



File Code: 2210; 2230
Date: May 19, 2015

Stan and Trish Dowton
700 Burstedt Lane
Ellis, ID 83235

Dear Stan and Trish:

This letter serves as your 2015 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Cow Creek Allotment, and should be considered an extension of Term Grazing Permit #20041. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Hubert Miller	180 Cow/Calf	Term	06/01 – 10/10	781
Stan & Trish Dowton	115 Cow/Calf	Term	06/01 –10/10	499

Authorized Use for 2015

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Hubert Miller	170 Cow/Calf	Term	6/01-09/20	626
Stan & Trish Dowton	35 Cow/Calf 80 yearlings	Term	6/20-09/20	423

Pasture Rotation

The on-dates listed above are only a guide. Actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moving off the allotment must occur before forage utilization standards have been met, and no later than the scheduled off-date.

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Cow Creek ¹	Trailing	06/01	06/01
Allison		06/01	07/31
North Fork Cow Creek ¹	Rest/Trail	Rest/Trail	
Cow Creek		08/1	09/20

¹All trailing through units will be active and supervised by rider(s).



Utilization Standards

Unit	Indicator	Standard
North Fork Cow Creek	Greenline	> 4"
	Bank Alteration	< 20%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Allison Creek	Greenline	> 4"
	Bank Alteration	20%
	Woody Browse	30%
Cow Creek	Greenline	> 6"
	Bank Alteration	> 10%
	Woody Browse	> 30%

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. Three days prior to initial cattle turn-out, please inform the authorized officer in charge.
2. It is your responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded. You must notify the Rangeland Management Specialist of this move.
3. Riding and herding are necessary to properly distribute livestock. You must provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of cattle, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.
4. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards.* Do not rely on range personnel to monitor use.
5. Salt should be placed on accessible range at least ¼ to ½ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows, and other areas where cattle naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.
6. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider. Notification to your Range Management Specialist of the issues must be made immediately

7. Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by the Rangeland Management Specialist.
8. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the forest for the feeding of horses must be Certified Weed Free.
9. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention and inventory of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist.
10. **Any motorized travel on routes not designated in the Salmon-Challis National Forest Travel Plan must have District Ranger written authorization in advance. Please see enclosed Vehicle Use Permit.**
11. *The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the allotment.*

Range Improvements

As discussed in our meeting this spring, the range improvement necessary to manage livestock for the 2015 grazing season is the need to replace the Allison Creek water development- trough #220639.

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you, or any of your personnel, without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance *may* be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal yearly maintenance is your responsibility.

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the allotment map. Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.

Other Considerations

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

Enclosed is a Year-End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use Data for 2015 and range improvement needs for future grazing seasons. Please record the date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs must be returned to our office by December 1, 2015. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. The Forest Service will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction. These reports are also requested annually by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the forms is appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this AOI, please contact Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4100. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

/s/ Katherine L. Wood

KATHERINE L. WOOD
District Ranger

Enclosure: Year End Grazing Report, 2015 Grazing Bill for Collection, Vehicle Use Permit

Salmon-Challis National Forest

Challis-Yankee Fork & Middle Fork Ranger Districts

Please fill out this report and return one copy to the District Ranger by: **December 1, 2015**

Allotment Name: **Cow Creek**

Permittee: **Stan & Trish Downton**

Actual Number Grazed:

Cows _____ Calves _____ Bulls _____ Horses _____ Ewes _____ Lambs _____

Unit	Number	Date In	Date Out

Losses	Number	Value	Causes of Losses
Cow			
Calves			
Bulls			
Horses			

Calf Weights: On _____ Off _____

Maintenance of Range Improvements:

Permittee Costs for Material \$ _____

Permittee Man Hours Invested _____ @\$ _____ per hour

Herding: Days Spent by Permittee _____ @\$ _____ per day

 Days Spent by Rider _____ @\$ _____ per day

Salting: Amount Placed _____ \$ _____ per unit

Other Costs:
