



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 31, 2016

Lowell Cerise
56 Whiting Road
Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Lowell,

The following letter will document your meeting with Tina Ruffing on March 23rd, 2016 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Indian Ridge C&H and Sage Creek C&H allotments for the 2016 grazing season. AOIs are part of the term grazing permit identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8 of the term grazing permit.

Permitted Use and 2016 Authorized Use

Allotment	No/Class	HMs	Season of Use
Indian Ridge C&H	140 c/c	741	5/23-10/30
Sage Creek C&H	30 c/c	140	6/1-10/20

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of proper use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Tina Ruffing, to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.** Any extension of use outside the permitted dates cannot be authorized.

Unit Schedules (dates are approximate and depend on meeting forage use standards)

Allotment	Unit	No/ Class	HMs	Season of Use
Indian Ridge C&H	Hull Creek	140 c/c	391	5/23-8/15
	Indian Ridge	140 c/c	350	8/16-10/30
	Hughes Creek	REST		
Sage Creek C&H	Upper Sage	30 c/c	140	6/1-10/20
	Lower Sage			
	Buster Gulch			

Allowable Use

It is your responsibility to be aware and recognize utilization and alteration use indicators (sometimes called use standards). Watch the results on the land and make plans to move your livestock in time to not exceed these indicators. Regardless of the unit schedule shown above you must move your livestock to the next unit planned, or off the allotment, prior to exceeding these indicators. If you need assistance determining use levels please contact Tina and she will assist you.



Once cattle are removed from a unit in accordance with use indicators and/or unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Please ensure that you clean all livestock from each unit as you move livestock to the next unit or as you remove them from the allotment.

The following annual use indicators identify proper use criteria that apply to the Indian Ridge and Sage Creek allotments. You will evaluate the use indicators using the triggers to plan livestock movement to ensure that the proper use criteria are met.

Allotment	Unit Name Creek Name	Monitoring Attribute	Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
Indian Ridge	Hughes Creek W. Fork Hughes MIM 244	Browse Use	30%	Alder	25%
		Greenline Stubble	4 in	Hydric spp	5 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	25%
	Hull Creek Hull Creek MIM 308	Browse Use	30%	Alder	25%
		Greenline Stubble	4 in	Hydric spp	5 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	15%
Indian Ridge & Sage Creek	Riparian Sites (other than DMAs)	Use on current year's growth of key riparian species		maximum 50%	
	Upland Sites	Use on current year's growth of key herbaceous species		maximum 50%	

The Forest Service may monitor your compliance with allowable use standards. Monitoring typically occurs within two weeks of your move. Please contact Tina if you would like to join range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotments.

Biological Assessment (BA) and Opinion Requirements

The Biological Opinions (BO) for the Indian Ridge Allotment outlined the following additional measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish and their habitat.

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used.
2. The on date may vary so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness.
3. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks, and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.
4. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks.

Because the Hughes Creek Unit is rested this year to facilitate prescribed fire activities, the requirement to ride the unit twice per week during steelhead incubation is not in effect.

Range Improvements

Range improvements listed in Part 3 of your grazing permit must be maintained to the standards in Part 3 of your grazing permit, prior to livestock being placed in the unit. If you find you cannot meet these standards this year please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Tina Ruffing as soon as possible.

During the meeting, improvements that are no longer functioning were discussed. You indicated that in the Indian Ridge Allotment, the Lower Burnt Mountain (#2012) and Upper Grouse Spring (#2020) water developments were dry when you last checked them, but you agreed to check them again this summer to evaluate if water had come back in the spring sources.

General Management

During the meeting, you inquired about using the Hull Creek Unit next grazing season. As Tina discussed with you, the Hull Creek Unit is scheduled for rest from livestock grazing next year.

A new BA for the Indian Ridge allotment has been submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); as Tina discussed with you, no changes to the current management were proposed. You will receive a copy of the NMFS and USFWS documents when they are received.

The grazing fees for 2016 are \$2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing bill is due 10 days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. **Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.** You may make payment in any one of three ways:

1. mail your payment to NFC at:
USDA Forest Service
C/O Citibank
P.O. Box 301550
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

Please include the Bill No. and Payer Code no. on your check.

2. pay online at: WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY. Save your receipt of payment.
3. pay at any Ranger District Office or the Public Lands Center during regular office hours. Please bring a copy of your bill with you.

The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motorized use are shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle use maps may be obtained at any Salmon-Challis Ranger District office. The prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (as detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a). **The Salmon Challis National Forest requires a Vehicle Use Permit, signed by the District Ranger, for ALL closed roads. This permit must be displayed in the windshield of trucks or carried on ATV's, UTV's and motorcycles. Please have this permit displayed when it is necessary for you to travel on closed roads in the administration on your allotment(s).**

Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free.

Return your completed actual use form (attached) to Tina Ruffing within 30 days following your latest scheduled off date. Filling it out as the summer progresses may help with completion.

You are required to meet all criteria that qualifies you to hold a term grazing permit throughout the term of the permit. If you plan on making changes in the ownership of livestock, or the base property listed on your permit; or plan on waiving all, or part, of your term permit in preference to another party based on the sale of base property and/or permitted livestock, notify me in writing prior to making these changes or selling your base property or permitted livestock. Compliance with all other terms of your grazing permit is required. These instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

As a reminder, dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from any water source and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

Other Information/Non-Binding Requests

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance in identifying weed locations on your allotment is appreciated.

The number for reporting a wild fire is: Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center (208) 756-5157.

If you have any questions regarding any of these instructions please call Tina Ruffing at (208) 756-5226 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jay T. Winfield

Jay Winfield
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Forms (blank)