2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
MANN CREEK/STURGILL C&H ALLOTMENT

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the **Mann Creek/Sturgill C&H Allotment** for the 2014 grazing season. This plan was developed with participation of the livestock Permittees at the Annual Operating Instruction meetings held at the Weiser Ranger District Office on May 29, 2014. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock Permittees who participated in development of this plan were Permittees: John Sutton, Tom Sutton, Howard Sutton, Dave and Lori Maddox, and Rangeland Management Specialists Andy Bumgarner.

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. It is necessary to contact the Forest Service if there are any changes or additions to these instructions through out the grazing season. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions which apply to these Annual Operating Instructions.

Permitted Use			
Permittee	**Allotment**	**Livestock Numbers**	**Season of Use**
Howard & Kerri Sutton	Mann Creek/ Sturgill	225 cow/calf pairs	6/20-9/30
John & Reta Sutton		225 cow/calf pairs	6/20-9/30
Thomas A. & Dixie L. Sutton		225 cow/calf pairs	6/20-9/30
Dave & Lori Maddox		110 cow/calf pairs	6/20-9/30

2014 Authorized Use			
Permittee	**Allotment**	**Livestock Numbers**	**Season of Use**
Howard & Kerri Sutton	Mann Creek/ Sturgill	225 cow/calf pairs	7/1-9/30
John & Reta Sutton		225 cow/calf pairs	7/1-9/30
Thomas A. & Dixie L. Sutton		225 cow/calf pairs	7/1-9/30
Dave & Lori Maddox		110 cow/calf pairs	7/1-9/30

Permitted Livestock Brands

Sutton, Thomas A. & Dixie L. — S X — Cattle: RH

- Sutton, Wade A. — XS — Cattle: RR
- Sutton, Hailey — ⊂ — Cattle: RH

Sutton, Howard & Kerri — S ◇ — Cattle: RH

Sutton, John & Reta — S R — Cattle: RH

Maddox, Dave & Lori EX Cattle: RR

Permitted Pack & Saddle Stock

3-8 head of horses at cow camp and in horse pasture.

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of the Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, item 3, and Part 2, item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing seasons which require 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. The season of use is especially dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation) which influences annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify term grazing permitted use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (b) & (c) of your permit.

Refer to your term grazing permit, part 2 (general terms and conditions) and part 3 (special terms and conditions) for a list of general and specific management practices required by the permittee.

All livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest is required to be certified weed free. This includes hay fed to horses at the cow camp.

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

2013 Grazing Rotation			
Permittee	**Unit**	**Livestock Numbers**	**Season of Use**
Howard & Kerri Sutton	Adams	105 cow/calf pairs	6/18-6/19
All	Adams	785 cow/calf pairs	6/20-8/7
	Sturgill		8/8-9/7
	Hitt		9/8-9/30

	2013 Utilization		
Pasture	**Date**	**Upland/Riparian**	**Percent Utilization**
Adams (top of Mineral)	7/7	Upland	20%
Adams (4th of July drainage)	7/7	Upland	20%
Adams (Adams Creek)	7/25	Riparian	38%
Adams (Adams Creek)	8/11	Riparian	45%
Adams (random locations)	8/11	Upland	35%
Hitt (Hitt Creek)	10/17	Riparian	45%
Hitt (Mann Creek)	10/17	Riparian	45%
Hitt (Sturgill Peak)	10/17	Upland	30%

BILLING

Grazing fees of $ 1.35/HM must be paid before livestock are authorized to enter the National Forest. Payment must be made to: USDA Forest Service, c/o Citibank, P.O. Box 301550, Los Angeles, California 90030-1550. The Council District Office must receive confirmation from the Citibank Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

2014 Grazing Rotation			
Permittee	**Unit**	**Livestock Numbers**	**Season of Use**
All	Hitt	785 cow/calf pairs	7/1-8/4
	Sturgill		8/5-8/25
	Adams		8/26-9/30

The season of use dates are tentative and may vary according to range conditions and utilization levels within the pastures. Pastures move dates will vary and may be shortened or extended as conditions warrant.

The 2013 Weiser Complex fire burned approximately half of the Sturgill Creek Pasture. Vegetation recovery in the light to moderate fire intensity areas of the fire are recovering. However, the areas which received high fire intensity are slower to recover and some areas have little to no vegetation. Based on the observations made on 5/27/14 by the burned area emergency rehabilitation (BAER) team it was recommended that livestock be allowed to graze the Sturgill Pasture after 2014 seed ripe (approximately August 1st) for a shorter than normal time period.

