

**2020 Annual Operating Instructions
 Salmon Falls Land & Livestock #4577
 Salmon Falls Pasture On-Off C&H Allotment #41100**

1: INTRODUCTION:

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Season	HMs
Salmon Falls Land & Livestock	60 y "On"	06/01-10/30	300

Authorized Use: Upon payment of fees, you are authorized to graze as follows:

Unit	Numbers	Season	HMs
Salmon Falls	60 y "On"	06/01-10/30	300

Permitted Livestock Brand

- | LRC

2: COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2 Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements. Your compliance with these instructions is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and these instructions may result in issuance of a notice of non-compliance with the terms of your grazing permit.

Permittees with livestock in rested units, grazing units outside the season of use, and grazing areas not authorized, will be held non-compliant with the terms and conditions of their Term Grazing Permit. Such non-compliance may result in billing for excess use, permit modification / cancellation, or other actions as provided in FSH 2209.13.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require modifications to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

3: BILLING:

The 2020 cost per Head Month for cattle is \$1.35 per head month/cattle. A Bill for Collection will be mailed to you. Grazing fees must be paid by the date specified on the Bill for Collection to:

USDA Forest Service c/o US Bank
 PO Box 6200-09
 Portland, OR 97228-6200

Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process must be received before livestock can enter NFS lands.

*******NOTE******* For the 2020 grazing season we highly encourage you to pay your bill online to prevent unnecessary exposure/spread of COVID-19. The mail services may have delays due to the virus. Please notify us when you have made your payment.

The Bill Payment website <http://www.fs.fed.us/billpay> outlines important information regarding the payment processing timeline and guides you through the bill payment process. You must input the bill number from the Bill for Collection and must pay the bill in full as a condition of using the Online Billpay website. Upon completion and submittal of payment information and payment processing, you will receive an email that confirms payment.

Reminder: payment not processed prior to a bill due date will incur penalty and interest charges regardless if using the Online Bill payment option or submitting payment through the mail.

A few important facts if using the Online Bill Payment option:

- No partial payments are allowed.
- Allow four (4) business days for payment processing.
- Payments received after 8:00 ET are submitted the next business day.
- Payments made on holidays are submitted the next business day. Holidays are not counted as a business day.

4: LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT:

Actual on-dates, off-dates, and grazing rotations will be determined on the basis of range readiness, utilization, or other resource considerations as deemed necessary by the authorized Forest Officer. Such changes will typically be made in consultation with the permittee(s).

You will be responsible for monitoring livestock move thresholds or “triggers” during the grazing season. These “triggers” will assist you in ensuring that end of season utilization standards are not exceeded. The Sawtooth NRA range staff will conduct spot checks during and after the grazing season. Typically, “triggers” will be the standard(s) listed in Section 5 below. Livestock should be moved before utilization standards are reached. This will help prevent forage utilization in excess of standards and allow sufficient time to “clean” the unit of remaining livestock.

It is in your best interest to distribute cattle throughout useable areas in the allotment. **Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you**, see Section 5. For example, if cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and/or water developments, utilization standards may be reached prior to the scheduled pasture moves or “off-dates”. If you have any questions about the Standards and Guides listed below, please contact the range staff.

5: STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

Proper Use Standards:

Your Term Grazing Permit specifies maximum allowable utilization levels applicable to your allotment. To comply with the Amended 2012 Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), changes to some of the allowable use levels have been implemented; specifically when the riparian goals and objectives are not being met. When utilization estimates indicate that allowable use levels have been reached in the pasture currently being grazed, livestock must be moved to an unused area or pasture, or removed entirely from the allotment regardless of any time remaining in the grazing season schedule.

You are responsible for tracking forage use levels and complying with utilization standards. For your convenience, the Salmon Falls C&H Allotment maximum allowable forage utilization levels under the Forest Plan are listed below.

Upland Vegetative Cover Types: all units – Sagebrush/Fescue

Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) will typically be the key species measured to determine upland utilization, though other species may be measured to estimate utilization at the discretion of the Forest Officer.

