

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 1, 2014

Lowell Cerise
56 Whiting Road
Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Lowell,

The following letter will document your meeting with Concetta Brown on April 2nd, 2014 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Indian Ridge C&H and Sage Creek C&H allotments for the 2014 grazing season. The authorized use for the Indian Ridge C&H and Sage Creek C&H allotments for cattle with the  brand will be as follows:

Permitted Use:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Indian Ridge C&H	Lowell Cerise	140 c/c	741	5/23-10/30
Sage Creek C&H	Lowell Cerise	30 c/c	140	6/1-10/20

Authorized Use for the 2014 Grazing Season:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Indian Ridge C&H	Lowell Cerise	140 c/c	741	5/23-10/30
Sage Creek C&H	Lowell Cerise	30 c/c	140	6/1-10/20



<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/ Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Indian Ridge C&H	Hull Creek	140 c/c	391	5/23-8/15
	Indian Ridge	140 c/c	350	8/16-10/30
	Hughes Creek		Rested	
Sage Creek C&H	Upper Sage, Lower Sage and Buster Gulch	30 c/c	140	6/1-10/20

Due to the Mustang Complex fire during the 2012 season, the Indian Ridge unit was rested in 2013. This year we will resume using the rotations outlined in the Biological Assessment and Opinions for the Indian Ridge C&H Allotment. Five step-point vegetation plots were established in the high-intensity burned areas of the Indian Ridge and Sage Creek C&H allotments during the 2013 season. These step-point transects will help us to determine ground cover and species composition. These transects will be read again this spring.

The three units in the Sage Creek C&H allotment are run in conjunction.

Only livestock with the  brand are authorized to graze on the Sage Creek C&H and Indian Ridge C&H allotments. The Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your Term Grazing Permit as per Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Regulations. Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Concetta Brown and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Changes can be made based on resource objectives, provided the changes are first approved and documented by an authorized officer.

The dates listed in the authorized use section may vary based on management needs or range readiness and proper use standards. If a change is necessary, please notify Concetta Brown at (208) 768-2503 as soon as you are aware of the need for changes in the planned use schedule. Any extension of use beyond the permitted dates will not be authorized.

Allowable Use

The allowable use standards for the Indian Ridge C&H and Sage Creek C&H allotments are listed below. It is your responsibility to monitor utilization levels and to move your livestock to the next unit planned or off the allotment when the standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Concetta Brown and she will assist you. Cattle removed from a unit after utilization levels have been reached are not allowed to return to the unit. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

INDIAN RIDGE C&H:

Key Area Location # / Unit Name / Creek Name	Monitoring Attribute	Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
M244/Hughes Creek/ West Fork of Hughes	Browse Use	30%	Alder	25%
	Greenline stubble ¹	4 in.	Hydric spp	5 in.
	Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	25%
M308/ Hull Creek Unit/ Hull Creek	Browse Use	30%	Alder	25%
	Greenline stubble ¹	4 in.	Hydric spp	5 in.
	Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	15%
Upland Sites/All Units	Utilization	50%	Upland grass spp.	45%
Riparian Areas/ All Units	Utilization by key species	50%	Riparian grass spp.	45%

The Biological Opinion for the **Indian Ridge C&H** Allotment laid out the following measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish. The measures are as follows:

1. All livestock use on the Allotment will be regulated by applying specific move triggers and annual use indicator standards on each Unit.
2. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Resting a unit each year provides benefits to riparian vegetation. This will help meet SCNF long term riparian resource objective for greenline successional status.
3. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness. This will reduce the potential for bank alteration. This will help meet SCNF long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
4. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment within the terms of the term grazing permit including moves in response to fish spawning. Annual use indicators will be monitored by SCNF Forest Service personnel.
5. Permittees will continue to place mineral supplements at least one-fourth mile away from creeks.
6. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks.

7. Fences and water developments have been placed to reduce livestock use on streams and their associated riparian areas. These improvements will be maintained to function as designed.

Sage Creek C&H:

Riparian sites:

In the Upper Sage and Lower Sage Creek units a maximum of **50%** use of the current annual growth of key shrubs (willows)

Upland sites:

Maximum of **50%** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species

Range Improvements

Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment.

Part 2, Section 8(i) of your term grazing permit states:

“This permit is issued and accepted with the provision that the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or government-owned, that are assigned for maintenance to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements to be maintained are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The Government may maintain or otherwise improve said improvements when, in its opinion, such action will be to its advantage.”

The following is a list of improvements for the **Indian Ridge C&H** Allotment that were discussed in the meeting:

Trough #2207 was burnt in the fire. The trough itself is functional. The materials needed to reset the trough are 6 wood posts 12 2x8s. Contact Concetta to pick up the materials.

General Management

The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation. ATVs may be used off of designated routes for improvement maintenance prior to livestock entering Forest lands. This means, once livestock are on the allotment, ATV use off of designated routes should be limited to the unit cattle are currently in and the unit scheduled to be grazed next only for managing your livestock and/or maintaining improvements.

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. In situations where terrain does not allow proper placement of salt, please contact Concetta and she will determine a suitable location with your input.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

The grazing fees for 2014 are the base rate of \$1.35 per head month.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay their grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting **a minimum of 35 days prior** to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

If you spot a wild fire, report it immediately to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center in Salmon, ID at **(208) 756-5157**.

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return within **30 days** of the end of the grazing season.

In addition, approval of requests for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Requests for non-use must be done in writing and the approval of a request for non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

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 resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of the allotment, we would like to hear from you.

If you have any questions regarding any of the allotments for which you have permits, please call Concetta at (208) 768-2503, Ingrid Drieling at (208) 768-2516 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jay Winfield

District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records