

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
 BOONE CREEK ALLOTMENT
 SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Permitted Cattle Numbers and Season of Use

Permittee	Cow/Calf Pairs	Season
Challis Creek Cattle Company	986	6/6-10/15
Boone Creek Partnership	25	6/6-10/15
Churn Dasher Ranch	264	6/6-10/15
Total	1275	

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

Permittee	Cow/Calf Pairs	Non-Use	Season
Challis Creek Cattle Company	986	0	6/6-10/15
Boone Creek Partnership	25	0	6/6-10/15
Churn Dasher Ranch	100	0	6/6-10/15
	164	0	7/15-10/15
Total	1275	0	

Grazing Rotation

Units
Rock Creek
Main Boone
Fox Creek†
Ramey Creek†
Road Creek†
Right Fork Boone/ Castle Cr.
Garden Creek

† The settlement agreement between Challis Creek Cattle Co. and USFS states “Prevent livestock from grazing reclaimed areas through the use of herding, temporary fencing, or not grazing the entire units for the 2016 growing season and/or until the Forest Service determines that the seed or sod is stabilized.”

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 representative for the allotment must contact Lans Stavast, your assigned Range Management Specialist, with this information. If needed, contact can first be made by voicemail. A followup conversation with Lans, 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 followup conversation is hereby required as Forest Officer instruction.

Cattle may be in up to 2 units simultaneously while pasture moves are being made. Therefore, there may be periods of use that overlap. Back riding is necessary to keep these units clean once a move has occurred.

Utilization Standards

Unit	Upland % Use	Riparian Stubble Height inches	Riparian Woody Browse Use	Bank Alteration
Rock Creek	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Main Boone	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Fox Creek†	50%	4 inches	50%	TBD
Ramey Creek†	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Road Creek†	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Right Fork Boone/ Castle Cr.	50%	TBD	50%	TBD
	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Garden Creek	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A

Modifications to the grazing unit rotation must be requested by the permittee in advance and approved by the Forest Service. The Forest Service may modify these instructions, in consultation with the permittees, when changes to scheduled use are needed due to unexpected changes in conditions such as but not limited to: predatory issues, forage availability, plant growth/recovery, and control of livestock.

It is imperative that permittees on both the Boone Creek and Wildhorse allotments maintain their portion of the boundary fence west of Castle Creek. When grazing the Castle Creek pasture ensure that Wildhorse cattle are not grazing the areas adjacent to Castle Creek on the Wildhorse Allotment. Permittees will contact Wildhorse and coordinate grazing operations. While it is known that livestock will sometimes travel between the two allotments in this area it is important that the use on the neighboring allotment is kept to a minimum.

The drier mesic meadows adjacent to streams and springs should be watched to ensure that 50% use is not exceeded. These meadows are of concern across the district, especially in sage grouse habitat. We will be transitioning to a 4 inch stubble height in these meadows instead of the 50% utilization over the next couple of years. There will also be a transition to 7 inch stubble height in sage grouse upland breeding habitat, when grazed prior to June 15 over the next couple of years.

The electric fence will need to be put up around the wet meadow in Little Boone Creek and it may be dropped the last 3 days to let livestock utilize the meadow. Riding will be necessary to keep the cattle dispersed in the units and keep them from congregating on riparian areas and causing resource damage.

You will be weaning calves on the Forest again this year around September 7th. Cattle are to be weaned at the Cow Camp. This plan will be re-evaluated around the end of July based on forage conditions and changed if needed through close conversation with the Forest.

The Forest Service and the permittees will work together to identify appropriate salt and mineral locations which are to be away from streams and aspen stands. Motorized travel for allotment management needs to be requested in advance to the District Ranger, who then may authorize use of a specific route through a letter. Permittees may request to deliver salt to central locations to then distribute using horses.

- Ramey Creek: south above the water tank; north- near trails
- Little Boone: between forks and riparian
- Rider Creek: 1 mile up road

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 Right Fork Boone Creek and Fox Creek Units before cattle reach those units to determine the standards for this grazing season.**

Riding: Provide help to the rider in back riding and in their absence to maintain smooth operations on the allotment. Early pastures will be monitored to ensure that the unit is clean for the remainder of the grazing season.

Cattle are not to graze around the lakes in Bellas Canyon. Continue to monitor the Bellas Lakes area for livestock use while using the Ramey Creek pasture. The Forest Service will continue to evaluate the potential drift fence location to reduce possibilities of livestock going off the allotment around Bellas Lakes. The Forest and permittees may install a temporary electric fence near the Ramey Creek Unit boundary to Bellas Lakes to deter livestock from traveling to the lakes.

Cleaning Grazing Units: Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height standard being met to ensure allowable use standards are met. This is especially important when forage is curing. Bulls should be kept with the main herd or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. 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. In years of non-use maintenance of improvements is still a requirement.

Further evaluate the potential for some pond to trough conversions on the allotment. The Forest will provide materials to reconstruct a portion of the Ramey and Road Creek boundary fence, once a decision is completed.

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.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Allison Jackson, District Ranger; Lans Stavast, District Rangeland Management Specialist at (208)588-3400.