- Early season grazing (ie: through early July): 40% use or retain a minimum of 3-inch stubble height for Kentucky bluegrass, a 6-inch stubble height for Bluebunch wheatgrass, and a 2-inch stubble height for Idaho fescue, (Standard RAST01).
- Late season grazing, after seed ripe conditions: will not exceed 50% use, (Standard RAST01).

6: IMPROVEMENTS:

All improvements for which you have maintenance responsibility are listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Improvement maintenance must be completed prior to livestock turn out. If it is found that maintenance has not been completed, and permitted livestock are present on the allotment or unit, the permittee may be billed for unauthorized use and / or permit action may be taken for non-compliance.

Permittee (or an authorized agent of permittee) use of ATVs and motorcycles outside designated routes shown on the Sawtooth National Forest/Sawtooth National Recreation Area Motor Vehicle Use Map is limited to activities required for allotment management operations such as maintenance and repair of range improvements, and distribution or retrieval of salt, (e.g during or immediately after the authorized grazing season).

Note: If an allotment is in non-use status, the permittee is still responsible for improvement maintenance.

No ground disturbing activities may be conducted by the permittee or their personnel on National Forest System lands without prior approval from the authorized Forest Officer.

Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should be coordinated with the range staff.

New, reconstructed, or replaced livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. (Standard RAST09)

7: PERMITTEE OR RIDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Please notify SNRA range staff before allowing your livestock to enter the Salmon Falls Pasture C&H On/Off Allotment.

Because of increasing public use, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is an inconvenience. However it is still the permittees responsibility to keep their permitted livestock in the approved pasture/allotment. Routine checks should be made by you and your rider to assure compliance.

Salt should be used to spread livestock utilization across the pasture being grazed. The permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.

Livestock salting is prohibited within riparian areas and wetlands. Do not place salt within 100 yards of any watering area or meadow unless you receive prior approval. This includes, but is not limited to, springs, seeps, water troughs, and creeks.

Salt will be removed from areas where the maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season, whichever occurs first.

By USDA order #04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

8: REQUIRED REPORTING:

Enclosed is a grazing use record form for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the time (dates) livestock spend on an allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, salting, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs etc. The grazing use record should be returned at/or before the next spring meeting.

Please submit requests for credits or refunds before December 31.

9: INSPECTIONS & MONITORING:

Brands will be checked periodically throughout the grazing season.

Range inspections may be made several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. If you are interested in participating in allotment inspections, please notify the range staff at the beginning of the grazing season.

End-of-season compliance monitoring will be conducted by the SNRA Range Staff. Exceeding end-of-season utilization standards will be regarded as an instance of non-compliance with the terms of your grazing permit. In addition to the potential for permit action, this may further result in the modification of grazing management (including reductions in Head Months or permitted area) until the risk of adverse impacts to habitat is minimized.

10: COORDINATION & COOPERATION:

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending livestock, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to:

- Rick Ward, Idaho F&G Regional Wildlife Mgr. - Salmon, Idaho (208-756-2271)
- Jason Husseman, Idaho F&G Wildlife Biologist – Salmon, Idaho (208-756-2271)
- Todd Grimm, State Director USDA APHIS Wildlife Services - Boise, Idaho (208-378-5077)
- Pat Castillo, Wildlife Services Technician – Mostly Custer County (208-484-3164)
- Sam Kocherhans, Wildlife Services Technician – Mostly Blaine County (208-681-8792)

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

In order to reduce the potential for depredation, the Forest Service recommends that the following procedures be implemented each grazing season:

- Remove cattle and saddle stock carcasses from the area where they will not serve as an attractant to predators. The intent of this recommendation is not to require removal of carcasses from the allotment, but to remove them out of areas currently being grazed or areas soon to be grazed.

11: OTHER:

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.

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment's resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of this allotment, we would like to hear from you. If you have any questions concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please call Nate Duncan 208-727-5007, Beth Bratlie 208-774-3013 or myself at 727-5000.

12: SIGNATURE:

Kirk Flannigan

Kirk Flannigan, Area Ranger

April 30, 2020

Date

13: MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:

Permittee Actual Use Record form (use, losses, costs, etc.)

