



File Code: 2230

Date: April 4, 2008

Stan Dowton  
HC 62 Box 1180  
Ellis, Idaho 83235

Dear Stan and Trish,

This letter serves as your Annual Operation Instructions for the Cow Creek C&H Allotment for the 2008 grazing season and implements the terms and conditions in the Cow Creek Permit # 20041. This year livestock grazing fee are \$1.35.

### I. Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Tom Carlson	180 Cow/Calf	Term	06/01 – 10/10	781
Stan Dowton	115 Cow/ Calf	Term	6/01 – 10/10	499

### II. Authorized Use for 2008 Grazing Season

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Tom Carlson	*216 Yearlings	Term	06/01 – 10/ 10	781
Stan Dowton	53 Cow/ Calf	Term	6/01 – 10/10	230
Stan Dowton	*75 yearlings	Term	06/01 – 10/10	269

\* Indicates an 80% animal unit equivalent for Yearlings, 75 yearlings' equivalent to 62 cow/calf pairs.

### III. Pasture Rotation

Pasture	Number	Season	Head Months
Cow Creek	344	6/1 – 8/5	640
Allison Creek	344	8/6 – 10/10	640
North Fork	Rested		
		Total	1280



#### IV. Pasture Utilization

Pasture	Uplands	Riparian Areas
North Fork	Rested	Rested
Cow Creek	65%	65% Use (2-3" Stubble Ht.)
Allison Creek	50%	50% Use (4" Stubble Height)

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

#### V. Utilization Guidelines

- Utilization of herbaceous forage will not exceed 50% current growth on upland sites;
- Riparian areas should retain a minimum of 4" of stubble on herbaceous use vegetation by the end of the growing season.
- Woody browse use will not exceed 50% of new leader production.

#### VI. Permittee Management Responsibilities

- **Do not wait for the forest officer to tell you it is time to move. It is the permittee's responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded.**
- 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 will be moved out of a pasture when forage utilization in riparian and/or upland areas is at grazing standards.
- If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and/or water developments without being pushed to unused areas, the grazing capacity of the pasture is diminished to those areas only. **Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored.** The range personnel will monitor forage use in areas where cattle concentrate.
- **The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the grazing allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the allotment.**
- If you move onto 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. 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 animal 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.
- 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.

## **VII. Range Improvements Maintenance/Construction**

Range improvements that will need to be inspected and repaired; and are necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2008 grazing season are the following:

- Continue maintenance work on all water developments.
- Continue maintenance work on assigned fences.
- No ground disturbing activities should be conducted on the Forest by the permittee or their personnel without approval from the Range Specialist or other specialist as assigned by the District Ranger.

## **VIII. 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. Grazing fees must be paid before livestock can be turned on the Forest.

## **IX. Forest Service Responsibilities**

- Please notify the Range Specialist at 879-4100, before cattle are turned onto the Forest. Cattle move-on counts may be conducted on randomly selected allotments this year. Brands will be checked periodically throughout the grazing season.
- Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. You may 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.

## **X. Special Considerations for the 2008-Grazing Season**

- The utilization will need to be monitored both in the riparian areas and uplands to avoid exceeding utilization standards and to determine stocking rate for the combination of yearlings and cow/calf pairs.
- If drought conditions persist, you may be asked to remove livestock from the Forest earlier than normal this year if water and/or forage are limited.

- 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 after 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 maybe obtained at the Challis Ranger District please contact the Range Management Specialist to arrange for pickup.
- Both parties will have requested to run yearlings this grazing season. A yearling is equivalent to .80% or a Cow/Calf. Tom and Evelyn Carlson will be running 216 yearlings, and Stan and Trish will be running 75 yearlings, and 55 Cow/Calf's.

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: Carren Morgan, Challis BLM: 801 Blue Mtn. Rd., Challis, ID 83226

Enclosure: Year-End/Maintenance Report