STRINGER PASTURE
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT
2016 Annual Operating Instructions
Cascade Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Stringer Pasture Cattle and Horse allotment during the 2016 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Stringer Pasture C&H	Harry Bettis	01244

Permitted Use				
Permittee	**Allotment**	**No. of Livestock**	**Livestock Class**	**Permitted Season**
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	25 "ON PROV"	Cow/Calf	5/25 – 7/10 (North)
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	200 "OFF PROV"	Cow/Calf	5/25 – 7/10 (North)
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	25 "ON PROV"	Cow/Calf	8/25 – 10/1 (South)
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	200 "OFF PROV"	Cow/Calf	8/25 – 10/1 (South)

Authorized Use				
Permittee	**Allotment**	**No. of Livestock**	**Livestock Class**	**Authorized Season**
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	25 "ON PROV"	Cow/Calf	5/25 – 7/10 (North Pasture)
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	200 "OFF PROV"	Cow/Calf	5/25 – 7/10 (North Pasture)
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	25 "ON PROV"	Cow/Calf	8/25 – 10/1(South Pasture)
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H	200 "OFF PROV"	Cow/Calf	8/25 – 10/1(South Pasture)

Non-Use				
Permittee	**Allotment**	**No. of Livestock**	**Resource Protection**	**Personal Convenience**
Bettis	Stringer Pasture C&H			
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There will be a total of 250 cow/calf cattle permitted under "on/off" provisions of this permit to graze the Stringer Pasture C&H allotment.

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Harry Bettis

T – Left Ribs

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season that requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Following the adaptive management strategy described in the Westside Restoration Project EA, a fence was constructed to allow for Aspen regeneration in the North Pasture. The fence was constructed from the Northern boundary of the allotment, along the private/National Forest land boundary, to the South end of the North pasture. Livestock are still authorized to graze on the allotment during the permitted dates. It is the permittees responsibility to ensure livestock are grazing the allotment during the permitted times ***only***, and that the fence is maintained in an adequate manner. Failure to comply could mean further administrative action.

All hay, straw and mulch products used on the Boise National Forest must be certified as weed-free or weed/seed-free by a qualified inspector of the State of Idaho or neighboring states which have weed-free feed or crop certification programs (Region Special Order Number: 04-00-097).

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

The Stringer Pasture C&H allotment was grazed with 225 head of cattle under on/off provisions.

Utilization results—17-18%
Stubble Height—12.9" average

2016 GRAZING SCHEDULE

Cattle will enter the North pasture on May 25 and will remain until July 10.

Cattle will enter the South Pasture on August 25 and will remain until October 1 or until utilization levels are met, whichever comes first.

Cattle will be removed from a pasture when allowable use of 45 percent in the riparian areas is reached; or when 4-inch stubble height of hydric species is retained; or when allowable use of 40 percent for the early season (North) pasture and 50 percent for the late season (South) pasture in the non-riparian areas is reached. Livestock grazing in the allotment is not allowed between July 21 and August 24.

BILLING

Grazing fees for cattle are $2.11 per head month.

There are now three ways that you can pay your bill, (1) through the Lock Box system by sending a check to the address on the bill; (2) by paying online at the web address on the bill; or (3) paying at the District Office. Please allow adequate time for your payment to be received, processed and for the Ranger District Office to receive payment notification. A minimum of 5 days should be allowed for this process. Livestock may not be placed on the allotment until after the District Ranger has received notification that the grazing fees have been paid. Placing or allowing livestock onto National Forest System lands prior to payment of grazing fees is

violation of your term grazing permit and may result in the assessment of unauthorized use fees and the suspension or cancellation of your permit.

If permitted livestock are required to leave the allotment early due to utilization standards being met or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a refund may be requested. A written request for refund must be submitted to the District Ranger if this situation occurs.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

The Stringer Pasture C&H allotment will be managed as described in this AOI and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest (Forest Plan).

Compliance with the following standards will be emphasized; this is imperative. Familiarize yourself with this AOI and Forest Management direction. If you need more information about allotment management, contact the Cascade Ranger District.

The North Zone Range Specialist or Technician must be notified at least 5 days in advance and given the date, time, and place where livestock will enter the allotment to allow for counting livestock on the allotment.

Remove and dispose of dead animals at least 300 feet from water and roads and ½ mile from human habitation. Forest Service will be notified prior to disposal of dead animals on National Forest System lands. Disposal will not occur until approval of location and method is obtained.

Range Readiness: Spring moisture and temperature conditions may affect the time when livestock are allowed to turn out on the allotment. The Forest Service will notify you at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled turnout date if this occurs.

