



Department Name  
**United States  
 Department of  
 Agriculture**

Agency  
**Forest  
 Service**

Organization  
**Salmon-Challis National Forest  
 Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District**

Organization Address Information  
**311 North US Highway 93  
 Challis, ID 83226  
 208-879-4100  
 FAX: 208-879-4199**

**File Code:** 2230  
**Date:** April 7, 2016

Salmon River Ranches LTD  
 2794 Hwy 93 South  
 Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Richard,

This letter serves as your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Lime Gulch Cattle and Horse Allotment. Annual Operating Instructions are the part your term grazing permit, permit #20072, identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

**You received a Notice of Non-Compliance, dated April 15, 2015 for non-compliance observed in 2014. The following actions are required of you in the 2015 – 2017 grazing seasons to remedy the 2014 non-compliance:**

- Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments will be returned immediately to the correct pasture, or within 24 hours when notification by phone is given.
- All livestock must be removed from the Lime Gulch Allotment by the date authorized in your AOI, or in time to avoid exceeding any use standard per the AOI instructions.
- All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your term grazing permit. Range improvements must be kept to a standard of repair which prevents livestock from entering the wrong pasture or allotment. The range improvements must be functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. It is your responsibility to assure that all gates are closed within the unit in which livestock are authorized to graze.
- Units scheduled for rest from 2015 through 2017 must not be grazed; trailing through rested units will be supervised and be completed in one day.

**Permitted Use**

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Richard Schowengerdt	Lime Gulch	267 Cow/Calf	05/25- 10/10	1220

**Authorized Use for 2016**

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Richard Schowengerdt	Lime Gulch	267 Cow/Calf	05/25 – 09/30	1132



**2016 Pasture Rotation for the Lime Gulch Allotment**

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Hole in the Rock	267 Cow/Calf	05/25	06/30
Seven	267 Cow/Calf	07/01	07/31
Crane Basin	267 Cow/Calf	08/01	08/31
Gooseberry FS	267 Cow/Calf	09/01	09/30
Gooseberry BLM	267 Cow/Calf	Trail home only	Trail home only
Lime Creek	Rest	Rest	Rest

The on-dates listed above are only a guide. Actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moving to the next unit or off the allotment must occur before allowable standards have been met, and no later than the scheduled off-date.

**Allowable Standards**

Unit	Indicator	Standard
All units	Riparian Greenline	>4"
	Woody Browse	Multi-stemmed Species (e.g., willows): <50% Single Stemmed Species (e.g., aspen): <30%
	Stream Bank Alteration	<20%

**Permittee’s Management Responsibilities**

1. Three days prior to initial cattle turn-out, please inform the authorized officer in charge.
2. It is your responsibility to ensure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded. You must notify your rangeland management specialist of this move.
3. Riding and herding are necessary to properly distribute livestock. You must provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of cattle, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.
4. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards.* Do not rely on Forest Service range personnel to monitor use.
5. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider. Notification to your Range Management Specialist of the issues must be made immediately
6. Under Special Order # 04-00-097, all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the forest for the feeding of horses must be Certified Weed Free.
7. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention and inventory of noxious weeds

on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your range management specialist.

8. **The Salmon-Challis National Forest requires a Vehicle Use Permit, signed by the District Ranger, for ALL closed roads or off road travel.** This permit must be displayed in the windshield of trucks or carried on ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles. Please complete and return the enclosed Vehicle Use Permit if it is necessary for you to travel on closed roads or off-road in the administration on your allotment(s).
9. *The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the allotment, not the date to start moving cattle off the allotment.*

### **Range Improvements**

The Red Hill water development # 220306 needs a new water trough, and approximately ¼ mile of new pipe will need to be replaced. This work is your responsibility and must be completed before livestock enter the Hole in the Rock Unit.

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you, or any of your personnel, without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance *may* be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed prior to livestock turnout. Improvements should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your term grazing permit and are shown on the allotment map. Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.

### **Other Considerations**

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, allowable standards, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are 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.

Sage grouse habitat assessments may be conducted on your allotment in 2016. The habitat assessments will verify habitat locations and evaluate current conditions relative to desired conditions described in the Greater Sage-grouse Record of Decision (Table 1, p. 76 for Idaho). We will be contacting you to invite you to participate in these field assessments.

**Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit.** The grazing fees for 2016 are \$2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing bill is due 10 days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. You may make payment in any one of three ways:

Mail your payment to NFC at:  
USDA Forest Service  
C/O Citibank  
P.O. Box 301550  
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

You must include the Bill Number and Payer Code number on your check.

Or, fees may be paid online at: [WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY). Save your receipt of payment.

Or, fees may be paid between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at any Ranger District office or the Public Lands Center. Please bring a copy of your bill with you.

Enclosed is an actual use form to record date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off the allotment. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. This form, including accurate records of grazing dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs, must be returned to our office by December 1, 2016. The Forest Service will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for new improvement projects and improvement reconstruction.

If you have any questions regarding these annual operating instructions, please contact Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4100. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

*Riley Rhoades acting for*

KATHERINE WOOD  
District Ranger

Enclosures: Year End Grazing Report, 2016 Grazing Bill for Collection, Vehicle Use Permit

cc: Eric Matson