

2008 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

ANTELOPE ALLOTMENT

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Antelope Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Antelope Allotment and reflects information discussed during the spring meeting. 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, off and move-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use levels are achieved. 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.

Do not overnight or hold livestock in the Leadbelt Allotment: Camp Creek Unit. Other alternatives will need to be used in getting your cattle on and off of the forest.

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Season</u>
Mountain Springs Ranch LLC	249		249	7/1-10/15
Shane Rosenkrance	95		95	7/1-10/15
Evelyn Reese	93		93	7/1-10/15
James Babcock	75		75	7/1-10/15
Rueben and Russell Babcock	227		225	7/1-10/15
David Keele	75		75	7/1-10/15

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days/ Dates</u>		<u>Riparian/Upland/Woody</u>
Burnt Hollow	16	07/01-07/16	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%
Bear Creek	28	07/17-08/13	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%
Smiley Meadows	21	08/14-09/03	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%
Iron Bog	21	09/04-09/24	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%
Dry Canyon	21	09/25-10/15	4 in (50%) / 50% / 50%

Allowable Use: End-of-season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses will be used as an end of season annual indicator of utilization along the greenline of riparian areas. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height annual indicator 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.

There is not a good site to measure stubble height on the Iron Bog unit. Woody browse use on riparian shrubs will not exceed 50% of new leader growth and upland forage utilization of 50%, ¼ - ½ mile from the stream will be the annual indicators for that unit.



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 and are possibly in a lower state of ecological condition. These sites 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 livestock behavior, 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: 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 stubble height end of season annual indicators are met, and provides 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 indicator being met to ensure allowable use levels are achieved. 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 to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements. The Bear Creek-Cherry Creek fence maintenance will be worked on by permittees from both allotments and will be split between the two groups. The Cherry Creek and Antelope permittees will determine the midpoint of the fence and Cherry Creek will maintain the east half and Antelope will maintain the west half.

All current water troughs need to be maintained according to the standards in your term grazing permits. There is the potential for two additional troughs to be constructed this year, but current troughs will need to be up to standard prior to materials being provided and approval given for the construction of new troughs.

The temporary electric fence in Smiley Meadow needs to be put up and electrified prior to any cattle reaching this pasture. Diligence should be given for keeping this fence up and functional while cattle are in the pasture, to minimize the impacts on this sensitive area. Options are being explored for future improvements that could better assist you in protecting this area from cattle damage, including trough construction away from the meadow and/or conversion of electric fence to 4-strand barbed wire let-down fence.



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 are in the writing phase of an environmental assessment for this allotment. If you would like to see how that information is gathered 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 588-3414.



Antelope 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: _____
James Babcock Date
President, Antelope Grazing Association

Signing for all members of the Antelope Grazing Association:

Reuben H. and Russell Babcock, Permittees
Shane Rosenkrance, Permittee
Shane Rosenkrance, Manager, Mountain Springs Ranch LLC
David Keele, Permittee
Evelyn Reese, Permittee

Please sign and return this page to the above address

