>
James Kranz	235 cow/calf pairs	between 8/8-9/30	not to exceed 419 AUMs on NFS land

TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers permitted on any given year. The season of use is dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation and temperature) which influence annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify term grazing permitted use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (c) of your permit.

GRAZING PRESCRIPTION AND LIVESTOCK ROTATIONS

Fisheries biologists have completed Biological Assessments on this grazing activity for Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout (species listed under the Endangered Species Act). Any known and/or potential effects of livestock grazing on the fish species have been mitigated.

The mitigation measure for the resource concern area is listed below.

<u>Resource Concern</u>	<u>Mitigation Measure</u>
Hard Cr. riparian area	No grazing by livestock. Livestock will be removed when found in the area.

Livestock Rotations and Allowable Use

The Brown Creek allotment prescription is a three pasture deferred system. This system is designed to allow for seed ripe on the desirable grasses in each Unit over a three year cycle. The Bally and Six Mile Units are used as early pasture, with grazing use alternated each year. The Granite Unit is used last each season due to its higher elevation. The Bally and Six Mile Units are used alternately as a gathering pasture at the end of the season. The Granite Unit is entirely National Forest System land. The Bally Mountain Unit and Six Mile Unit are primarily private land with some National Forest System land included in the uplands. You are responsible to ensure your livestock don't drift into adjacent allotments.

The uplands have a 40% allowable use limit, and riparian areas are limited to 30%, or 4 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species.

2008 Grazing Rotation (Based on 235 cow/calf pairs)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Use Period</u>
Bally Mountain	From 6/15 to 7/20 From 9/26 to 10/7
Six Mile	From 7/21 to 8/25
Granite	From 8/8 to 9/30

Cattle are to be moved to the next unit in the rotation once any of the allowable use criteria are met. The second use unit and Granite Unit overlap permitted days. Cattle are allowed to begin to enter the Granite Unit on 8/8 and all cattle are to be off Forest by 9/30.

Salt placement is required to be at least 1/4 mile from water. Additionally, salt should be located 1/4 mile from timber plantations. If this can't be accomplished, the New Meadows District range personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations. All salt blocks shall be removed when livestock have been moved out of a unit or off National Forest.

Livestock Trailing Instructions/Livestock Shipping Instructions

Livestock will be trucked to private land. Livestock will be removed at the end of the grazing season into private land.

When the permittee observes proper use standards being reached, they will move the livestock to the next unit or off the Forest and notify the Forest Service.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained prior to turning livestock into the unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement has been properly maintained but requires reconstruction, a cooperative effort can be made between the Forest Service and permittee to reconstruct the development. All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed.

The Bally Mountain Spring development needs work done around the water tank. The bank is eroding out from the bottom of the tank and a retaining wall needs to be constructed. The Forest service will provide the materials and the permittee will provide the labor. This project needs to be completed by September 1, 2008.

MONITORING OF THE ANNUAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACTIVITY

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. If you have any questions about completing the form, please call the Range Department at the Forest Service at (208) 347-0300. We request the forms be returned no later than February 1, 2009.

MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS

All plantation grazing must be coordinated with the Forest Service prior to grazing the plantations. You will need to make sure cattle don't hang out in these areas.

If there is damage to Forest System trails by the permittee's livestock the permittee will need to repair it or pay for it to be repaired.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, a change in authorized grazing activity will occur. If proper use grazing levels are reached then livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off of the allotment. If livestock grazing does not comply with the terms and conditions of these Annual Operating Instructions, then Forest Service policy and procedures regarding administrative permit actions will be followed.

Coordination with Potlatch, State Lands, and the BLM will be ongoing throughout the season to assure proper use on all lands. We appreciate your continued communication concerning grazing within the Granite Unit.

You are responsible for ensuring that your rider is informed and understands the standards, guidelines, and other management direction in these instructions.

/s/ Kimberly A. Brandel
Approved by Kimberly A. Brandel
District Ranger

5/22/2008
Date