

**Mill Creek C&H Allotment  
2016 Annual Operating Instructions**

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Mill Creek Allotment. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependent on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related circumstances.

**Permitted Cattle Numbers and Season of Use**

Permittee	Cow/Calf Pairs	Season
Don Phillips/Rocky Ross	554	7/01-9/30
<b>Total</b>	<b>554</b>	

**Authorized Cattle Numbers and Season of Use for 2016**

Permittee	Cow/Calf Pairs	Non-Use	Season
Don Phillips/Rocky Ross	554	0	7/01-9/30
<b>Total</b>	<b>554</b>		

**Grazing Rotation and Estimated Days**

Units	Estimated Days
Cub Canyon	12
Horse Lake	12
Smithie Fork	19
Timber Creek	19
Mill Creek	15
Squaw Creek	15

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 Birk Roseman, your assigned Range Management Specialist, with this information. If needed, contact can first be made by voicemail. A follow-up conversation with Birk, 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 follow-up conversation is hereby required as Forest Officer instruction.

### Utilization Standards

Unit	Upland % Use	Riparian Stubble Height inches	Riparian Woody Browse Use	Streambank Alteration
Cub Canyon	50%	N/A	25%	N/A
Horse Lake				
<i>Little Lost</i>	50%	6 inches	25%	N/A
<i>Spring Meadow</i>	50%	4 inches	25%	N/A
Smithie Fork	50%	4 inches	25%	15%
Timber Creek	50%	4 inches	25%	N/A
Mill Creek	50%	4 inches	25%	20%
Squaw Creek	50%	4 inches	25%	N/A

The NEPA process has been completed and implementation has begun on the fence to remove livestock grazing from Warm Creek in the lower corner of the Squaw Creek Unit. The new construction is done and the old fence on the outside corner needs to have wire spacing adjusted and a smooth bottom wire installed to replace the existing barbed wire. Then the fence will need to be marked with Sage-grouse fence markers. At that point the project will be complete. The fence is in your permit and will be maintained by the permittee.

In 2013 the Forest completed consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Mill Creek allotment. End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas in all areas except the Little Lost River portion of the Horse Lake unit where it is a 6-inch stubble height. There is a bank alteration standard being implemented starting this season. The Smithie Fork unit has a 15% alteration standard and the Mill Creek Unit has a 20% alteration standard on Mill Creek and Bear Creek. We will meet with you in the field to help you understand what this means and what it looks like on the ground. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height standard being met. While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches be used in drier conditions to plan cattle moves.

**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 during drought conditions. In most cases 7 days should be adequate. Permittees should be prepared to assist range riders in checking that the unit cleaned stays clean. Range riders should keep permittees informed of problems cleaning grazed units. Bulls should be kept with the main herd or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. Frequent back-riding indicates there is a herd management problem. It is also the permittee's responsibility to correct problems caused by drift from other units. The Smithie Fork Unit should be cleaned of livestock by August 15 and the Timber Creek Unit by August 31 every year.

A Range Rider must be on the allotment 5 days a week.

**Particular attention needs to focus on preventing cattle drifting out of the Timber Creek unit in the areas of Timber Creek Pass and Snow Bank Meadows onto the Leadore and Pahsimeroi sides of the allotment boundary.**

**Designated Monitoring Areas (DMA's):** DMA's are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing 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 cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

**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 shortly after cattle leave the allotment. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District by December 31, 2016.

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