FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FOREST
Silver Lake Ranger District
2015 Annual Operating Instructions

Allotment: Antelope Allotment

The following are the 2015 Annual Operating Instructions for the Antelope Allotment. These instructions are a reminder to both the Permittee and Forest Officers of their obligations pertaining to the use and management of these allotments. All parties should read these instructions carefully. These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of your Term Grazing Permit, consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Clause 8(a), and you have agreed to their conditions upon signing the Term Grazing Permit.

Permitted Use

PERMITTEE	Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Season of Use
Iverson Management Limited Partnership	Antelope Allotment	419 cow/calf pairs	05/15-09/30

The pasture rotation schedule listed above is tentative as to days and dates and is our best estimate of duration of grazing on the unit. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather, ability to use suitable range, herding, and other permittee practices. It will be your responsibility to see that your livestock are moved from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is reached. Rotation/removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation/removal date. Livestock removal from the entire allotment may be earlier than scheduled if utilization levels are reached earlier than the allowable off date.

Authorized Use

Pasture	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Notes
Halfway	XX	XX					**189 pairs 05/15-06/14**
North Willow		XXXX					**230 pairs 06/01-07/04**
Tobin Cabin (NFS) & Antelope Flat Pastures							**Trail Through**
Tobin Cabin (NFS & private)		XX	XXXX				**189 pairs 06/15-07/30**
Tobin Cabin (private)				XXXX	XX		**40 pairs 08/01-09/15**

Instructions

These instructions serve as an agreement between the grazing permittee and the Forest Service and are an integral part of your permit. These instructions incorporate the objectives, resource triggers, and standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan. The information contained herein is a summary of important points regarding operations under the permit. Please use them for

reference during the coming grazing season. If you find any errors or disagree with any of this material, please let us know.

Failure to follow the instructions in the AOI is a violation of your grazing permit. The contents of this years plan reflect the alternative we jointly agreed to at your Annual meeting. 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 the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from these instructions.

Grazing Strategy

Your turn out date for the Antelope Allotment will be May 15 and your off date is September 15. Please follow the rotation shown in the table above and agreed upon in the spring meeting. Should conditions require early movement from a pasture or allotment, please contact your rangeland management specialist. This strategy only covers the Antelope Allotment on the Silver Lake Ranger District. A separate AOI will be issued for the Antelope Allotment on the Chemult Ranger District.

Turnout

The permittee will give the District at least five days notice to place livestock on the National Forest. If called upon to do so, the permittee will provide for having the animals counted, tagged, or marked at the time they enter the Forest. Animals will not be turned out prior to the on date indicated in the Grazing Season table of this document. Range readiness may delay turnout past the indicated on date.

Monitoring and Utilization

Utilization will be monitored by the permittee and by forest personnel. We welcome your participation in these monitoring activities. Monitoring will be completed using residual stubble height measurements along the greenline and percent utilization in the floodplain and in dry meadows. Photo-monitoring of each key area utilization cage and stream reach monitoring location may also occur.

Utilization levels are monitored in key areas as directed by the Fremont National Forest Plan. For compliance, livestock should be moved from the management unit when utilization standards have been met in any area. Utilization standards for each pasture are listed in the following table. Monitoring of use can occur in areas other than listed below, but these are the established key areas.

Pasture	Key Area	Residual Greenline Stubble Height	Dry Meadow Utilization	Floodplain Utilization
North Willow/ Halfway	**Lower North Willow Spring, Ross Spring**	**N/A**	**45%**	**45%**
Antelope Flat NE	**Antelope Flat NE**	**N/A**	**45%**	**45%**
Tobin Cabin	**TC-1, TC-3, TC-6**	**N/A**	**45%**	**45%**

Herding

Herding will be necessary to properly distribute livestock. The permittee will provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of cattle so that forage utilization

standards not exceeded. Do not allow cattle to concentrate for extended periods or portions of the pasture may become over-utilized. Keep cattle moving and away from riparian zones as often as possible.

Removal

The permittee will make the necessary effort to insure that all livestock are removed from the Forest at the end of the grazing season or when utilization standards are met within all pastures. The Forest Service recommends permittees consider arranging contingency pasture in the event that forage utilization standards are met early or water limitations necessitate early livestock removal from the Forest. Livestock grazing outside of the authorized season of use are considered excess livestock and must be paid for at unauthorized grazing rates. Ninty percent of the livsetcok will be removed by the off date, the remainig ten percent will be removed from the forest within ten days of the off date.

