



**File Code:** 2230; 2210  
**Date:** May 19, 2016

East Fork Ranches, LLC  
Wayne and Melodie Baker, Managers  
HC 68 Box 304  
Clayton, ID 83227

Dear Wayne and Melodie,

This letter serves as your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Squaw Creek Cattle and Horse (C&H) Allotment and is part of your term grazing permit #30014 identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8.

You received a Notice of Non-Compliance letter, dated February 2, 2016, for exceeding the stubble height standard in the Kinnikinic Creek Unit. In order to remedy this non-compliance:

- The Cash Creek drift fence must be functional prior to livestock being turned out on the Squaw Creek Allotment.
- Move cattle out of the Kinnikinic Creek Unit prior to exceeding any standards.

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, Brianna Goehring, to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Any extension of dates outside the permitted season of use cannot be authorized.**

**Term Permitted Use**

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
East Fork Ranches, LLC	Squaw Creek (main Squaw Creek drainage)	473 Cow/calf	06/16 – 09/30	1664
	Squaw Creek (Bayhorse Subdivision—Juliette and Happy Hollow Units)	60 Cow/calf	07/16 – 09/30	152
Howard and Zella Cutler	Squaw Creek (Bayhorse Subdivision—Juliette and Happy Hollow Units)	142 Cow/calf	07/16 – 09/30	359



**2016 Authorized Use**

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
East Fork Ranches, LLC	Squaw Creek (main Squaw Creek drainage)	300 Cow/calf	06/16 – 09/07	828
	Squaw Creek (Bayhorse Subdivision—Juliette and Happy Hollow Units)	Nonuse		
Howard and Zella Cutler	Squaw Creek (Bayhorse Subdivision—Juliette and Happy Hollow Units)	Nonuse		

**2016 Unit Schedule**

The dates in the table below are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. Livestock movement from the Lower Squaw Creek Unit to the Upper Squaw Creek Unit will involve trailing through the Treavor Creek Unit using established roads or trails. The duration of this move may be up to three days but will use active, supervised trailing. **Livestock may cross Martin Creek in the Upper Squaw Unit once before August 15, 2016**, to get to the east side of that unit. Herd management will focus on active riding to keep livestock out of the Martin Creek drainage after the crossing to protect spawning bull trout and their redds. **Livestock must be off the Upper Squaw Creek Unit after August 15, 2016, to protect spawning bull trout and their redds.** Initiate livestock movement so that all livestock are completely off the Forest no later than September 7, 2016.

Unit	No. And Class	On-Date	Off-Date
Lower Squaw Creek	300 Cow/calf	6/16	7/15
Upper Squaw Creek	300 Cow/calf	7/16	8/15
Kinnikinic Creek	300 Cow/calf	8/16	9/7
Juliette	Nonuse		
Happy Hollow	Nonuse		
Treavor Creek	Rest (trailing only when livestock are moved from Lower Squaw to Upper Squaw )		
Riparian Pasture	No grazing		

**Allowable Use**

It is your responsibility to be aware of, and to recognize utilization and streambank alteration 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. Part 3 of your term grazing permit identifies these allowable use standards; see the table below for the standards applicable to this year. 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.

**Allowable Use Standards**

Unit	Average Greenline Stubble Height	Streambank Alteration	Woody Browse	Upland Utilization
Upper Squaw Creek	≥ 6 inches	≤ 20%	≤ 30% <sup>A</sup> or ≤ 50% <sup>B</sup>	≤ 50%
Kinnikinic Creek				
Lower Squaw Creek	≥ 6 inches	≤ 10%		

Juliette	Nonuse (no measurable use)
Happy Hollow	
Trealor Creek	Rest (no measurable use)

<sup>A</sup> Single-stemmed species, e.g., aspen, <sup>B</sup> Multi-stemmed species, e.g., willow

### Biological Assessment/Opinion Requirements

The 2011 Aquatic Species Biological Assessment (B.A.) for the Squaw Creek C&H Allotment outlined the conservation measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish and designated critical habitat. These measures also are found in Part 3, Special Terms and Conditions of your term grazing permit; I reiterate several pertinent ones below:

- A three-unit deferred rotation and rest rotation grazing system will be used. The schedule for 2016 is identified as Year 3 in the B.A.
- Livestock will cross Martin Creek in the Upper Squaw Unit once before August 15, 2016, to get to the east side of that unit. Herd management will focus on active riding to keep livestock out of the Martin Creek drainage after the crossing to protect spawning bull trout and their redds.
- Livestock will be off the Upper Squaw Creek Unit after August 15, 2016, to protect spawning bull trout and their redds.
- Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
- Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas by frequent riding to aid in meeting allowable use standards.

Specifically to minimize the potential for incidental take resulting from trampling of Snake River Basin steelhead redds, the National Marine Fisheries Services further identified the following terms and conditions in its 2012 Biological Opinion for the Squaw Creek Allotment:

- Frequent riding (twice per week) should be implemented in the Lower Squaw Creek and Trealor Creek Units during the Snake River Basin steelhead incubation period (June 16 to July 7), with the intent to reduce cattle use within and adjacent to potential Snake River Basin steelhead spawning habitats in these Units.
- On units where trampling of steelhead redds may occur (i.e., Lower Squaw and Trealor Units), permittees inspect and repair fencelines intended to keep livestock within intended unit boundaries before turnout onto those Units.
- All exclosures, drift fences, and water developments that reduce cattle use adjacent to streams with ESA-listed fish species should be properly maintained and functioning as intended.

### 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 me. Materials for reconstruction may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision for materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

In the March 18, 2016, AOI meeting attended by Wayne Baker, Preston Cutler, Brianna Goehring and me, we specifically discussed the below priority range improvements that Wayne identified as necessary for the successful management of the allotment.

- The Cash Creek drift fence that separates the Kinnikinic Creek Unit from the Upper Squaw Unit must be functional prior to livestock turnout, as mentioned previously in this letter.
- The Second Creek drift fence that separates the Kinnikinic Creek Unit from the Lower Squaw Creek Unit must be functional prior to livestock turnout.
- Reconstruction of the log worm boundary fence between the Squaw Creek and Garden Creek Allotments must continue, and I expect reasonable progress to be made in 2016 and that both East Fork Ranches and the Garden Creek Allotment permittees will be involved in this effort.

### **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:

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](http://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 located in Salmon. 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 your rangeland management specialist by December 1, 2016. Please note on the second page our request for your priority *reconstruction*

needs. We 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 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. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.
7. Place salt at least ¼ mile from any water source and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.
8. With multiple-uses on the Forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong unit. 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 unit. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.
9. Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

#### **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 your rangeland management specialist 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.

If you have any questions regarding these annual operating instructions, please contact Brianna Goehring, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4130. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Wood*

KATHERINE WOOD  
District Ranger

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