



File Code: 2230
Date: June 9, 2016

Circle Pi Ranch
 c/o: Troy Olson
 10745 Custer Road
 May, ID 83235

Dear Troy,

This letter serves as your modified 2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Pahsimeroi, Sulphur Creek, and Upper Pahsimeroi Cattle and Horse (C&H) Allotments and is the part of your term grazing permit #20081 identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8. This modification renders your current AOI dated May 18, 2016, to be null and void.

You received a Letter of Warning dated December 2, 2015, for exceeding grazing standards. Any further non-compliance of grazing standards or other terms of your term grazing permit may result in permit action.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of allowable 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, Barry Dopp, to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Any extension of use outside the permitted season of use cannot be authorized.**

Term Permitted Use

Circle Pi Ranch

Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	150 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/05	626
Upper Pahsimeroi	226 Cow/calf	06/01 – 08/31	694 ¹
Pahsimeroi	400 Cow/calf	06/06 – 09/28	1229

¹ The Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment has 583 head months permitted on National Forest lands and 111 head months permitted on the portion of Bureau of Land Management lands within the Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch Unit of the Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment.

Roy Hoffman Jr.

Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	102 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/05	426
Pahsimeroi	274 Cow/calf	06/06 – 09/28	1036



2016 Authorized Use**Circle Pi Ranch**

Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	150 Cow/calf	06/14 – 10/05	562
Pahsimeroi	300 Cow/calf	06/06 – 06/12	70
Pahsimeroi	300 Cow/calf	08/05 – 09/21	473
Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch ² (BLM)	300 Cow/calf	06/07 – 06/22	NA
Rock Creek ² (FS)	300 Cow/calf	06/13 – 06/22	99
Upper Pahsimeroi	300 Cow/calf	06/23 – 08/05	434

²The Rock Creek Allotment is managed by the BLM. The allotment consists of both US Forest Service and BLM lands and is used conjunctively (USFS - Rock Creek Pasture, BLM - Rock Creek and Spruce Gulch Pastures).

Roy Hoffman Jr.

Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	102 Cow/calf	06/03 – 10/05	426
Pahsimeroi	225 Cow/calf	06/06 – 09/21	799

2016 Unit Schedule**Sulphur Creek Allotment**

Unit	Permittee	No. And Class	On-Date	Off-Date
Camp Creek	Hoffman	102 Cow/calf	06/03	08/01
Camp Creek	Circle Pi	150 Cow/calf	06/14	08/01
Trail Creek	Circle Pi/ Hoffman	252 Cow/calf	08/02	10/05
Sulphur Creek	Rest			

Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Permittee	No. And Class	On-Date	Off-Date
Mahogany Uplands ³	Circle Pi	300 Cow/calf	06/06	06/12
Christian Gulch	Hoffman	225 Cow/calf	06/06	06/20
Lower Road	Hoffman	225 Cow/calf	06/21	07/02
Upper Road	Hoffman	225 Cow/calf	07/03	08/02
Spring Hill Flats	Hoffman	225 Cow/calf	08/03	08/31
Mahogany Uplands	Circle Pi	300 Cow/calf	08/10	08/31
Spring Hill Uplands	Circle Pi/ Hoffman	525 Cow/calf	09/01	09/21

³Circle Pi's 300 cow/calf pairs will trail from the Mahogany Uplands Unit in the Pahsimeroi Allotment on June 12 to the Rock Creek Allotment. Circle Pi's 300 cow/calf pairs will stay in the

Rock Creek Allotment until June 22 and then move to the Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment until August 9. Circle Pi's 300 cow/calf pairs will then trail back to the Pahsimeroi Allotment on August 10 and remain there until the end of the season.

Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Permittee	No. And Class	On-Date	Off-Date
Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch	Circle Pi	300 Cow/calf	06/12	06/22
West Fork Upper Pahsimeroi	Circle Pi	300 Cow/calf	06/23	07/12
East Fork Upper Pahsimeroi ⁴	Circle Pi	300 Cow/calf	07/13	08/10

⁴All livestock need to be completely removed from the Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment no later than August 10.

The dates above are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. Initiate livestock movement so that all livestock are completely off each allotment no later than the scheduled off-date of the last unit to be grazed for each respective allotment.

Allowable Use

It is your responsibility to be aware of, and to recognize, utilization and streambank alteration allowable use standards. Regardless of the Unit Schedule shown above, you must move your livestock to the next unit planned or off the allotments prior to exceeding these standards. Once livestock are removed from a unit in accordance with allowable standards and/or unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards. Do not rely on Forest Service range personnel to notify you when it is time to move.

The tables below displays the allowable use standards applicable to your allotment(s):

Allowable Use Standards

Allotment	Unit	Indicator	Standard
Sulphur Creek Allotment	Camp Creek & Trail Creek	Greenline	≥ 4"
		Bank Alteration	≤ 20%
		Woody Browse	≤ 50%
		Uplands	≤ 50%
	Sulphur Creek	Rest	
Pahsimeroi Allotment	All Units	Greenline	≥ 4"
		Bank Alteration	NA
		Woody Browse	≤ 50%
		Upland Grazing	≤ 50%

Allotment	Unit	Indicator	Standard
Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment	Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch	Greenline	NA
		Bank Alteration	≤ 20%
		Woody Browse	≤ 50%
		Upland Grazing	≤ 50%
	West Fork	Greenline	≥ 4"
		Bank Alteration	≤ 10%
		Woody Browse	≤ 30%
		Upland Grazing	≤ 50%
	East Fork	Greenline	≥ 6"
		Bank Alteration	≤ 10%
		Woody Browse	≤ 30%
		Upland Grazing	≤ 50%

Biological Assessment for Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment

The 2011 Biological Assessment for the Upper Pahsimeroi C&H Allotment outlined the following additional measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish and their habitat and is also included in Part 3, Special Terms and Conditions of your term grazing permit #20081.

