



File Code: 2230

Date: April 10, 2008

Doug and Cheryl Baker
HC 68, Box 350
Clayton ID 83227

Dear Doug and Cheryl:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operation Instructions for the Spud and Marco Creek C&H Allotments for the 2008 grazing season and should be considered as an extension of the Spud and Marco Creek Allotments C&H Permit # 30018. Grazing fee for 2008 is \$1.35.

Authorized Use for BLM and Forest Service:

Allotment	Permittee	Number and Class	Season of Use	BLM Use	USFS Use	Total Head Months
Spud Creek and Marco Creek	Doug & Cheryl	15 Cow / Calf	May 21-27- June 22- 27	18	15	33
Spud Creek and Marco Creek	Wayne & Melody	136 Cow / Calf	May 21-27- June 22- 27	139	136	264

I. Pasture Rotation

Pasture	Dates of Use
Spud Creek (S-C NF)	May 21-27- June 22- 27
Woods Basin (S-C NF)	Rest
Upper Marco (S-C NF)	*May 21-27- June 22- 27
Joe Jump (S-C NF)	*May 21-27- June 22- 27

*The move-on date is only a guide since the on-date will be when range readiness occurs. Move dates should be within three days of the listed dates unless forage utilization indicates that moves need to be made earlier.

II. Use Standards

- A. On National Forest pastures grazed in spring only, utilization of streamside forage will be limited to approximately 65% of the current growth and livestock will be removed by July 1 to allow for sufficient re-growth.



- B. This utilization level equates to a 2-inch stubble height on riparian species that will signal when proper use has been reached. The goal is to have at least 4 inches of vegetation left at the end of the growing season.
- C. Browse utilization within riparian habitats will not exceed 50% of the new leader growth.
- D. Marco Creek Allotment utilization is not to exceed 30 % on upland species like Bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho Fescue.

III. Permittee Management Responsibilities

- Dates of rotation are considered approximate. Actual turn on dates will be determined by **range readiness**.
- Distribute cattle over the entire pasture being used. Make a concerted effort to use all grazable areas in a pasture. Please realize that it is in your best interest to keep cattle distributed throughout the pasture being used. Cattle need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and water developments without being pushed to unused areas, the grazing capacity of the pasture is diminished to those areas only. Use of riparian areas need to be carefully monitored
- Your rider needs to push the cattle out of riparian areas at least three times a week or more. The move off date is not the day to start moving cattle it is the date you must have all cattle off of the grazing allotment or pasture.
- If you move on to the allotment late and want to stay past your move-off date, then you must make arrangements earlier in the grazing season and obtain prior approval from the District Ranger or authorized officer.
- Place salt in areas where past and or present forage use is light. Salt should be used to spread utilization across the pasture being grazed. Place salt at least a ¼ mile from riparian areas. Salt should be picked up and moved when an area has been sufficiently used. If possible, do not place salt in the same footprint areas used last year. Contact the Range Specialist if you need suggestions. The permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.
- Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from live water, trails, and roads. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas. Dead or sick animals receive close public scrutiny and should be dealt with quickly.
- A Forest Weed Free Hay Special Order #04-00-097 is in effect as February 11, 2003 – “Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as weed free.

IV. Range Improvements Maintenance/Construction

- Fences will be checked and maintained before cattle enter a pasture or Allotment. Range Improvements should be kept to a standard of repair, which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should first be coordinated with the Range Specialist. Improvements are listed in your grazing permit and are shown on the allotment map.

Range Improvements that will be necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2008-grazing season are:

- The improvements that will need general maintenance for the Spud Creek Allotment are the Joe Jump/Woods Basin division pasture fence (Section 16), Upper, Middle, and Lower Spud Creek fences, and the Joe Jump water development.
- The improvements that will need general maintenance Marco Creek Allotment are the Marco Creek boundary fence; the Corral Creek boundary fence, the Lyles Gulch water development, the Upper Marco Creek water development, the Black Rock trough (needs outlet extend away from bottom of the trough), and the Marco Creek water development.
- **New fence responsibility for 2008 includes the forest portion of the fences that were originally assigned to Valley Sun LLC (Woods Basin/Joe Jump Division Fence #330235). Doug Baker will be assigned the portion of the fence heading south from the gate in section 10 between Woods Basin and Joe Jump pasture (quick route from Snake Trail to Woods Basin Spring). Wayne will assume responsibility of this fence to its end going north. Boundary fences between BLM and Forest are still Valley Sun LLC responsibility.**
- No new construction is scheduled for the 2008-grazing season.
- No ground disturbing activities should be conducted on the forest by the permittee or their personnel without approval from the Range Specialist or other District staff. Under the Cultural Resource Settlement, costs to correct a damaged cultural site will be billed to the person who caused the damage. Ground disturbances can no longer be permitted, accepted, or allowed to occur on National Forest lands without prior, proper clearance.
- Please notify the Range Specialist, Barry Dopp 208-879-4161 or David Morris 208-879-4130 before cattle are turned on the Forest.

V. Billing Information

- Grazing fees must be paid to **USDA Forest Service P.O. Box 894183 Los Angeles CA 90189-4183** by the date specified on the Bill for Collection and in advance of livestock entry onto the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

VI. Forest Service Responsibilities

- Cattle move on counts may be conducted on randomly selected allotments this year. Brands will be checked periodically throughout the grazing seasons.

- Range Inspections will be made several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. You will be invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

VII. Special Considerations for the 2008 Grazing Season

- Because of increasing public use, gates are often left open and cattle stray in to the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still the **permittee's** responsibility to keep their animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in wrong pastures should be removed and returned immediately to the correct pasture within 2-3 days of notification by phone or letter. Early use or repeated use of grazing units could result in an early move-off date. Routine checks need to be made by you and your rider. This is a requirement of your term grazing permit.
- **Installing small wildlife escape ramps has been a point of emphasis for the last few years on all troughs in the operating instructions. This year all working troughs will be expected to have these ramps installed by the end of the grazing season. Failure to install ramps can and maybe a point for non-compliance for the 2008-grazing season.** The ramps may be obtained at the Challis Ranger District please contact the Range Management Specialist to arrange for pickup.

Enclosed is a Year End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use data and range improvement needs for the 2008 grazing season. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto the allotment, the dates the cattle are moved to and from each pasture, and the number and date cattle are removed from the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvement.

If you have any questions concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please call David Morris, Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, or myself in Challis at 208-879-4100. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions. We are looking forward to the grazing season and hope it will be productive.

Sincerely,

RANDY DRAEGER
District Ranger

Cc: Kevin Lloyd, Challis BLM: 801 Blue Mtn. Rd., Challis, ID 83226
Enclosure: