

2008 Annual Operating Instructions  
Round Valley Cattle Allotment  
New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest

The Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Round Valley Cattle allotment for the 2008 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the permittee on April 17, 2008. The following participated in development of this year's plan:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <u>Ernie Robinson</u>   | <u>Permittee</u>            |
| 2. <u>Rick Belnap</u>      | <u>Idaho Dept. of Lands</u> |
| 3. <u>Kimberly Brandel</u> | <u>District Ranger</u>      |
| 4. <u>Pete Grinde</u>      | <u>Range Specialist</u>     |
| 5. <u>Brian McMorris</u>   | <u>Range Specialist</u>     |

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 annual operating instructions.

Grazing fee of \$1.35/mo. Fee must be paid before livestock are authorized to go on 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>
Ernie Robinson	110 cow/calf pairs not to exceed 221 AUMs. This is an On-Off Grazing Permit.	8/15-9/30

**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 especially dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation) which influences 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**

The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the resource needs of the soils and vegetation. 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 grazing prescription on this allotment is a deferred system using two grazing Units. The South Unit is primarily Private Lands with some State Land intermixed. The North Unit has National Forest, private and Bureau of Land Management Lands.

Allowable forage use criteria are 30% use in riparian areas or 4 inch stubble height on hydric greenline species. Allowable forage use on uplands is 40%.

Salt placement is required to be at least 1/4 mile from water. 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.

### **2008 Season of Use**

Cow/calf pairs will be trucked/trailed to the South Unit on private land in Mud Creek. The South Unit will be grazed approximately June 15 through August 1. Cattle will then start moving to the North Unit approximately August 15. Contact the Forest Service when you begin to move your cattle north or if you feel it is necessary to move them earlier. The North Unit will be grazed until September 30 or allowable use is met (whichever comes first).

Salting and riding will be used to minimize use in the head of Trail Creek and other riparian areas. All cattle will be moved off the National Forest portion of the allotment once allowable use is reached on the Forest land.

### **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, depending on materials availability.

The Forest Service and permittee will look at potential sites to place watering facilities within the fuels reduction area around the Circle C Subdivision this summer. This will be to provide water for livestock away from small tributary streams. All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed.

The Upper Round Valley fence may need to be extended to the west about a 1/4 - 1/2 mile. The Forest Service will provide the materials and the permittee will provide the labor. This will depend on funding and time to be completed.

The Forest Service and Permittee will look at putting in new water tanks on the east side of the allotment by the Circle C subdivision. This will depend on water right laws, funding and time in order to develop them.

## **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 January 1, 2009.

## **MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS**

There is an electric fence installed on the south side (NE 1/4, sec. 4, T20N, R1E) of the Circle C subdivision. This fence is maintained by the District Fisheries Biologist. Please contact the New Meadows District if you see livestock within the enclosure.

The Quarter Round Project could have some replanting taking place this year.

## **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.

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

Coordination with Potlatch, State Lands, and the BLM will be ongoing throughout the season to assure proper use on all lands. It is important to keep gates to private land closed. We appreciate your continued communication concerning grazing within the North Unit.

/s/ Russ T. Richards for  
Approved by Kimberly A. Brandel  
District Ranger

4/21/2008  
Date