

**WINDY GAP C&H ALLOTMENT  
2020 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Boise National Forest  
Mountain Home Ranger District**

**INTRODUCTION**

The following information is direction on how livestock management is to be conducted on the Windy Gap Cattle & Horse (C&H) Allotment for the 2020 grazing season. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a), and you are responsible for compliance with this direction.

**Situations may develop during the grazing season that could require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Holly Hampton at 587-7867 or Cindy Lancaster at 587-7870 and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from your AOI. Failure to obtain prior approval could result in permit action.**

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Windy Gap Allotment:

<b>Allotment Name</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Class</b>	<b>Permitted Season of Use</b>
<b>Windy Gap - on</b>	<b>78 cow/calf</b>	<b>06/01-10/31</b>
<b>off</b>	<b>286 cow/calf</b>	<b>06/01-10/31</b>

For the 2020 grazing season, you are authorized to graze the Windy Gap Allotment as follows:

<b>Allotment Name</b>	<b>Authorized Number and Class</b>	<b>Authorized Season of Use</b>
<b>Windy Gap - on</b>	<b>78 cow/calf</b>	<b>06/01-10/31</b>
<b>off</b>	<b>122 cow/calf</b>	<b>06/01-07/31</b>
<b>off</b>	<b>286 cow/calf</b>	<b>08/01-10/31</b>

**Some flexibility will be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. The period of use is also subject to compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and Implementation Monitoring requirements as discussed below. Please review carefully the standards and guides listed.**

**BILLING INFORMATION**

**The grazing fee for the 2020 grazing season is \$1.35 per head month for cattle. You will be billed based on the authorized use listed above. Confirmation of payment through the National Finance Center is required and must be received before livestock can enter**

- Livestock salting is prohibited in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs). Place salt no closer than ¼ mile from water and not within 100 feet of roads. Move salt from areas where utilization standards have been met. (RAST04, p. III-45)
- All livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. (RAST09, p. III-45)
- **Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.**
- Bulls must test negative for Trichomoniasis before entering National Forest System lands.
- Only certified weed-free hay and mulch are allowed on National Forest System lands.

### **IMPROVEMENTS**

Your Term Grazing Permit contains a complete list of range improvements associated with the Windy Gap Allotment. Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on the allotment. Failure to do so is a violation of your Term Grazing Permit and is subject to permit action. In the event improvements cannot be practically maintained to standard, you should notify this office so we can identify them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Non-functioning range improvements need to be brought to standard, or arrangements made with district range personnel to have them removed. Abandonment of improvements is not acceptable – if developments are not functioning and are no longer needed, they must be removed. If they are in a location that does not allow for removal, **these non-functioning improvements still need to allow for bird and small mammal escape.** Metal troughs need to have holes cut in them large enough to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them or be tipped over so that they do not hold water. Tires also need to have holes cut in them, or be popped loose from their cement bottom and propped up slightly on edge, to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them. **If none of these options are feasible, a wildlife escape ramp needs to be installed and maintained in the trough.**

**Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in tire troughs. These ramps are being supplied by the Forest Service.** These ladders should be installed in all tire troughs on the Windy Gap Allotment prior to turn on. This direction also includes troughs that hold water in the spring but dry up later in the grazing season. Failure to comply could result in adverse action to your permit. Please contact Holly or Cindy as soon as possible if you need to pick up escape ramps.

### **RIDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS**

Off dates for the allotment are considered approximate and will depend on utilization levels. To prevent over-utilization, a concerted effort should be made to distribute cattle over the entire allotment and to effectively graze all suitable areas in that unit. Permitted numbers are based on the premise that active management will occur to effect adequate livestock distribution. Livestock need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards. If livestock are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and water

developments without being distributed to unused areas of the allotment, the grazing capacity of the allotment is diminished to those areas only.

**Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since permittees will be held accountable for any failures to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.**

### **REPORTING**

If you are planning to waive your Term Grazing Permit – based on either sale of permitted livestock or base property, please submit this intention to me in writing prior to the transaction.

### **INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING**

Range personnel may require you to delay your entry date on the Windy Gap Allotment based on range readiness inspections that they have completed. You will be notified as soon as possible if your turn-on date is delayed.

Range personnel may conduct utilization monitoring and improvement inspections periodically on your allotment.

### **COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to Craig White (Magic Valley Region) at 208-644-6303 or Mike McDonald at 208-324-4359.

If you suspect a wolf depredation has occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) should be contacted as soon as possible. The local Wildlife Services contact for this area is Trec Reed. He can be reached at (208) 681-8756. In the event that you cannot reach Trec, Jared Hedelius should be contacted at the Boise District Office at 208-616-5778.

### **OTHER**

When livestock, saddle or pack animal carcasses are located near campgrounds, roads, trails or water reasonable and appropriate action must be taken to remove any carcasses. The permittee will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate for each site specific instance. Although the Forest Service recognizes that disposal of carcasses is not always feasible in many situations there are a number of reasonable options available for the disposal of single or multiple carcasses. In most cases, carcasses should be moved at least 100 yards from campgrounds, roads, trails or water. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Mountain Home Ranger District. Public motorized, wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on

routes that are designated on the current year's Motorized Vehicle Use Map. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments and permitted dates for livestock management purposes. However, specific routes will need to be identified each year. If motor vehicle use is needed outside of your permitted dates please seek authorization from the District Ranger. See description of routes needed for administrative use below. **This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections.** Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes is **not** included in this authorization. Use of heavy equipment will need to be requested through and approved by the District Ranger on a case-by-case basis.

Routes Approved for Administrative Use:

- 1). Access to the Lockman-Dixie boundary fence located at T1S R8E Section 12 NWSW via existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Access to the Little Camas boundary fence located at T1S R9E Section 21 SESW via existing road/ATV trail.**
- 3). Access to the Highway 68 fence located at T1S R9E Section 19 SWSW via existing road/ATV trail.
- 4). Access to the Lockman Highway boundary fence located at T1S R9E Section 20 **NESW via existing road/ATV trail.**
- 5). Access via the existing road #134B and the #134C.
- 6). Access via existing road through Dixie Slope Unit in Section 30. (Access to trough on private.
- 7). Access via existing road to a trough near the Gravel pit in Section 19.
- 8). Access to fence between W. Pasture and Percy's. T1S R8E Section 13**
- 9). Access to fence in the northeast side of Lockman Gulch via two track in Section 27.

<i>Neil Helmick</i>	<i>4-17-20</i>
<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Date</b>

<i>Stephaney M. Kerley</i>	<i>4/22/2020</i>
<b>District Ranger</b>	<b>Date</b>

