

**GROUSE CREEK, LESTER CREEK, MENNECKE CREEK,  
RATTLESNAKE CREEK, RIMROCK GRAZING, SMITH PRAIRIE,  
SPRING CREEK AND WILLIAMS CREEK C&H ALLOTMENTS**

**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 Grouse Creek, Lester Creek, Mennecke Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, Rimrock Grazing, Smith Prairie, Spring Creek and Williams Creek Cattle & Horse (C&H) Allotments 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 your allotments:

<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Permitted Number and Class</b>	<b>Permitted Season of Use</b>
Grouse Creek- on	185 cow/calf	06/01-10/31
off numbers	70 cow/calf	06/01-10/31
Lester Creek	164 cow/calf	07/01-10/31
Mennecke	287 cow/calf	06/01-09/30
River Unit	100 cow/calf	05/01-05/30
Rattlesnake	282 cow/calf	05/01-10/31
Rimrock - on	15 cow/calf	04/01-10/30
off numbers	325 cow/calf	04/01-10/30
Smith Prairie	55 cow/calf	05/01-10/15
Spring Creek	70 cow/calf	05/01-06/30
Williams Creek - on	4 cow/calf	07/01-10/31
off numbers	696 cow/calf	07/01-10/31

For the 2020 grazing season, you are authorized to graze your allotments as follows:

Allotment	Authorized Number and Class	Authorized Season of Use
Grouse Creek - on	185 cow/calf	06/01-10/31
off numbers	70 cow/calf	06/01-10/31
Lester Creek	164 cow/calf	06/29-10/31
Mennecke	287 cow/calf	06/01-09/30
River Unit	100 cow/calf	05/01-05/30
Rattlesnake	282 cow/calf	05/01-10/31
Rimrock - on	15 cow/calf	04/10-10/30
off numbers	325 cow/calf	04/10-10/30
Smith Prairie	55 cow/calf	05/01-10/15
Spring Creek	70 cow/calf	04/28-06/30
Williams Creek - on	4 cow/calf	REST
off numbers	696 cow/calf	07/01-10/31

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 National Forest System lands. In order to meet this requirement, please ensure that bills for collection are paid by the due date indicated.

If permitted livestock are required to leave an allotment early because utilization standards have been reached, drought conditions persist or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a credit/refund may be requested. **This request must be submitted in writing to the District Ranger by December 1, 2020.**

#### **LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

Direction for how livestock will be run is outlined below for each allotment.

It has been noted in the past year that salt blocks have been left on several allotments after livestock have been removed. Salt blocks or tubs should be moved from unit to unit with livestock and all salt needs to be removed from the allotment at the end of the grazing season. This standard is part of the terms and conditions in your term grazing permit.

You must notify the Forest Service no less than 5 days prior to livestock being placed on the allotments so that authorized livestock numbers can be verified by District range staff if the Forest Service elects to do so.

**Grouse Creek Allotment****Contacts: Steven Russell and Rodee West**

Cattle will enter the Grouse Creek allotment no earlier than June 1. A deferred system of grazing will be continued on the Grouse Creek allotment this grazing season. Approximately 1/3 of the livestock will enter the South Fork Unit and approximately 2/3 of the livestock will enter the Cow Creek first this season. When standards are met in the South Fork Unit, the livestock will be moved to join the other livestock in the Cow Creek Unit. They will remain until approximately late June or until utilization standards are reached. Livestock will then be moved to the Grouse Creek Unit where they will remain until approximately late July or until utilization standards are met. Livestock will enter the Wood Creek Unit last where they will remain until the end of the permitted season or until utilization standards are reached, whichever occurs first.

**Lester Creek Allotment****Contacts: Randy Davison or Clay Davison**

After range readiness is checked in the Lester Creek Unit cattle will trail down National Forest System Road 128 to the allotment where they will enter the Lester Creek Unit on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Cattle will be held in this Unit by regular riding until approximately August 20<sup>th</sup>, or until utilization levels are reached. Cattle will then be moved to the Whites Flat Unit where they will remain until utilization levels are met or until the end of the permitted season. Any cattle that drift into the wrong area will be promptly herded back over the ridge into the proper area. Livestock will exit the allotment by October 31<sup>st</sup>, by trailing back over NFS Road 128 to private property.

