PAYETTE
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT
2021 Annual Operating Instructions
Emmett Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Payette Cattle and Horse allotment during the 2020 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Payette C&H	J.R. Simplot Company	02271
Payette C&H	Silver Sage Ranch LLC.	02123

Permitted Use				
Permittee	**Allotment**	**No. of Livestock**	**Livestock Class**	**Permitted Season**
Simplot	Payette C&H	411	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/10
Silver Sage	Payette C&H	139	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/10

Authorized Use				
Permittee	**Allotment**	**No. of Livestock**	**Livestock Class**	**Authorized Season**
Simplot	Payette C&H	411	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/10
Simplot	Payette C&H	6	Horses	6/16 – 10/10
Silver Sage	Payette C&H	139	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/10
Silver Sage	Payette C&H	2	Horses	6/16 – 10/10

Non-Use				
Permittee	**Allotment**	**No. of Livestock**	**Resource Protection**	**Personal Convenience**
Simplot	Payette C&H			
Silver Sage	Payette C&H			

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock – Up to 8 head at the Third Fork Cow Camp

Permitted Livestock Brands:

J.R. Simplot Company

Silver Sage Ranch LLC

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 District Ranger 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).

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

2021 GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Payette C&H allotment is under a deferred rotation grazing management system.

The grazing rotation on the allotment for the 2021 grazing season will be as follows:

Year	Woodard	Greenfield Flat	Third Fork
2021	Last	Second	First

BILLING

Grazing fees for cattle are $1.35 per head month.

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

The Payette C&H allotment 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 Emmett Ranger District.

The Emmett Ranger District, Range Specialist or Technician 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 allotment.

Grazing will begin the, Third Fork Pasture move to the Greenfield Flat Pasture, when utilization limits are approached in the first unit, and move to the Woodard Pasture when the utilization limits are approached in the second pasture. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, cattle will be removed from the allotment early.

Do not wait until maximum utilization levels are met before moving cattle to the next pasture in the grazing schedule. This will result in over utilization of the pasture therefore, it is important to recognize when you are approaching maximum utilization levels and move all cattle before they are met. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, cattle will be removed from the allotment early.

Livestock management will need to emphasize moving cattle in a timely manner, getting the used pasture cleaned out, and keeping cattle out from that point throughout the season. Another area needing attention is keeping permitted cattle on the permitted allotment, and unpermitted cattle off of the allotment.

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 forest off date in October. The Forest Service will conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met.

Outside Bull Trout patch areas 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 these riparian areas and/or upland areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan Standard of 40 percent utilization for early season and 50 percent for late season pasture use. If cattle do come back to the previous pasture, they are to be removed immediately. If they repeatedly return to the previously used pasture, they are to be removed from the allotment.

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 to "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 permittees 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 %) has been met.

Elk use has been identified in the lower portions of Greenfield Flats where Poison Creek trail exits the timber. The Forest Service will monitor this area prior to cattle entering the pasture.

To maximize distribution in Greenfield Flat use salt and riding as a tool to draw cattle up and away from riparian areas and off of the Poison Creek Trail. The Forest Plan Standard for uplands is 50% utilization.

Noxious Weeds: Work on noxious weed control 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, Dalmatian Toadflax, Knapweed, or other noxious weeds, please fill out the enclosed noxious weed inventory card and return to the district office. These sites will be added to the district treatment schedule and will be monitored and treated annually under the Forest's invasive species program.

Salt Placement: The placement of salt should be used as a management tool in helping to minimize use in riparian areas, tree plantations, distribute the livestock, and to help prevent livestock deaths from larkspur poisoning. Salt must not be placed in or adjacent to tree plantations or areas of natural livestock concentration. Do not place salt next to roads, trails, or water. Please use the same general locations but move tubs and salt out of sight to minimize visual impacts and the resulting potential complaints.

Bull Trout: The Allotment Biological Assessment on Ongoing Actions Squaw Creek Bull Trout Subpopulation Watershed dated December 14, 1999 supported by a Letter of Concurrence from The Fish and Wildlife Service on January 21, 2000 amended the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan with specific management direction for livestock grazing on allotments within the Decision area. The following management practices in regards to bull trout apply:

"Annual operating plans call for leaving at least 6 inches of stubble height on streamside vegetation. This equates to "light" levels of utilization (or about 30% based on observations in Bear Valley – Reference Burton and Kozel 1994). No salt is allowed near streams. Water developments encourage cattle watering away from streambanks. In addition, the Areas of Concern for bull trout early life stages are fenced." (pg 38 of BA).

The attached map shows where the electric fence deterrents were proposed in the BA. This year the Forest Service will ground truth these areas. Also, this year the ribbon wire will be replaced with a stronger gauged wire to help deter the livestock from these areas.

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 of 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.

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 Greg Jones. He can be reached at 208-550-7783.

Motorized Use
The Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Travel Management Rule (36 CFR §261.13) is in place on the Emmett RD, which prohibits motorized use off-road/trail. Public motorized wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated for motorized use on the current Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The permittee would be allowed to use wheeled motorized vehicles on all NFS routes for administrative use within the allotment for livestock management purposes. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Any other motorized vehicle use for allotment management activities shall be approved in writing by the District Ranger and approved routes would be monitored by Forest Service personnel. 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.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements are to be maintained prior to livestock entering any pasture or unit. Range Improvements include all fences, water developments, corrals, and facilities. The Third Fork watering system has proposed renovations that will put the rider and recreation cabins on different systems. The permittees will now be responsible for winterizing and de-winterizing the water system used for the cabin and water development

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 the permittees use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site they inspect during the grazing season.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The Payette C&H Allotment 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 the revised Forest Plan.

Utilization Standards from the revised Forest Plan 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.

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)

This does not include the fenced areas described in the "Bull Trout" area above.

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Payette C&H allotment are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter this plan during the grazing season, notify the Emmett Ranger District at 208-365-7000.

Signatures:

District Ranger — Date 4/26/21

I understand that this Annual Operating Plan is 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.

Permittee(s) signature

Silver Sage Ranch Hay & Livestock LLC — Date 4-21-21

JR Simplot Co by — Date 4-21-21