

Cherry 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 4/9/2008
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Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: /s/ E J Harrop 4/9/2008
Harrop Ranches Inc., Jack Harrop Date
Permittee

/s/ Al Borges 4/9/2008
Last Ranch LLC, Al Borges Date
Ranch Manager

Antelope Valley Ranch, Jon Manetta Date
Preferred Applicant

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Cherry Creek Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Cherry Creek Allotment and reflects information discussed during the spring meeting on April 9, 2008. 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>Term</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Preferred Applicant	387	387	0	7/11-10/15	
Three In One Ranch/Last Ranch	268	0	268	7/11-10/15	
Harrop Ranches	166	0	166	7/11-10/15	

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>		<u>Estimated Days</u>	<u>Riparian/Upland/Woody</u>
Richardson	32	7/11-8/11	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/ 50%
Left Fork	25	8/12-9/05	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/ 50%
Middle Fork/Lupine	20	9/06-9/25	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/ 50%
Poison Creek	20	9/26-10/15	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/ 50%

2007 Cherry Creek Burn: There was approximately 1100 acres of burned area in the Middle Fork Unit that was burned during the spring of 2007. Livestock are still required to stay out of the burn area for the 2008 season, until plants have recovered vigor. The Middle Fork/Lupine Unit will be used late each year, and riding will be necessary to keep cattle out of the burned area. In addition, keep cattle below the drift fence into Carcass and Mud Lake, and this fence needs heavy maintenance. Recovery may take 2-3 growing seasons.

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 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 sometimes 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 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: 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: 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, and providing range riders with adequate maps and Annual Operating Instructions. 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 permittees 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 cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements. Particular attention should be focused on the allotment boundary shared with the Alder Creek allotment. Maintenance responsibilities have been mapped and split between the Allotments for increased accountability. The Cherry Creek permittees are now responsible for drift and fence responsibilities between Big Flat Top Mtn. and Shelly Mtn., this means you are responsible for any cattle drifting in or out of this area. If you feel you need to add some additional drift fence, materials will be available upon request at the Lost River Ranger Station. Please remember improvements need to be maintained even when taking resource protection non-use.

Range improvements that will be necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2008 grazing season are: The Mud Lake Fence and Drift Fence. Maintenance of the fence is required even in drought years. Drift Fences between Left Fork and Middle Fork and the Alder Creek Allotment.

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 cattle are removed from the allotment. 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 their 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 and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Carmela Leavitt at the Lost River Ranger District (208) 588-3400.