





**2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**  
**ARENSTON GULCH ALLOTMENT**  
**SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST**

Dear Permittee:

Below are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Arentson Gulch Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Arentson Gulch Allotment. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependent on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related circumstances.

**Permitted Cattle Authorized**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Wiley F. Smith Family Trust	240	0	240	6/6-9/25	

42.5% Forest Service Land  
 42.5% BLM Land  
 15% State Land

**Allowable Use Standard:** End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height indicator being met. While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches and less than 50% browse use be used to plan cattle moves. Woody Browse use of riparian shrubs will not exceed 50% of new leader production.

The drier mesic meadows adjacent to streams and springs should be watched to ensure that 50% use is not exceeded. These meadows are of concern across the district and more focus is going to be put on use levels in these areas. While all adjacent meadows should be looked at, the drier meadows have less chance of re-growth and therefore are of highest concern. The upland annual use level of 50% should be used to manage the dry meadows and your rangeland management specialist will work with you to determine when a desired use level has been met, so that everyone understands what the meadows should look like after livestock use.

Riparian areas with greenlines dominated by Kentucky bluegrass and tufted hairgrass should also receive special attention to achieve end of season stubble height. Greenlines dominated by these plants have less bank stability than those dominated by deep-rooted plants and are sometimes in a lower state of ecological condition. They should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Other factors should be considered for planning cattle moves between units. These include changes in grazing behavior, such as a change in grazing preference from grasses and grass-like plants to young willows and other shrubs, large groups of cattle congregating in fence corners, at gates, or riparian areas for long periods of time.

**Cleaning Grazing Units:** Grazing units should be thoroughly cleaned of cattle to ensure allowable use standards are met. Enough time should be made to thoroughly clean the unit, in most cases 7 days is adequate. Permittees should be prepared to assist range riders in checking that the unit cleaned stays clean. Range riders should keep permittees informed of problems cleaning grazed units. Bulls should be kept with the main herd during breeding or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. Frequent back-riding indicates there is a herd management problem. It is the permittee's responsibility to correct grazing management disruption due to cattle location.

**Fence & Water Improvements:** Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be checked prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should be checked at this time or before cattle enter a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

**Weed Free Hay:** In accordance with State Law, please ensure that range riders bring hay that is certified and tagged noxious weed free.

**Gray Wolf:** Should wolf or other predator issues arise on the allotment, please contact your rangeland management specialist and Idaho Fish & Game or Wildlife Services with the information. Coordination with permittees and all agencies listed above is important to assess predator issues and share information on predator management decisions on National Forest lands and those areas adjacent to National Forest

**Grazing Fees:** The grazing fees for the 2014 season are \$1.35/head month. Your grazing fee payment will need to be received prior to turning livestock out on the National Forest. Receipt of payment could take up to 2 weeks from the date payment is sent.

**Actual Use Report:** An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you shortly after cattle leave the allotment. Please notify this office when that occurs. The association President will need to provide a consolidated report with dates when cattle entered the allotment, when the main herd was moved from unit to unit, when cattle were removed from the allotment. Each permittee will need to provide an individual report with dates when cattle entered and left the allotment. Please return the report 2 weeks after it is received to help expedite billing credits for next season and provide data for end of season reports.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Josh Edwards at 588-3405.