

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
WILDHORSE ALLOTMENT
SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST**

Permitted Cattle Numbers and Season of Use

Permittee	Cow/Calf Pairs	Season
Clint/Esther Bitton	104	6/9-9/30
Dickey Livestock	491	6/9-9/30
Walt Johnson	108	6/9-9/30
VerNon Roche	51	6/9-9/30
H. Whitworth Jr.	947	6/9-9/30
Logan E. Williams Jr.and Tyrel Williams	191	6/9-9/30
Total	1892	

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
Clint/Esther Bitton	0	104	
Dickey Livestock	383	108	6/9-9/30
Walt Johnson	108	0	6/9-9/30
VerNon Roche	51	0	6/9-9/30
H. Whitworth Jr.	700	179	6/9-9/30
	68		8/1-9/30
Logan E. Williams Jr.and Tyrel Williams	191	0	6/9-9/30
Total	1501	391	

Grazing Rotation

Units
Pinto/Burnt/Garden FS/BLM
Lake Cr/Twin Bridges
North Fork & Tributaries
Kane & Summit Creek
Wildhorse Creek/ Newton Cr
East Fork
Grant Cr.

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
Pinto/Burnt/Garden FS/BLM	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Lake Cr/Twin Bridges	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
North Fork & Tributaries <i>Bartlett Creek</i> <i>Chicken Creek</i>	50%	4 inches 6 inches 6 inches	50%	TBD
Kane/Summit Creek <i>Kane Creek</i>	50%	4 inches 6 inches	50%	TBD
Wildhorse Creek/ Newton Cr	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
	50%	4 inches	50%	TBD
East Fork	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A
Grant Cr.	50%	4 inches	50%	N/A

A Notice of Non-Compliance was issued on January 8, 2016 for failure to meet annual use indicators and for improper placement of salt during the 2015 grazing season. You will need to really watch your indicators during the 2016 and 2017 grazing seasons. Failure to meet the annual use indicators could result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures.

Due to not meeting greenline ecological status of late seral (61) or better in the North Fork (Bartlett Creek #1 mid seral 50, Chicken Creek early seral 25), Kane Creek Units (Kane Creek #1 mid seral 44, Kane Creek #2 early seral 26), changes to stubble height and are being made, to help these areas move toward the desired ecological status.

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 permittees will provide two riders for the grazing season. An additional rider is required for the 10 days prior to entrance of the North Fork Unit and 10 days after the move of cattle from the unit is initiated. The permittees will have a rider daily on the fences and in Castle Creek while livestock are in the units adjacent to Boone Creek's Castle Creek Unit, since cattle have been known to cross the allotment boundary in this location. The lower fence in Castle Creek will be maintained by the Boone Creek permittees and the upper stretch by the Wildhorse permittees. Having the allotment flown to locate cattle has been a good tool and is seen as being beneficial in the 2016 season.

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.

Kane Canyon: salt should be placed at least ½ mile below Kane Lake trailhead and in all areas ¼ mile from water.

In the North Fork Unit cattle should be discouraged from concentrated grazing in the Grasshopper Creek drainage. Trailing and occasional cattle in this area are to be expected but loading the drainage with large numbers of livestock should be avoided.

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.

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 North Fork, Kane and Newton Creek Units before cattle reach those units to determine the 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.

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 Wildhorse Campground fence will be maintained by the permittees to ensure that livestock do not graze above it.

A temporary electric fence will need to be placed at the bottom of the North Fork Unit to ensure that the lower boundary is secure.

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 credit 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 the District Rangeland Management Specialist at (208)588-3400.