On 2/5/14 the Mann Creek/Sturgill Permittees met with Rangeland Management Specialist Andy Bumgarner to discuss potential options for the 2014 grazing season based on unknown recovery rates of the burned vegetation in the Sturgill Pasture. Five options were developed and the BAER team has recommended using option number 3 which includes turning onto the allotment 10 days late. Livestock will be allowed to graze the Sturgill Pasture for 21 days. A full time rider in addition to the association rider will be provided. This rider will keep cattle out of the high intensity burned areas for the time period that cattle are in the Sturgill Pasture.

The Hitt and Adams Units are deferred every other year leaving one as the turnout pasture and one as the third pasture in the grazing rotation. The Sturgill Pasture is used in the middle of the grazing rotation every year. The pasture that is deferred is grazed after seed ripe and generally receives two to three weeks of use.

Notify the Forest Service at least 5 days before you turn onto the allotment of when and where turnout will occur so that a count can be made if desired.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES

The following are specific utilization standards and guidelines from the July 2003 Forest Plan. Utilization percentages are by weight and are the maximum allowed.

RAST01 - Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the growing 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.
a) Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
b) 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.

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 material availability. Those projects to which the permittee contributes normally receive higher priority for funding by the Forest Service.

Maintenance of spring developments is vitally important to the health of your livestock and to the grazing allotment. If you are aware of spring developments that require reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss this with your Rangeland Management Specialist prior to performing maintenance.

Buzzard Spring, Hitt Creek Spring and Coffee Flat Spring all need some degree of reconstruction. The range staff and Permittees will look at these springs this summer and start the process for clearing them for future work.

For a list of assigned maintenance of structural improvements as well as maintenance standards see part 3 of your term grazing permit.

PERMITTEE/RIDER INSTRUCTIONS

Part of good cattle management is riding to assure proper cattle distribution. In particular we want to insure that the stream banks and meadows aren't over used. These riparian areas are considered key areas and will be monitored. When an area has reached maximum allowable use levels cattle will be removed from that area and kept from returning. Keeping cattle off select areas and in areas of less use serves to prolong the time cattle can expect to stay in an area.

If cattle are in the final area of the rotation sequence and utilization standards are reached, then they will have to be removed from the allotment.

Livestock in units outside the season of use or on an allotment other than the one permitted, is a violation of the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. The Forest Service recognizes that a 100% clean pasture or allotment is not always achievable by the scheduled move or off date however; adequate effort is expected to achieve that.

Salting

Salting is restricted to the following:

- No less than ¼ mile from water, and not be placed in meadow bottoms.

- Placed at a minimum distance of 100 yards from open roads and out of sight from roads if possible.
- Should be moved yearly unless present salt ground is located in a rocky area where no vegetation grows.
- Unconsumed salt will be removed from the site.
- ¼ mile from timber plantations with trees less than 15 feet tall. If this can't be accomplished, the District Range and Reforestation personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations.

REQUIRED REPORTING

All requests for refunds or credits for unused portion of grazing fees for Forest System Lands must be received in the Council or Weiser Ranger District office by March 1 following the grazing season.

We are requiring you to report actual use information for each unit grazed because we are required to report this grazing use to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This information is also very important when conducting future allotment analysis. Any format is acceptable. If you would like a Forest Service form or have any questions about what information to include in the Actual Use Report, please call Andy at 208-253-0114 or 208-549-4262. **Actual Use needs to be turned in no later than December 31, 2014.**

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp but should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Perennial grass species must be a minimum of 6 inches in height. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

Allotment/pasture inspections will be performed periodically throughout the grazing season by Forest Service Personnel. Livestock distribution, correct livestock location, numbers and identification, structural improvement maintenance, and utilization levels will be evaluated during these site visits. If you wish to accompany Forest Service Personnel on these inspections please contact the Rangeland Management Specialist.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Cooperation with neighboring Permittees is encouraged, however if there are problems occurring that cannot be settled let your Rangeland Management Specialist know so that steps can be taken to correct the problems.

In accordance with Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2255.1 all grazing Permittees are required to conform to livestock laws and quarantine regulations of the State and Secretary of Agriculture while their livestock are on Forest Service administered land. Forest officers shall not allow livestock under quarantine to enter Forest Service administered lands until the quarantine is lifted or until the hold order is released. Grazing permits may be suspended or cancelled, in accordance with FSM 2204, for failure to comply with such laws or with any approved special rules of a recognized livestock association.

All bulls required by Idaho state law to be trichomoniasis (trich) tested shall have a current trich test prior to entering Forest Service lands. All bulls will be trich tagged for the current trich year prior to entering Forest Service lands.

Please review the AOI for consistency with our discussion at the annual meeting, if correct sign and return it to Andy.

GREG LESCH
District Ranger

6/9/14
DATE

Howard & Kerri Sutton
Permittee

5-29-2014
DATE

John & Reta Sutton
Permittee

5/29/14
DATE

Thomas A. & Dixie L. Sutton
Permittee

5-29-14
DATE

Dave & Lori Maddox
Permittee

5.29.2014
DATE