

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**ANTELOPE ALLOTMENT**

**Permitted Cattle Numbers and Season of Use**

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Cow/Calf Pairs</b>	<b>Season</b>
Mountain Springs Ranch LLC	249	07/1-10/15
Shane Rosenkrance	95	07/1-10/15
Evelyn Reese	93	07/1-10/15
James Babcock	75	07/1-10/15
Rueben and Russell Babcock	311	07/1-10/15
Mascaro Land & Livestock	75	07/1-10/15
<b>Total</b>	<b>898</b>	

These Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8.

**Authorized Cattle Numbers and Season of Use for 2016**

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Cow/Calf Pairs</b>	<b>Non-Use</b>	<b>Season</b>
Mountain Springs Ranch LLC	<b>249</b>		<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Shane Rosenkrance	<b>95</b>		<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Evelyn Reese*	<b>93</b>		<b>7/1-10/15</b>
James Babcock	<b>75</b>		<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Rueben and Russell Babcock	<b>311</b>		<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Mascaro Land & Livestock	<b>75</b>		<b>7/1-10/15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>898</b>		

**Grazing Rotation**

<b>Units</b>
Dry Canyon
Iron Bog
Smiley Meadows
Bear Creek
Burnt Hollow

**There are no dates in the rotation schedule. Moves are based on meeting the utilization standards. When you have determined that it is time to begin moving from a unit to meet these standards your representative for the allotment must contact Birk Roseman, your assigned Range Management Specialist, with this information. If needed, contact can first be made by voicemail. A follow-up conversation with Birk Roseman, or a representative he identifies to you, is also required three, to no more than four days, after the move is initiated. Both this initial contact and the follow-up conversation is hereby required as Forest Officer instruction.**

### Utilization Standards

Unit	Upland % Use	Riparian Stubble Height inches	Riparian Woody Browse Use	Bank Alteration
Dry Canyon	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Iron Bog	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Smiley Meadows	50%	4 inches	50%	<b>TBD</b>
Bear Creek	50%	4 inches	50%	<b>TBD</b>
Burnt Hollow	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A

**Do not overnight or hold livestock in the Leadbelt Allotment, Lower Camp Creek Unit. Other methods will need to be used in getting your cattle on and off of the forest.**

**Designated Monitoring Areas (DMA's):** DMA's are used to monitor riparian areas representative of livestock grazing within a unit to establish a record of utilization and trend. The information from the DMA is also used to plan cattle moves, determine if end of season indicators are met, and to evaluate whether current management is effective or needs to be modified. Monitoring of the DMA's will now include bank stability which will determine if bank alteration standards are needed and at what level.

**We will be monitoring in the Bear Creek and Smiley Meadow Units before cattle reach those units and to determine the bank alteration standards for this grazing season.**

**Cleaning Grazing Units:** Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height indicator being met to ensure allowable use levels are achieved. This is especially important during drought conditions. Permittees should be prepared to assist range riders in checking that the unit cleaned stays clean. 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 to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements. The Bear Creek-Cherry Creek fence maintenance will be shared by permittees from both allotments. The Cherry Creek and Antelope permittees will determine the midpoint of the fence. Cherry Creek will maintain the east half and Antelope will maintain the west half.

The Smiley Meadow let down fence should be maintained in a way that allows it to be let down upon cattle leaving the pasture. This fence should be put up one week prior to livestock entering the unit and let down within two weeks of livestock leaving the Smiley Meadow unit. The permittees improved the design of the letdown fence in 2014 so that it functions as a letdown fence. Prior to turn out you are authorized two trips in and out of Smiley Meadows with ATV's/UTV's to maintain the fences.

**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 2016 season are \$2.11/head month. Your grazing fee payment will need to be received prior to turning livestock out on the National Forest.

**Actual Use Report:** An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you in the fall. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District by December 31, 2016.

Applications for refunds/credits for unused portions of your allotment must be requested and filed separately. Please contact our office if you need an application for refund/credit.

**NEPA and Allotment Management Plans (AMP):** Our office is in the process of completing an environmental analysis and documentation for livestock grazing in the Antelope Allotment and four others in the Antelope Creek drainage. Permittees will need to work closely with your rangeland management specialist and other Forest personnel to develop a proposed action for grazing management in conjunction with a long term grazing management strategy (AMP) for your allotment.

This work will include taking a hard look at historic and existing grazing activities to determine whether current management is adequate to comply with the Forest Plan and other laws and regulations that govern the management of public lands. This process will include several meetings with permittees to discuss and agree on feasible and appropriate management goals and monitoring objectives on the allotment that will meet or move us toward the desired conditions for multiple resources on the allotment. The ultimate goal of this analysis is to determine the existing condition and trend of those areas most likely to be affected by livestock grazing and develop a plan to minimize impacts through best management practices for livestock grazing. Your participation in development of the proposed action and AMP are crucial to the success of your operation and our long term management of the area.

Questions regarding these instructions should be directed to Allison Jackson, District Ranger; Birk Roseman the Rangeland Management Specialist at (208) 588-3400.