1. The livestock on-date will be on or after June 12 and will be based on range readiness to reduce the potential for bank alteration and potential impacts to bull trout spawning-incubation areas and designated critical habitat.
2. Livestock will be removed from the entire allotment between July 31 and August 10 to prevent livestock from impacting potential bull trout spawning areas.
3. Permittee will salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks to reduce potential impacts on bull trout spawning areas and designated critical habitat. Livestock will enter and exit the allotment by active trailing and will utilize uplands and roads to the extent feasible.
4. A rider is required to be on the allotment five days per week to distribute cattle away from stream and associated riparian areas.
5. The rider will ride the bottom of the East Fork daily during the 2 week period livestock are in the area and push all livestock up off the river, either back to Corral Basin or over to the bar on the west side of the unit. The rider will check periodically to make sure no cattle are found above the East Fork gap fence.

6. Most of the livestock will be herded onto the large, open bench between the East Fork and West Fork of the Pahsimeroi River. A small number of cattle will be herded onto the bar on the west side of the river. Livestock found above the trailhead to Merriam Lake will be herded along the river bottom and back onto the bar above the river.
7. The horses used for the management of the Upper Pahsimeori allotment are kept in a small fenced pasture near the Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch Unit; cattle are excluded from this pasture. A second fence within this pasture prevents the horses from accessing the Pahsimeroi River. This fence must be fully functional prior to turning out any horses in the pasture.
8. The unit boundary fences annual maintenance is critical to reducing livestock use on streams and riparian areas to reduce potential impacts on bull trout spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
9. Annual maintenance of the gap fence in the East Fork of the Upper Pahsimeroi Unit will prevent grazing to protect the high alpine, cirque meadow in the East Fork headwaters.

Range Improvements

All range improvements, listed as your responsibility in Part 3 of your term grazing permit, must be maintained to the standards identified in Part 3 prior to livestock being placed in each unit. No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you or any of your personnel, without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for reconstruction **may** be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

- **Sulphur Creek Allotment:** No new construction in 2016. All other range improvements will need to be inspected and general maintenance completed
- **Pahsimeroi Allotment:** The Spring Hill water development #220357 reconstruction continues in 2016. In the fall of 2015, all the pipeline was laid, but still needs to be connected by heat weld. Three tire tank troughs need to be set and connected to the pipeline. The 39 Spring water development #220358 will need to be moved to a new location identified in the project CE and reconnected (see project record for details). All the new and existing troughs will need to have new wildlife escape ramps installed. The Drake Draw electric fence will need to functional prior to turnout in the Spring Hill area.
- **Upper Pahsimeroi:** A ¼ mile of jack fence is in poor condition and needs to be replaced on the Cow Camp division fence #220988. The jack fence runs west from the horse pasture fence enclosure at the line cabin. The fence is a unit boundary fence between the Rock Creek and the West Fork Units.

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit. The grazing fee for 2016 is \$2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing Bill for Collection (enclosed) is due ten days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. You may make payment in one of three ways:

Mail your payment to NFC at:

USDA Forest Service
C/O Citibank
P.O. Box 301550
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

You must include the Bill Number and Payer Code number on your check.

Or, pay your bill online at: WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY. Save your receipt of payment.

2. Or, pay your bill between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at any Ranger District office or the Public Lands Center. 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. These 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 or off road travel. This permit must be displayed in the windshield of trucks or carried on ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles. Complete and return the enclosed Vehicle Use Permit if it is necessary for you to travel on closed roads or off-road in the administration on your allotment(s).**
3. 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. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention of noxious weeds on your allotment. All equipment which is used off of open roads for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities should be free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands
4. Return your completed actual use form (enclosed) to Barry Dopp by December 1, 2016. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. We will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for new improvement projects and improvement reconstruction.
5. If the ownership of livestock, or the base property listed on your permit is about to change, please notify your rangeland management specialist promptly.

6. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.
7. Place salt at least ¼ mile from any water source and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.
8. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.
9. Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

Other Considerations

Please immediately report wildfire to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center at (208) 756-5157.

We may conduct range inspections during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, allowable use standards, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are welcome to participate in these inspections. Please contact Barry Dopp if you would like to join the range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotments.

Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your rangeland management specialist.

Sage grouse habitat assessments may be conducted on your allotments in 2016. These assessments will identify site potential, verify habitat, and evaluate current conditions relative to implementing the 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Record of Decision. We will be contacting you to invite you to participate in these field assessments.

If you have any questions regarding these annual operating instructions, please contact Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4100. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

Katherine Wood

KATHERINE WOOD
District Ranger