Utilization: It is the responsibility of the permittee to periodically monitor and document utilization during the grazing season. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, livestock will be removed from the allotment early. The Forest Service will conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met.

Streambank utilization will be measured along the "greenline" in riparian areas and should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 45% in riparian areas or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble of hydric greenline species. In the flats or meadows adjoining these riparian areas and/or upland areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan Standard of no more than 40% utilization for the early season pasture and 50% utilization for the late season pasture.

Upland grazing use should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 40 % use in early season or season long pastures and 50% use in vegetative slow growth or late season pastures. The Forest Service will periodically check the permittees utilization monitoring to ensure good land stewardship and perform documentation. At times, the permittees and the Forest Service will jointly inspect range conditions. It is your responsibility to remove livestock from the allotment area as soon as the utilization standards have been met.

Noxious Weeds: Work on noxious weed control will continue this year. These weeds are a continual, and in some places, an increasing problem. Your help is needed. If you find any populations of Scotch Thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, Knapweed, or other noxious weeds, please fill out the enclosed noxious weed inventory card and return to the district office. These sites

will be added to the district treatment schedule and will be monitored and treated annually under the Forest's invasive species program.

Salt Placement: Salt will be placed in containers and moved occasionally during allotment use to discourage concentrations of cattle for a long period of time. Salt will be removed from the allotment when the grazing season is completed. Salt will not be allowed in riparian conservation areas and placed away from any streams or riparian areas. Salting will be done where low use is observed. Historic salting locations will be avoided during the grazing season. There will be no salting within one-quarter mile water and 100 feet from roads where possible.

Predator Problems: If during the grazing season, you are having problems with predators notify, Wildlife Services. Through a memorandum of Understanding between Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Forest Service, Wildlife Services is responsible for the control of predators. They will provide control services, technical expertise, recommendation of control methods, and reporting livestock as well as predator losses to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Forest Service. You are allowed to protect your livestock from the immediate threat of predators. All other predator control must be conducted through the proper channels, as described above.

Wolves

If you suspect a wolf depredation has occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) should be contacted as soon as possible. The local Wildlife Services contact for this area is Jered Hedelius. He can be reached at (208) 681-8756. In the event that you cannot reach Jered, Todd Grimm at the Boise District Office should be contacted at 208-373-1630.

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The wolf biologist for Idaho Fish and Game is Jennifer Struthers. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her and she can be reached at (208-465-8465 x350).

Motorized Use

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Cascade Ranger District. Public motorized, wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated on the current year's Motorized Vehicle Use Map. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. However, specific routes will need to be identified each year. See description of routes needed for administrative use below. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes is not included in this authorization. Use of heavy equipment will need to be requested through and approved by the District Ranger on a case-by-case basis.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements listed and assigned to you in the term grazing permit must be maintained to a good functioning condition before livestock enter the pasture.

ALLOTMENT MONITORING

The proposed monitoring on the allotment for the 2016 grazing season will be as follows:

1. Inspection compliance monitoring
2. Utilization monitoring
3. In-season stubble height monitoring
4. End-of-season stubble height monitoring
5. Grazing Response Index (GRI)

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management following the adaptive management strategy.

Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since the permittees will be held accountable to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

1. In cooperation with the State of Idaho, all feed, hay or straw brought to the allotment must be certified weed-free.
2. Report any known invasive plants in your grazing areas.
3. Report areas you have accidentally over-used so the Forest Service is aware of a critical situation before an unhappy public makes us aware of it. This will keep the Forest Service up to date and provide the opportunity to resolve the problem as necessary. In addition, it will reflect more positively on you as a good land manager.
4. It is recommended that the permittees use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site they inspect during the grazing season.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Enclosed are year-end grazing reports for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2016 grazing season for the Stringer Pasture C&H allotment. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto each allotment, the number and date cattle are removed from the allotment, and estimate the time and cost of management actions including livestock herding and improvement maintenance associated with 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 improvements. This report should be returned to the Cascade Ranger District no later than December 1, 2016.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The Stringer Pasture C&H Allotment will be managed to achieve the Desired Future Condition as described in the revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise

National Forest. All permitted actions including grazing will comply with standards shown in the revised Forest Plan.

Utilization Standards from the revised Forest Plan are as follows:

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the grazing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

1. Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use of hydric greenline species.

2. Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40% use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50% use.

INSPECTIONS

Periodic inspections for compliance to the grazing permit and the annual operating instructions will be made by the Forest Service. Allotment inspections and unit examinations will be conducted during the grazing season to meet the utilization standards set forth in these instructions. Permittee participation in these activities is always encouraged.

