

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Alder Creek Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Alder Creek Allotment and reflects information discussed during the spring meeting on April 16, 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>
Randy Pehrson	398	0	398	6/16-10/6	
Shane Rosenkrance	118	0	118	6/16-10/6	
Alvin Crawford	58	28	30	6/16-10/6	
John Lambert	30	0	30	6/16-10/6	
Total	604	28	576		
<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>			<u>Estimated Days</u>		<u>Rip./Upland/Woody</u>
FS Willow Creek			30	6/16- 7/16	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/50%
*Tuscarora Gulch Cr./Upr.-Lwr Brown			10	7/17-7/27	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/50%
* Stewart/Mammoth Canyons			20	7/28-8/18	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/50%
* Trail Creek/Sawmill Canyon			23	8/19-9/05	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/50%
* South Fork Alder			20	9/06-9/26	4" (50%)/4" (50%)/50%
Big & Little Blind Canyons/Bedy			10	9/27-10/6	*5" (35-45%)/4" (50%)/50%

*There are no fences separating these units and historically were considered one unit. However, the dates associated with the units will be followed as estimated above. Additional riding will be needed to keep cattle from drifting. The dates are estimates and cattle need to be moved based on utilization standards.

Allowable Use Standard: 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 and 50% use on woody species.

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 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.

The Willow Creek riparian greenline monitoring site was established and was found to be at early seral condition. This means a 5 inch riparian stubble height standard will be required in the Willow Creek unit. This is recognized as a problem and we will look at possible improvements on the ground this summer.

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 permittee's 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. **Permittees in non-use status are still responsible for improvement maintenance.**

During the 2008 meeting you agreed to construct 2 miles of unit boundary fence and improve two new water developments, supplies will be available at the Lost River Ranger District. Specifics of developing the water in the Willow Creek drainage needs to be determined this season; this includes fencing two spring sources to meet the 35% utilization standard. It was determined that an analysis will need to be completed to fence and develop this site, and additional riding this year will be required to meet the utilization standard.

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 (209)588-2224.