

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

DRY FORK C & H ALLOTMENT

Permitted Cattle Numbers and Season of Use

Permittee	Cow/Calf Pairs	Season
Mountain Springs Ranch LLC.	44	7/1-10/31
Total		

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
Mountain Springs Ranch LLC.	44		7/1-10/31
Total	44		7/1-10/31

Utilization Standards

Unit	Upland % Use	Riparian Stubble Height inches	Riparian Woody Browse Use
Dry Fork	50%	4 inches	50%

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.

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.

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: At the end of the grazing season you will be receiving an INDIVIDUAL ACTUAL USE REPORT. Return this report to the Lost River Ranger District office by December 31, 2016.

NEPA and Allotment Management Plans (AMP): Our office is in the process of completing an environmental analysis and documentation for livestock grazing in the Dry Fork 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.

One example of this would be reviewing maps and other existing information on water developments to determine the functionality as livestock water and/or the necessity of converting stock ponds to troughs to provide adequate water while protecting the integrity of the spring source for wildlife, water and soil resources. Fence issues should also be discussed. 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.

If you have any questions about these instructions, or management of the allotment please contact Allison Jackson, District Ranger; Lans Stavast or Birk Roseman the District Rangeland Management Specialists at (208) 588-3400.