



Department Name  
**United States  
 Department of  
 Agriculture**

Agency  
**Forest  
 Service**

Organization  
**Salmon-Challis National Forest  
 Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District**

Organization Address Information  
**311 North US Highway 93  
 Challis, ID 83226  
 208-879-4100  
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**File Code:** 2230; 2210  
**Date:** June 3, 2016

Preston Cutler  
 23611 Hwy 75  
 Challis, ID 83226

Dear Preston,

This letter serves as your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Garden Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment and is part of your term grazing permit #20070 identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8.

You received a Notice of Non-Compliance letter, dated December 30, 2015, for exceeding the streambank alteration standard in the Buster/Spruce Unit and for failure to follow your 2015 AOI, dated May 28, 2015. In order to remedy this non-compliance:

- Follow the grazing rotation as identified in this letter, keeping your cattle only where authorized.
- Move cattle out of each unit prior to exceeding allowable use standards for greenline stubble height, streambank alteration, and woody browse.

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, Brianna Goehring, to obtain approval **before** initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Any extension of dates outside the permitted season of use cannot be authorized.

**Term Permitted Use**

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Preston Cutler	Garden Creek	260 Cow/calf	07/04 – 10/10	846
Christopher James Trust	Garden Creek	113 Cow/calf	06/27 – 09/15	301

**2016 Authorized Use**

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Preston Cutler	Garden Creek	260 Cow/calf	07/04 – 10/10	846
Christopher James Trust	Garden Creek		Non-use	

**2016 Unit Schedule**

The dates in the table below are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. Initiate livestock movement so that all livestock are completely off the Forest no later than October 10, 2016. The Spruce Gulch portion of the Buster/Spruce Unit shall be rested with no active cattle grazing for this year only but will be used to trail livestock in between units.



Unit	No. And Class	On-Date	Off-Date	Days
Keefer	110 Cow/calf	7/4	7/23	20
Keystone	150 Cow/calf	7/4	7/23	
Big Hill	260 Cow/calf	7/24	8/18	26
Daugherty	260 Cow/calf	8/19	9/8	21
Buster/Spruce (no active grazing on the Spruce Gulch portion for 2016) and West Creek	260 Cow/calf	9/9	9/21	13
Willow Patch	260 Cow/calf	9/22	10/5	14
Keystone	260 Cow/calf	10/6	10/10	5
Mill Creek	Rest			0

**Allowable Use**

It is your responsibility to be aware of, and to recognize utilization and streambank alteration use standards. **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 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.

**Allowable Use Standards**

Unit	Average Greenline Stubble Height	Streambank Alteration	Woody Browse	Upland Utilization
Buster/Spruce Gulch	≥4 inches	≤20%	≤30% <sup>A</sup> or ≤50% <sup>B</sup>	≤50%
Keefer				
Keystone				
West Creek				
Willow Patch				
Mill Creek				
Big Hill	None	None	None	≤50%
Daugherty Gulch				

<sup>A</sup> Single-stemmed species, e.g., aspen

<sup>B</sup> Multi-stemmed species, e.g., willow

**Biological Assessment Requirements**

The following move dates are required by the 2011 Aquatic Species Biological Assessment for Livestock Grazing on the Garden Creek Allotment in order to avoid and reduce potential impacts to bull trout redds:

- Livestock will not be in the Keefer Unit after August 15.
- No trailing will occur through the Mill Creek Unit after August 15, and this unit will not be actively grazed by cattle.
- Livestock will not graze within the West Creek, Buster/Spruce Gulch, or Keystone Units after approximately September 15 to reduce impacts to bull trout redds.

Livestock may graze within the West Creek and Buster/Spruce Unit as late as September 21 for the 2016 grazing season (with no active grazing in Spruce Gulch for 2016 only, as previously mentioned).

Livestock may graze in the Keystone Unit after approximately September 15, 2016, with the stipulation that cattle shall not cross Garden Creek or otherwise be along Garden Creek.

### **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 prior approval from me. Materials for reconstruction **may** be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision for materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

In the March 18, 2016, AOI meeting attended by Wayne Baker, Preston Cutler, Brianna Goehring and me, we specifically discussed the below priority range improvements that were identified as necessary for the successful management of the allotment.

- Reconstruction of the log worm boundary fence between the Squaw Creek and Garden Creek Allotments must continue, and I expect reasonable progress to be made in 2016 and that both you and the Squaw Creek Allotment permittee will be involved in this effort. Please complete this year's reconstruction by September 30, 2016, to allow Forest Service staff time to inspect this work.
- Construction of the Keefer/Mill Creek Units drift fence shall be completed prior to livestock turn out on the allotment on July 4, 2016. Please contact Brianna if you have concerns with this deadline.

### **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:

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](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY). Save your receipt of payment.

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 located in Salmon. Please bring a copy of your bill with you.

2. 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.**

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 your rangeland management specialist 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. Actual use is requested annually by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the form is appreciated.
5. If the ownership of the 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 livestock stray into the wrong unit. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct unit. 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 your rangeland management specialist if you would like to join Forest range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotment.

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

If you have any questions regarding these annual operating instructions, please contact Brianna Goehring, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4130. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Wood*

KATHERINE WOOD  
District Ranger

cc: Christopher James Trust, c/o Joe Heaps, Manager

Enclosures: 2016 Bill for Collection  
Vehicle Use Permit  
Actual Use Report