

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
COPPER BASIN ALLOTMENT  
SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST**

**Permitted Cattle Numbers and Season of Use**

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Cow/Calf Pairs</b>	<b>Season</b>
Donahue Revocable Trust	<b>503</b>	<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Scott McAfee	<b>350</b>	<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Scott McAfee/Bart Wojciechowski	<b>187</b> <b>50</b>	<b>6/6-10/15</b> <b>7/1-10/15</b>
Parsons Creek	<b>100</b> <b>275</b>	<b>6/6-10/15</b> <b>7/1-10/15</b>
Bret Zollinger	<b>188</b> <b>50</b>	<b>6/6-10/15</b> <b>7/1-10/15</b>
6 X Ranch	<b>593</b> <b>111</b>	<b>6/6-10/15</b> <b>7/1-10/15</b>
No Tellum Cr Ranch	<b>410</b>	<b>6/6-10/15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2817</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>
Donahue Revocable Trust	<b>503</b>	0	<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Scott McAfee	<b>300</b>	50	<b>7/1-10/15</b>
Scott McAfee/Bart Wojciechowski	<b>187</b>	50	<b>6/6-10/15</b>
Parsons Creek	<b>100</b> <b>275</b>	0	<b>6/6-10/15</b> <b>7/1-10/15</b>
Bret Zollinger	<b>0</b>	238	
6 X Ranch	<b>593</b> <b>111</b>	0 0	<b>6/6-10/15</b> <b>7/1-10/15</b>
No Tellum Cr Ranch	<b>410</b>	0	<b>6/6-10/15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2479</b>	<b>338</b>	

**Grazing Rotation**

<b>Units</b>
Mine Hill (Early Herd)
Navarre (Early Herd)
Sugarloaf (Early Herd)
Hamilton (Late Herd trailing)*
Coyote (Late Herd trailing)*
Corral
Lower Riparian
Potholes
High Canyons
Little Canyons
Basin Flats

Upper Riparian
Little Lake/Horse Wallow
Lehman
Swamps/Anderson (REST)
Mine Canyon (REST)
Cabin (REST)

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.

#### Utilization Standards

Unit	Upland % Use	Riparian Stubble Height inches	Riparian Woody Browse Use	Bank alteration
Navarre	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Sugarloaf/Corral	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Hamilton	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Coyote	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Corral	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Cabin	50%	6 inches	50%	N/A
Little Canyons	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
High Canyons	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Potholes	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Lower Riparian	50%	4 inches	50%	<b>TBD</b>
Little Lake/ Horse Wallow	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Lehman	50%	4 inches	50%	<b>TBD</b>
Upper Riparian	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Basin Flats	50%	4 inches	50%	<b>TBD</b>
Mine Hill	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Swamps/Anderson	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Upper Corral Creek	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Mine Canyon	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A

Overlap in unit use is expected, cattle may be in up to 3 units at once while trailing and placing livestock in the units designated with the \*. When the other units are used there are to be cattle in no more than 2 units. There are a number of units in this allotment that are small and using them with the entire herd at one time would increase the potential for resource damage. Managing the herd in these smaller units with a lead, middle and rear group of cattle has proved to be the most effective way to graze and is recommended in the management plan. Movements will be based on move triggers. This will be done with the understanding that the end of season indicators must be met. Small numbers of livestock that are left behind or in units not authorized at such time can cause severe resource damage, so immediate removal of such livestock is expected.

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.

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.

There was a **Notice of Non-Compliance** issued in 2014 for **Failure to keep cattle within the allotment boundary and in scheduled units during scheduled time periods and failure to maintain sanitary conditions at the rider's camp.** The letter was hand delivered at your April 15, 2015 spring meeting.

**The following actions and timeframes for accomplishment are required of you to remedy the non-compliance:**

1. In 2015 and 2016, all livestock are to be kept in the scheduled pasture and on the allotment according to the 2015 and 2016 AOIs or direction from myself or a rangeland management specialist as adjustments are made throughout the season.
2. Two full time riders will be required on the allotment while cattle are on the National Forest portion of the allotment.
3. Two additional riders will be provided every day that livestock are in Hamilton and Coyote units, until they are cleaned.
4. The Mine Canyon unit will be rode twice a day to clean cattle off of Cabin Creek and the East Fork Big Lost near the Fish and Game cabin.
5. Livestock will begin being moved out of the Potholes unit when a 5" stubble height trigger is met on the Willow Springs monitoring location outside of the electric fence.
6. Permittees will assist range riders in checking that units ahead and behind the schedule are clean.

These actions are required through the entire 2015 and 2016 grazing seasons unless otherwise specified above. **Failure to comply with these actions within the prescribed timeframes may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures.**

The Allotment Management Team process, described in the Association by-laws, will be used this year in addressing issues on the allotment. The team will be made up of Bart Wojciechowski, Scott McAfee, and Seth Teichert. The Forest Service and the Association will have meetings prior to significant moves to ensure agreement on the management of the allotment.

In order to improve communications meetings have been scheduled between the Forest Service and the Copper Basin Association. The following is the meeting schedule:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topic of discussion</b>
June 15-	Mine Hill/Basin Flats	Discuss utilization, fence reconstruction and look at fenceline between Copper Basin and Boone Creek.
July 14-	Corral Creek-	make sure that the combining of the herd is going as planned
August 16-	High Canyons	check in on the management up to this point
Sept 15-	Little Canyon	look at the use to this point and ensure exclosures are complete in Basin Flats prior to the move.

It is required to have two full time riders and frequent help from association members to assist with riding duties throughout the season. The extra riding is important in maintaining and achieving acceptable resource conditions and control of livestock. Factors that should be considered for planning cattle moves between units include prevention of stream bank trampling, increase in rate of stubble height removal, changes in grazing preference from grasses and grass-like plants to young willows and other shrubs, large groups of cattle congregating in fence corners, at gates, or riparian areas for long periods of time. Cattle should be removed from a unit prior to resource issues occurring regardless of scheduled dates.

Regularly check the high mountain lakes in the High Canyons unit to ensure that no use is occurring from permitted livestock or those from neighboring allotments.

**Designated Monitoring Areas (DMA's):** 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 Lower Riparian, Horse Wallow and Upper Riparian 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 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.

Back riding is necessary to keep these units clean once a move has occurred.

Permittees should notify the Forest Service when unauthorized livestock use from adjacent allotments occurs.

**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 Swamps pipeline should be reconstructed with one trough this year. Need to look at the electric fence around the aspen stand in Charcoal Creek and at Willow Springs to determine if it will be used again this year. The jack fences in the basin flats have not been maintained and need to be re-constructed in 2016.

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

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