Maintenance Responsibilities

Maintenance responsibility is assigned through the Term Grazing Permit. It is expected that all maintenance will be completed before livestock are turned out in a pasture. Livestock may be held off the allotment if assigned maintenance is not completed. Allotment management fences and water developments must be maintained prior to your livestock entering the grazing unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained prior to the entry dates of adjoining allotments. Permittees in non-use status are still responsible for their proportionate share of maintenance.

We will continue to assess for condition, range improvements and other structures necessary for the management of this allotment. Please keep notes and notify rangeland management personnel of structures that no longer function or are ineffective in properly managing livestock so that we may assess the situation and respond appropriately to these issues. This may include identification of structures that are no longer necessary for the current management strategy or areas where new improvements may be necessary to address current management concerns.

In addition, those trails or paths necessary for livestock management can be cleared of dead and down trees at your convenience. Do not cut any standing live trees or standing ponderosa pine, alive or dead, without prior approval by your rangeland management specialist.

With the Oatman Restoration Project Decision in 2014, addition of up to four troughs to the Antelope Well Sytem was approved. Pipe and troughs are available at the Silver Lake Ranger District Office if desired. Please work with Tom O'Leary and Alan Parks to install these troughs in 2015. Easement will be necessary to cross private lands with pipe. Please work closely with range personnel and cultural resources personnel to ensure implementation is completed appropriately.

Coordination & Cooperation - You will need to make sure that the fences between your allotment and the Buck Creek, McCarty Butte, Bear Flat Allotments are up and maintained at least five days prior to turn out of these allotment.

Crossing Authorization

Any trailing of livestock that occurs from private lands within the administrative boundary of the Forest and/or across National Forest System Lands not permitted for grazing under your permits

is authorized through this AOI. Please notify your rangeland management specialist AND those permittees whose allotments you intend to cross at least seven days prior to crossing.

Salting

Salt is a valuable and flexible tool used to distribute livestock to parts of the suitable range that otherwise would be lightly used. Salt should be placed on suitable range at least 1/4 to 1/2 mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows, plantations (with trees susceptible to damage by livestock) and other areas where cattle naturally congregate. Placement should be in areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved periodically to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. As a general rule, salt grounds should be about 2 miles apart on forest rangeland. Salt should not be placed within 200 yards of Forest System (numbered) roads or within 100 feet of non-system roads. Move salt to other areas in the pasture as proper use is reached and/or after the herd is moved to a different pasture. Permanent salting grounds are to be avoided. It is understood that in some cases configuration of plant communities, water sources, and roads on the ground may require exceptions to the distance limitations described above, but should only occur with prior approval from your rangeland management specialist and/or district ranger in writing. If there is any question about the appropriate placement of salt in an area, please contact your rangeland management specialist to discuss the issue and get approval prior to placing salt.

Motorized Vehicle Use for Administration

The Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Title 36, Chapter II, Parts 212 and 261 – Travel Management, prohibited motor vehicle use outside designated areas and off of designated roads and trails. You, as a grazing permittee, are authorized for travel provisions outside the general Travel Management Rule for activities associated with the administration of your term grazing permit. You as a grazing permittee, and agents acting on your behalf, are hereby authorized to use motorized vehicles on and off routes which are needed to perform allotment management within and adjacent to your permitted allotments. Authorized activities include range improvement maintenance and placing salt, etc. Motorized vehicles are not intended or authorized for cross country use in managing livestock placement, distribution, or gathering. Should resource damage occur as a result of your motorized access, this authorization will be modified to reduce impacts.

Fire Prevention

All vehicles should be equipped with serviceable water bucket, shovel and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires. All open campfires, when allowed, must have a fire ring down to mineral soil at least 10 feet in diameter and must be handled in a safe manner. All state and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center (LIFC) at 947-6315.

Invasive Plants

The Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision includes a treatment restoration standard (#6) related to grazing. The standard states: "Use available administrative mechanisms to incorporate invasive plant prevention practices into rangeland management. Examples of administrative mechanisms include, but are not limited to, revising permits and grazing allotment management plans,

providing annual operating instructions, and adaptive management. Plan and implement practices in cooperation with the grazing permit holder."

Therefore, the agency requests that you (the permittee) be a proactive partner in the inventory and management of invasive plants on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. Also we are requesting that all equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) be cleaned and free of invasive plant parts or seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. The grazing rotation contained within these instructions has considered the known invasive plant infestations on the allotment and, to the degree practicable, has been designed to disfavor those weed species represented.

Approved By: _____
District Ranger