

2008 Annual Operating Instructions  
 Warm Springs C&H Allotment  
 New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest

The Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Warm Springs Allotment for the 2008 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittees on April 15, 2008. In attendance were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. Rick Belnap	Idaho Dept. of Lands
2. Everett Harrington	Permittee
3. Dean Harrington	Permittee
4. Steve Shumway	Permittee
5. Larry Fisk	Permittee
6. Larry James	Permittee
7. Kimberly Brandel	District Ranger
8. Brian McMorris	Range Specialist
9. Pete Grinde	Range Specialist

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/head month 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>
Everett Harrington	40 cow/calf	6/1-10/31
(State land permit)	48 cow/calf	6/1- 10/31
Steve Shumway	97 cow/calf	5/15-10/31
	33 cow/calf	6/1- 10/31
(State land permit)	2 cow/calf	5/15-10/31
Larry Fisk	77 cow/calf	6/1-10/31
Larry James	172 cow/calf	6/1- 10/31

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS**

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers authorized 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 permitted grazing use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (c) of your permit.

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp, but not saturated, and should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species other than bulbous bluegrass and cheatgrass must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

## **GRAZING PRESCRIPTION AND LIVESTOCK ROTATION**

### **Livestock Rotations and Allowable use**

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Allowable use</u>
Lower 5/15-7/1	Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness.  Lost Mountain may be used during the last two weeks of use.	40% allowable use on upland vegetation. 6" stubble height on stream bank grass or grass like vegetation or 40% use on key riparian species, whichever occurs first.
Middle 7/1-8/15	Use after allowable use is met in the Lower Unit	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
Upper 8/15-10/24	Use after flowering	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

Salt placement is required to be at least 1/4 mile from live water and 1/2 mile from occupied northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat. 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 the National Forest.

### **Livestock Trailing/Shipping**

Cattle will be trailed onto the allotment following range readiness. Cattle will be trailed off the allotment in the fall.

## **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. Those projects to which the permittee contributes normally receive higher priority for funding by the Forest Service.

Maintenance of spring developments is vitally important to the health of your livestock and to the grazing allotment. If you are aware of spring developments that require reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss this with Forest Service range personnel. All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed.

The Forest Service and permittee will continue to look at installing a cattleguard under the Rocky Gulch Gate.

### **ACTUAL USE REPORTS**

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. Forms may be completed by each individual permittee or one form can be completed by the group. However, a form should be completed for each unit grazed by livestock. 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**

Prescribed burning is being planned on approximately 50 acres to improve northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat within the upper unit. All acres may be fenced in preparation for a prescribed burn to be conducted this fall. This area will be on the north side of the Lost Valley Reservoir.

There may be timber work done for Idaho Power power lines north of Starkey.

### **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 these instructions.

/s/ Kimberly Brandel  
KIMBERLY BRANDEL  
District Ranger

4/16/2008  
DATE