Approximately 35 acres (from Camp Creek to the ridge overlooking Whites Flat area) will be planted in the Whites Flat Unit this spring. Grazing will still be allowed in this unit since the planting units are located in steep terrain where cows don't tend to congregate. More diligent riding and salting practices need to be followed to keep cows out of these designated areas. If cattle are not kept out of the planting units, cattle will have to move early to the Lester Creek Unit.

**Mennecke Allotment****Contacts: Randy Davison or Clay Davison**

This allotment will be grazed in the following rotation: River Unit, Cayuse/Mennecke Unit, Bock Creek Unit and Horse Pasture Unit, and the Rock Creek Unit last. After range readiness is checked in the River Unit, one hundred head of cow/calf pairs will enter this Unit no sooner than May 1, where they will remain until May 30<sup>th</sup>, when 100 pair will be moved to the Cayuse/Mennecke Unit where they will remain for four to six weeks. Cattle will then be moved to the Horse Pasture and Bock Creek Units, then to the Rock Creek Unit last where they will remain until the end of the permitted season or until utilization standards are reached, whichever occurs first.

**Rattlesnake Allotment.****Contacts: Randy Davison or Clay Davison**

Livestock will enter the South Fork and Trail Creek Units first. Once utilization levels are met, cattle will move to the Rattlesnake Unit. Livestock will remain in the Rattlesnake Unit until utilization levels are reached, or August 15, whichever comes first, as directed in the Biological Opinion addressing this allotment (File #110.0500/1-4-99-F-17). Livestock will then be moved to the Elk Creek Unit where they will remain until approximately October 1<sup>st</sup>, depending on forage conditions. Once utilization levels have been reached livestock will be moved to the Long Gulch Unit. As in previous years, calves will be weaned this fall at the corrals in Jackass

Flat as cattle are moved into the Long Gulch unit. The Slide Gulch Unit will be rested this season.

When cattle are moved through the Rattlesnake Unit after August 15 to access other portions of the allotment, they should be moved in small groups down the road and kept out of the Rattlesnake Creek riparian area.

**Smith Prairie Allotment**

**Contacts: Randy Davison or Clay Davison**

After range readiness is checked in the Lower Bench Unit, livestock may enter this Unit no sooner than May 1. Cattle will remain in this unit approximately 5 weeks. After proper use is achieved, livestock will be moved to the Gooseneck Unit until utilization levels are reached, approximately 5 weeks. Livestock will then be moved to the Strawberry Creek Unit until for approximately 6-8 weeks or until utilization levels are reached. The Smith Creek Unit will be used last and they will remain in this Unit until the end of the permitted season or until utilization levels are met whichever comes first. The Lava Creek/Spring Creek Unit will be rested this year.

**Spring Creek Allotment**

**Contacts: Randy Davison or Clay Davison**

After range readiness is checked cattle will enter the Pony Flat Unit first, where they will remain for approximately three weeks or until use standards are met. Livestock will then be moved to the Pony Creek Unit where they will remain for approximately three weeks and the River Unit will be grazed last. Livestock should be moved from each unit, and then off the forest, when proper use levels are reached.

**Rimrock Grazing and Williams Creek Allotments**

**Contacts: Randy Davison or Clay Davison**

These are on-off allotments that are composed mostly of private land and have very little National Forest System lands within their boundaries. As discussed at the spring meeting, turn-on for the Rimrock Allotment will be April 10th. Also discussed at the spring meeting, the on-portion of the Williams Creek Allotment will be RESTED this year due to tree planting occurring within this allotment this year. The off-portion of the Williams Creek Allotment will be grazed, and with frequent riding to ensure cattle are not drifting on to National Forest System land. Also, please ensure that cattle do not drift out of the Williams Creek Allotment onto the House Mountain S&G Allotment. Several hundred acres of this were planted in the House Mountain area with conifers in the spring of 2016 and it is important that trees do not get damaged.

