

2009 Annual Operating Instructions
 Warm Springs C&H Allotment
 New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Warm Springs Allotment for the 2009 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittees on April 9, 2009. In attendance were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. Rick Belnap	Idaho Dept. of Lands
2. Everett Harrington	Permittee
3. Dean Harrington	Permittee
4. Steve Shumway	Permittee
5. Larry Fisk	Permittee
6. Larry James	Permittee
7. Kimberly Brandel	District Ranger
8. Brian McMorris	Range Specialist
9. Pete Grinde	Range Specialist

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. Any changes in management from these instructions require approval by the Forest Service prior to implementation. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions that apply to these Annual Operating Instructions.

Grazing fee of \$1.35/head month must be paid before livestock are authorized to go on the National Forest. The New Meadows District Office must receive confirmation from Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest.

2009 Authorized Use

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
Everett Harrington	40 cow/calf	6/1-10/31
(State land permit)	48 cow/calf	6/1-10/31
Steve Shumway	97 cow/calf	5/15-10/31
	33 cow/calf	6/1-10/31
(State land permit)	2 cow/calf	5/15-10/31
Larry Fisk	77 cow/calf	6/1-10/31
Larry James	172 cow/calf	6/1-10/31

TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers authorized on any given year. The season of use is dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation and temperature) which influence annual forage production and range readiness. The District

Ranger's authority to modify permitted grazing use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (c) of your permit.

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp, but not saturated, and should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species other than bulbous bluegrass and cheatgrass must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

GRAZING PRESCRIPTION AND LIVESTOCK ROTATION

Livestock Rotations and Allowable use

As allowable use grazing criteria are reached, livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off the allotment.

The dates below are approximate, based on data from previous years.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Allowable use</u>
Lower 5/15-7/1	Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Lost Mountain may be used during the last two weeks of use.	40% allowable use on upland vegetation. 6" stubble height on stream bank grass or grass like vegetation or 40% use on key riparian species, whichever occurs first.

The stubble height and riparian utilization standards were exceeded for the 2008 grazing season.

Middle 7/1-8/15	Use after allowable use is met in the Lower Unit	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
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The stubble height standard was exceeded for the 2008 grazing season.

Upper 8/15-10/24	Use after flowering	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
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In 2008 there were multiple observations of cattle in the wrong unit(s). As I described in my April 3, 2009 letter to all permittees, my expectation this year is that cattle are placed and remain in the authorized unit and for all improvements to be properly maintained throughout the grazing season.

Salt placement is required to be at least 1/4 mile from live water and 1/2 mile from occupied northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat. If this can't be accomplished, the New Meadows District range personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations. All salt blocks shall be removed when livestock have been moved out of a unit or off the National Forest.

In 2008 salt was found in the Lower and Upper Units after livestock had been removed from the unit.

Livestock Trailing/Shipping

Cattle will be trailed onto the allotment following range readiness. Cattle will be trailed off the allotment in the fall.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained prior to turning livestock into the Unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement has been properly maintained but requires reconstruction, a cooperative effort can be made between the Forest Service and permittee to reconstruct the development depending on funding. The permittee is required to provide the materials and labor for routine maintenance.

Maintenance of spring developments is vitally important to the health of your livestock and to ensure proper use of the grazing allotment. If you are aware of spring developments that require reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss this with Forest Service range personnel. All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed.

The Forest Service and permittee will work together to install a cattleguard under the Rocky Gulch Gate and Corral Gate. The permittees will provide labor to move the cattleguard to the site and the Forest Service will install the cattleguards.

The Dry Fork Spring needs to be reevaluated in 2009 to see what it will take to get this spring development working. If a rebuild is necessary it will need to be planned after the 2009 grazing season due to lack of funding. The Forest Service will go out with the permittee to accomplish this.

The Rocky Gulch Spring needs to be looked at by the permittee and Forest Service this year to see if the spring will run enough water to be rebuilt.

The Cold Springs Spring development will need to be maintained to standard before cattle are allowed to enter the Upper Unit.

The Sheep Creek drift fence will need to be looked at by the permittee and Forest Service in 2009 to see about extending it to the north.

The Lost Bambi Spring will need to be looked at by the permittee and Forest Service to see if both water tanks are needed.

ACTUAL USE REPORTS

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. Forms may be completed by each individual permittee or one form can be completed by the group. However, a form should be completed for each unit grazed by livestock. If you have any questions about completing the form, please call the range department at the Forest Service at (208) 347-0300. We request the forms be returned no later than February 1, 2010.

MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS

Prescribed burning is being planned this fall on approximately 20-50 acres to improve northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat within the upper unit. Because the specific area to be burned has not been laid out yet, the Forest Service has not decided if the area will need to be fenced in preparation of the burn. You will be notified as soon as the burn area is identified.

The Warm Springs Fuels Reduction Project may have some burning starting in the fall of 2009.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, a change in authorized grazing activity will occur. If proper use grazing levels are reached then livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off of the allotment. If livestock grazing does not comply with the terms and conditions of these Annual Operating Instructions, then Forest Service policy and procedures regarding administrative permit actions will be followed.

The Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel (NIDGS) was listed in May 2000, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. There are three known colonies of Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel located on the Warm Springs Allotment all in the Upper Unit. The Upper Unit is not scheduled for use until after the Northern Idaho Ground Squirrels have retreated underground for the winter. No further mitigation of livestock grazing effects are required as long as livestock do not enter the area until after August 15.

You are responsible for ensuring that your rider (if you elect to have one) is informed and understands the standards, guidelines, and other management direction in these instructions.

/s/ Kimberly A. Brandel
Kimberly A. Brandel
District Ranger

4/22/2009
Date

/s/ Steve Shumway
Shumway and Sons LLC
Permittee

5/5/2009
Date

Larry and Penny Fisk
Permittee

Date

/s/ Dean Harrington
Dean and Everett Harrington
Permittee

5/14/2009
Date

Larry James
Permittee

Date