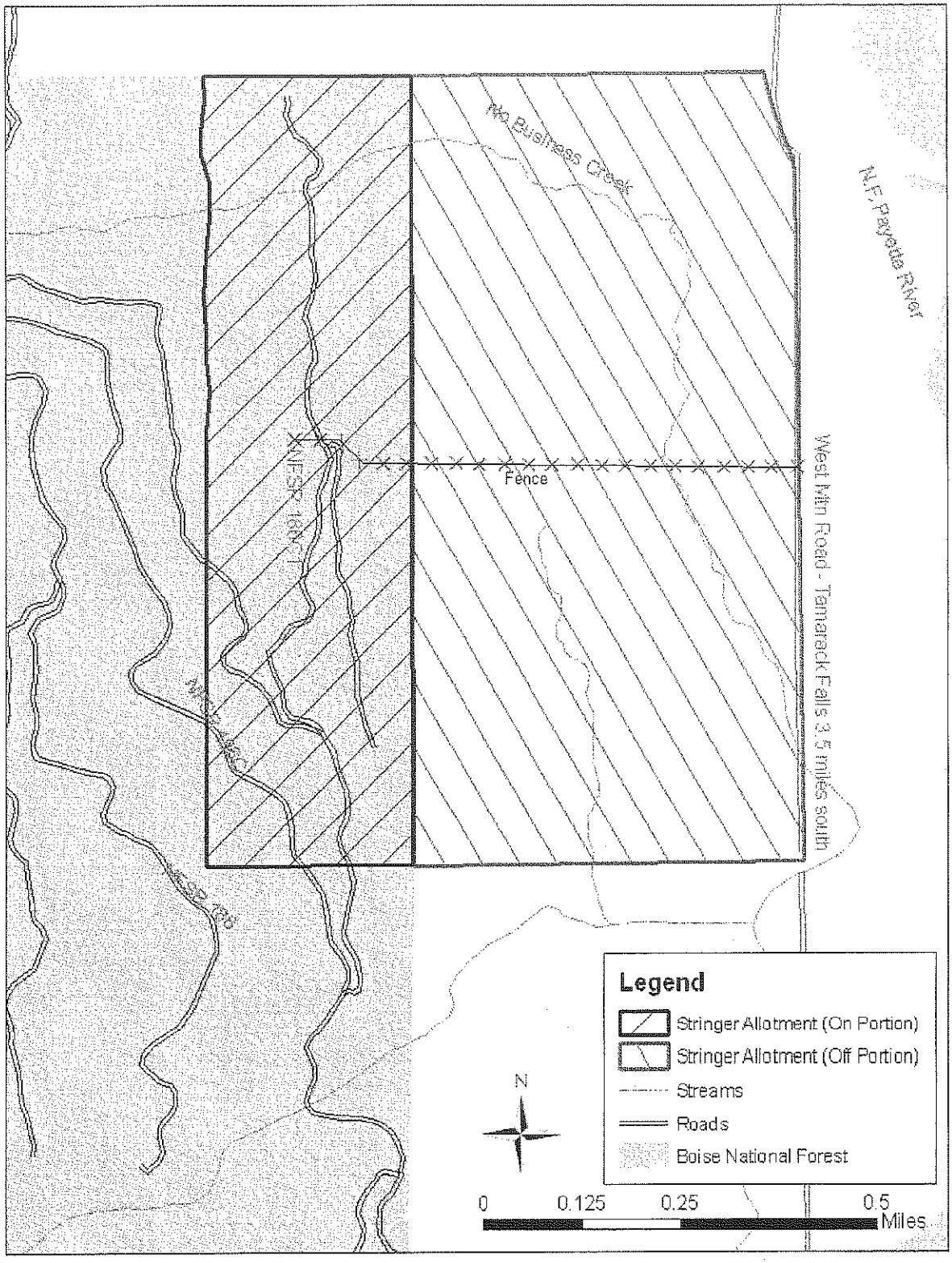
These Annual Operating Instructions for the Stringer Pasture C&H allotment are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter this plan during the grazing season, notify the Cascade Ranger District at 208-365-7000, or the North Zone Range Specialist at 208-365-7010.

Signatures:

District Ranger

4/6/2016
Date

I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions stipulated in my term grazing permit.


No Business Creek
N.F. Payette River
West Mtn Road - Tamarack Falls 3.5 miles south
Fence
NFSR 16N-1
Legend
Stringer Allotment (On Portion)
Stringer Allotment (Off Portion)
Streams
Roads
Boise National Forest
N
0
0.125
0.25
0.5
Miles