Permittee said at the House Mountain Road cattleguard (part of the at the Williams Creek fence) a gate will be installed on the south side and a fence on the north side of the cattleguard to help control cattle drift.

**STANDARDS AND GUIDES**

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management, including reductions in Head Months or permitted area.

The following standards and guidelines apply to your allotments:

- Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown below at the end of the growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.
  - Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
  - Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions or late season pastures – 50 percent use. (RAST01, p. III-45)
- Livestock salting is prohibited in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs). Place salt no closer than one-quarter 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)
- 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.

Because they are early season units, upland utilization levels in the River Unit of the Mennecke allotment, the South Fork and Trail Creek units of the Rattlesnake allotment, the Lower Bench Unit of the Smith Prairie allotment and the Pony Flat and Pony Creek Unit of the Spring Creek allotment are 40 percent.

### IMPROVEMENTS

The following improvements are in need of maintenance and need completed prior to turnout. Please notify Holly or Cindy when the improvements are complete. Improvements will be inspected before you can turn out.

Item #	Improvement Name	Improvement #	Improvement Type	Allotment Name	Improvement Location
1	Red Tail Hawk Trough		Trough	Lester Creek	N 43 27' 36.4" W 115 21' 29.4"
2	Lester Cr. Trough #2		Trough	Lester Creek	N 43 26' 47.3" W 115 21' 29.3"
3	Whites Flat Trough #4	63-30720	Trough	Lester Creek	N 43 27' 3.5" W 115 22' 19.9"
4	Whites Flat Trough #3	63-30635	Trough	Lester Creek	N 43 27' 34.5" W 115 22' 26.3"
5	Lester Creek	63-30628	Trough	Lester	N 43 27' 47.3" W

	Trough #3			Creek	115 21' 38.5"
6	Goat Creek Troughs	63-5137	Trough	Lester Creek	N 43 27' 44.28" W 115 20' 50.90"

Your Term Grazing Permit contains a complete list of range improvements associated with your allotments. Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on each 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.

Ladders should be installed in all troughs. 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. If you feel that you cannot meet the criteria, please contact Holly or Cindy as soon as possible to discuss an alternative.

The fence between the Grouse Creek Allotment and Willow Creek Allotment was to be maintained in 2014. The fence was inspected by FS personnel and it was completed. Please continue to check and maintain on a yearly basis to help with un-authorized use in the Willow Creek Allotment.

Cattleguards are no longer considered part of your annual maintenance. It is still your responsibility to inspect cattleguards annually and inform the Forest Service of known problems or maintenance needs on them within your allotment boundaries. This includes, but is not limited to, wing or grate repair or replacement, brush removal, and cleaning.

#### **RIDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS**

Off dates for these allotments 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. Cattle need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and at 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 any of your allotments 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 allotments.

### **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 Brad Compton (Southwest Region) at (208) 854-8946 or Regan Berkley at (208) 634-8137. For the Magic Valley Region contact Craig White 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 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 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:**

**Grouse Creek Allotment:**

- 1). Access to the Wood Creek-Cow Creek Unit fence located at T3N R5E Section 27 SESW via existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Access to the Grouse Creek-Cow Creek-Wood Creek Unit fence located at T3N R5E Section 32 NWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 3). Access to the South Fork Drift fence located at T3N R5E Section 15 NWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 4). Access to the Guess Gulch Drift fence located at T2N R5E Section 19 SWNE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 5). Access to the Grouse Creek-Wood Creek Ext fence located at T2N R4E Section 12 SWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 6). Access to the Woodtick Creek drift fence located at T2N R4E Section 13 NWNE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 7). Access to the Flat Creek-Bender Creek boundary fence located at T2N R5E Section 10 NWNE via existing road/ATV trail.

**Lester Creek Allotment:**

- 1). Access to the Lester Creek-Lake Creek boundary fence located at T1N R9E Section 15 NWNW via existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Access to the Goat Creek boundary fence located at T2N R9E Section 2 SESE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 3). Access to the Camp Creek drift fence located at T2N R9E Section 26 NWSW via existing road/ATV trail.

