

**PORTER CREEK AND CRUMLEY GULCH
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENTS**

2020 Annual Operating Instruction
Idaho City Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Porter Creek and Crumley Gulch Cattle and Horse allotments during the 2020 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Crumley Gulch C&H Porter Creek C&H	Jay Branch, Branch Ranch	02278

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	50	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	53	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15

Authorized Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	50	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	53	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15

Non-Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Resource Protection	Personal Convenience
Jay Branch	Porter Creek			
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch			

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Jay Branch

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season that requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist at the Emmett Ranger District (208) 365-7010 or the District Ranger at Idaho City Ranger District (208) 392-6681 and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

All hay, straw, and mulch products used on the Boise National Forest must be certified as weed-free or weed/seed-free by a qualified inspector of the State of Idaho or neighboring states which have weed-free feed or crop certification programs (Region Special Order Number: 04-00-097).

2020 GRAZING SCHEDULE

Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek C&H Allotments are under a deferred grazing management system. The deferment is achieved by holding the cattle off the allotments until after seed ripe. This is done by not allowing the cattle onto the allotment until July of each year and by selectively placing salt to keep the cattle on the lower private lands until the forage on the allotments has past the seed ripe stage. The Porter Creek Allotment is above the private land and higher in elevation.

There are now three ways that you can pay your bill, (1) through the Lock Box system by sending a check to the address on the bill; (2) by paying online at the web address on the bill; or (3) paying at the District Office. Please allow adequate time for your payment to be received, processed and for the Ranger District Office to receive payment notification. A minimum of 5 days should be allowed for this process. Livestock may not be placed on the allotment until after the District Ranger has received notification that the grazing fees have been paid. Placing or allowing livestock onto National Forest System lands prior to payment of grazing fees is violation of your term grazing permit and may result in the assessment of unauthorized use fees and the suspension or cancellation of your permit.

If permitted livestock are required to leave the allotment early due to utilization standards being met or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a refund may be requested. A written request for refund must be submitted to the District Ranger if this situation occurs.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek Cattle Allotments will be managed as described in this AOI and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest (Forest Plan).

Compliance with the following standards will be emphasized; this is imperative. Familiarize yourself with this AOI and Forest Management Direction. If you need more information about allotment management, contact the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or a Range Technician.

The Range specialist, Range Technician, the District Ranger must be notified at least 5 days in advance and given the date, time, and place where livestock will enter the allotment to allow for counting livestock on the allotments.

Range Readiness

Spring moisture and temperature conditions may affect the time when livestock are allowed to turn out on the allotments. The Forest Service will notify you at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled turnout date if this occurs.

Utilization

It is the responsibility of the permittee to periodically monitor and document utilization during the grazing season. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, livestock will be

removed from the allotment early. In addition, it is expected that trailing off the allotments will begin early enough to satisfy the off-forest dates in October. The Forest Service may conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met.

Streambank utilization will be measured along the "greenline" in riparian areas. The standard of measurement for riparian areas will be maximum use 45 percent, 4 inches stubble height remaining after livestock are removed from riparian areas. To prevent exceeding these standards, it is important to begin moving livestock slightly before this limit is reached. In the flats or meadows adjoining riparian areas and/or uplands areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan standard of 40 percent utilization for early season and 50 percent for late season pasture use.

Upland grazing use should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 50 percent end-of-season use on upland areas. A safe, easy way to visualize this is "graze half, and leave half" of the grasses. The Forest Service will periodically check the permittee's utilization monitoring to ensure good land stewardship and perform documentation. At times, the permittee and the Forest Service will jointly inspect range conditions. It is your responsibility to remove livestock from the allotment area as soon as the utilization standard (50 percent) has been met.

Noxious Weeds

Work on noxious weed eradication will continue this year. These weeds are a continual, and in some places, an increasing problem. Your help is needed. If you find any populations of Scotch Thistle, Canada thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, knapweed, or other noxious weeds, please let us know so arrangements can be made to start work on their control. It has been noted that both cattle and elk seem to selectively graze spring growth on Rush skeleton weed, which is and has been helpful.

Salt Placement

Place salt on ridge tops at least 300 feet away from water and main ridge roads. To help prevent trampling of salt grounds, place salt blocks in slightly different locations each year. Whenever possible place the blocks on rocks, low stumps, or manufactured salt containers. This will help prevent the salt from dissolving into the ground and being dug out by wildlife after the cattle have been removed.

Predator Problems

If during the grazing season, you are having problems with predators notify, Wildlife Services. Through a Memorandum of Understanding between Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Forest Service, Wildlife Services is responsible for the control of predators. They will provide control services, technical expertise, recommendation of control methods, and reporting livestock as well as predator losses to the Idaho Department Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Forest Service. You are allowed to protect your livestock from the immediate threat of predators. All other predator control must be conducted through the proper channels, as described above.

Motorized Use

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Idaho City 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 for livestock management purposes. However, specific routes will need to be

identified each year. 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.

WOLVES

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.

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.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

There are no plans for the construction of any new range improvements on the two allotments. However, if the need arises for spring developments or other improvements please let us know. Maintenance of the Porter Creek let down fence between the Jerusalem and the Porter Creek allotments is assigned to Jay Branch. This fence must be put up and maintained before livestock enter the Porter Creek allotment and prior to livestock entering the adjoining pasture on the Jerusalem allotment, whichever is earlier.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

1. In cooperation with the State of Idaho, all feed, hay or straw brought to the allotment must be certified weed-free.
2. Report any known invasive plants in your grazing areas.
3. Report areas you have accidentally over-used so the Forest Service is aware of a critical situation before an unhappy public makes us aware of it. This will keep the Forest Service up to date and provide the opportunity to resolve the problem as necessary. In addition, it will reflect more positively on you as a good land manager.
4. It is recommended that the permittee use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site that they inspect during the grazing season.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The Porter Creek and Crumley Gulch allotments will be managed to achieve the Desired Future Condition as described in the revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest. All permitted actions including grazing will comply with standards shown in this revised Forest Plan.

Utilization standards from the revised Forest Plan are as follows:

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the grazing 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.

1. Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use on hydric greenline species.
2. Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use.
3. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek Allotments are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter this plan during the grazing season, notify the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist at 208-365-7010 or the Idaho City District Ranger at 208-392-6681.

Signatures:



Date 4/2/20

District Ranger

Permittee signature:

I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions stipulated in my term grazing permit.

_____ Date