



File Code: 2230
Date: May 10, 2016

Miller, Hubert
 29 Allison Creek Road
 Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Hubert,

This letter serves as your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Cow Creek Cattle and Horse (C&H) Allotment and is the part of your Term Grazing Permit #20071, identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8.

You received a Notice of Non-Compliance, dated December 2, 2015, for exceeding grazing standards. The following actions are required of you to accomplish throughout the 2016 to 2019 grazing seasons to remedy the 2015 non-compliance:

- Meet all use standards, those being greenline stubble height, bank alteration, and woody browse use. Move livestock to the next unit or off the allotment prior to exceeding any use standard.
- Ensure all trailing is active, with riders herding livestock until the appropriate unit is reached. All units will have all livestock removed within one day after moving to the next unit and one day after end of season trailing has occurred.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of allowable use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Barry Dopp, to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Any extension of use outside the permitted season of use cannot be authorized.**

Term Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Miller, Hubert	180 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/10	781
Dowton, Stan and Trish	115 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/10	499

2016 Authorized Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Miller, Hubert	171 Cow/calf	06/01 – 09/20	630
Dowton, Stan and Trish	Non-use	Non-use	0



2016 Unit Schedule

The dates below are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. Initiate livestock movement so that all livestock are removed from North Fork Cow Creek Unit no later than July 31, 2016, and are completely off the Forest no later than September 20, 2016.

Unit	No. And Class	On-Date	Off-Date
North Fork Cow Creek	171 Cow/calf	06/01	07/31
Allison Creek	171 Cow/calf	08/01	09/20
Cow Creek	Rest		

Allowable Use

It is your responsibility to be aware of, and to recognize, utilization and streambank alteration use indicators (also referred to as allowable use standards). Regardless of the Unit Schedule shown above, you must move your livestock to the next unit planned or off the allotment prior to exceeding these standards. Once livestock are removed from a unit in accordance with allowable standards and/or unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. 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 notify you when it is time to move.

The table below displays the allowable use standards applicable to your allotment(s):

Allowable Use Standards

Unit	Average Greenline Stubble Height	Streambank Alteration	Woody Browse	Upland Utilization
North Fork Cow Creek	≥4 inches	≤20%	≤30% Willow/Alder/Birch	≤50%
Allison Creek				
Cow Creek	Trailing incidental use only			

Biological Assessment/Opinion Requirements

Per the 2010 Biological Assessment for the Cow Creek C&H Allotment, the following conservation measures will be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA-listed fish:

1. 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.
2. It is your responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded. You must notify the Rangeland Management Specialist of this move.

3. 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 range personnel to monitor use.
4. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.
5. Place salt at least ¼ mile from any water source and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

Range Improvements

All range improvements listed as your responsibility in Part 3 of your term grazing permit must be maintained to the standards identified in Part 3 prior to livestock being placed in each unit. No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you or any of your personnel without prior approval from the District Ranger. Materials for reconstruction **may** be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

- The Flat Springs water development (#220641) in the Allison Creek unit was identified in your March 29, 2016 AOI meeting as needing a new trough. The replacement trough, delivered to you on April 20, 2016, will need to be in place and the associated water development will need to be fully functional prior to turning out livestock in the Allison Creek Unit.
- All new and existing troughs will need to have new wildlife escape ramps. The new ramps should have 180 degree access, rather than just front access, to prevent wildlife from swimming underneath them.

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit. The grazing fee for 2016 is \$2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing Bill for Collection (enclosed) is due ten days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. You may make payment in 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, pay your bill online at: WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY. Save your receipt of payment.

Or, pay your bill 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.

2. The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motorized use

are shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle use maps may be obtained at any Salmon-Challis Ranger District office. These prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (as detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a). **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. 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.**

3. Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay Order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention of noxious weeds on your allotment. All equipment which is used off of open roads for range improvement maintenance or other management activities should be free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands.
4. Return your completed actual use form (enclosed) to Barry Dopp by December 1, 2016. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. 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. Actual use also is requested annually by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the form is appreciated.
5. If the ownership of the livestock or the base property listed on your permit is about to change, please notify your Rangeland Management Specialist promptly.
6. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and livestock 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. Livestock 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.
7. Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.
8. You agreed to accompany the Forest Service on a field visit prior to your livestock turning out on the Cow Creek Allotment. This will occur during last week of May or first week of June. The purpose is to review the utilization monitoring sites in Cow Creek (aspen site) and North Fork of Cow Creek (Mud Springs).

Other Considerations

Please immediately report wildfire to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center at (208) 756-5157.

We may conduct range inspections during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, allowable use standards, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are welcome to participate in these inspections; please contact Barry Dopp if you would like to join Forest range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotment.

Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Rangeland Management Specialist.

Meadow potential and sage grouse habitat assessments may be conducted on your allotment in 2016. These assessments will identify site potential, verify habitat, and evaluate current conditions relative to implementing the 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Record of Decision. We will be contacting you to invite you to participate in these field assessments.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine Wood

KATHERINE WOOD
District Ranger

Enclosures: Actual Use Report
 2016 Bill for Collection
 Vehicle Use Permit