**Mennecke Creek Allotment:**

- 1). Access to the Mennecke-Dixie boundary fence located at T1S R7E Section 11 NESE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Access to the South Fork drift fence located at T1S R8E Section 6 NWNE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 3). Access to the Danskin Bridge drift fence located at T1N R7E Section 24 NWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 4). Access to the Mennecke-Bock drift fence located at T1N R7E Section 33 SWNE via existing road/ATV trail.

- 5). Access to the Cayuse-Mennecke fence located at T1S R7E Section 3 SESW via existing road/ATV trail on FS road system 165C through the Horse Pasture.
- 6). Access to the Cayuse-South Fork drift fence located at T1S R8E Section NWNW via existing road/ATV trail.
- 7). Access to the Danskin Pasture fence located at T1N R7E Section 24 SESE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 8). Access to the Mennecke-Trail Timber boundary fence located at T1N R7E Section 21 SWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 9). Access to the Pierce Creek drift fence located at T1N R8E Section 19 NENW via existing road/ATV trail.
- 10).

**Rattlesnake Creek Allotment:**

- 1). Access to the Spring Creek fence located at T3N R7E Section 34 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Access to the Jackass fence located at T3N R6E Section 25 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 3). Access to the Long Gulch boundary fence located at T3N R7E Section 32 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 4). Access to the Rattlesnake division fence located at T3N R6E Section 14 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 5). Access to the Little Rattlesnake drift fence located at T3N R6E Section 15 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 6). Access to the Goodie Patch fence located at T3N R7E Section 23 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 7). Access to the Slide Gulch fence located at T3N R6E Section 2 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 8). Access to the Trail Creek drift fence located at T3N R6E Section 5 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 9). Access to the Trail Creek division fence located at T3N R6E Section 9 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 10). Trail Creek road system 221.
- 11). Tipton Loop road system 219.
- 12). Grape Mountain to Fury Flat road system 221.
- 13). North Fork road system 222.
- 14). South Fork Unit road to Kesyl Barn (old road system 220).
- 15). Head of Long Gulch behind green gate (old road system 113AA).
- 16). Jackass road (old road system 201).
- 17). Krall Mountain road (old road system 216).
- 18). Little Rattlesnake road (old road system 218).
- 19). Across from Elk Creek exclosure (old road systems 264 and 298).
- 20). Old logging road along Rattlesnake Creek.

**Rimrock Allotment:**

- 1). Access to the Pierce-Rock Creek divide fence located at T1N R8E Section 18 NWNE via existing road/ATV trail.

**Smith Prairie Allotment:**

- 1). Access to the Spring Creek boundary fence on ridge between Spring Creek and Long Gulch located at T3N R7E Section 34 via existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Gooseneck Unit via the existing road/ATV trail 142 system.
- 3). Lower Bench Unit from Black Canyon to Smith Creek Falls via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 4). Access to the Smith Creek Boundary Fence at T3N R8E Sec 29 NESSE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 5). Access to the Joe Brown Rim Fence at T2N R7E Sec. 18 NENW via existing road/ATV trail.

**Spring Creek:**

- 1). Long Gulch drift fence located at T2N R6E Section 2 SWNE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Pony Creek drift fence located at T2N R6E Section 1 SESW via existing road/ATV trail.
- 3). Pony Creek-Long Gulch fence located at T2N R6E Section SFNW via existing road/ATV trail.

**Williams Creek Allotment:**

- 1). Meadow Creek drift fence located at T1N R8E Section 2 SWNE via existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Williams Creek boundary fence located at T2N R8E Section 26 NWNE via existing road/ATV trail.

<i>by R. E. Hanson pres.</i> <i>L. G. Davison &amp; Sons Inc.</i>	<i>3-19-2020</i>
<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Date</b>

<i>Stephaney M. Kenley</i>	<i>3/24/2020</i>
<b>District Ranger</b>	<b>Date</b>