

**2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
BELL MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT**

This is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bell Mountain C&H Allotment. We are including a signature page at the end of each AOI which we are requesting permittees sign and return to the district. This signature page also includes the signatures of the district ranger and current range management specialist overseeing the allotment. We believe that this process better represents the cooperative nature of managing these areas and indicates an understanding of the information in this document as well as the information in your term grazing permit(s).

The Bell Mountain Allotment is grazed as an on/off management system in conjunction with an adjoining BLM allotment. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use levels are met.

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Season</u>
Isham Farms	29		29	05/01-06/30
Isham Farms	7		7	11/16-12/15
Murdock Farms	7		7	05/01-06/30
Murdock Farms	29		29	11/16-12/15
Daryl & Brenda Andreason	23		23	11/10-12/31
Keith & Connie Waymire	17		17	05/16-06/30
Keith & Connie Waymire	17		17	11/19-12/15
Darrel and Marcheita Mays	4		4	05/16-10/03

The current allowable use level for the allotment is set at 50% utilization on key forage species on uplands and in the riparian areas. Fifty percent utilization on riparian species equates to a 4-inch stubble height. Browse use of willows and other woody species is also set at 50%. When the utilization level of 50% is reached, cattle need to be removed from the allotment.

The drier mesic meadows adjacent to streams and springs should be watched to ensure that use levels are not exceeded. These meadows are of concern across the district and more focus on use levels in these areas will occur. While all adjacent meadows should be looked at, the drier meadows have less chance of regrowth 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.

Designated Monitoring Areas(DMA's): DMA's are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit which establishes a record of utilization and trend. The information from the DMA is also used to plan cattle moves, determine if end of season indicators are met, and to evaluate whether current management is effective or needs to be modified. Permittee monitoring, documentation and photos are encouraged before entering and when leaving each unit.

Fence & Water Improvements: Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should also be maintained prior to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be

maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

Response to Predators: Should predator issues arise on the allotment, please contact your range 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 administered 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: At the end of the grazing season you will be receiving an INDIVIDUAL ACTUAL USE REPORT. You will need to provide a record of the dates your cattle enter the forest, dates they leave the forest, and a record of losses. The report is a requirement of the special terms and conditions of your term grazing permit. Please return this report to the Lost River Ranger District office in a timely manner.

If you have any questions about these instructions, or management of the allotment please contact Josh Edwards or Thad Berrett (208) 588-3400.

Bell Mountain C&H Allotment 2014 Annual Operating Instructions

Salmon-Challis National Forest
Lost River Ranger District
PO Box 507
Mackay, Idaho

Approved By: /s/ Diane L Weaver 7/1/2014
Diane L. Weaver Date
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ Thad Berrett 6/30/2014
Joshua L. Edwards Date
Rangeland Management Specialist