2015 Annual Operating Instructions
Richard D & Cheryl K Baker - #4595
Lower East Fork C&H # 45700

1: INTRODUCTION:

Permitted Use:

Permit	Numbers	Season	HMs
*Your portion of the 590 total Head Months (HMs) for **Lower East Fork C&H Allotment** is a maximum of **33 HMs**, which will be allowed from 06/11-09/30.*			
*When resource conditions as specified in the ROD are met & fence is built, your portion of the 962 total Head Months (HMs) for **Lower East Fork C&H Allotment** is a maximum of **48 HMs**, which will be allowed from 06/11-09/30.*			

Authorized Use: Upon payment of fees, you are authorized to graze as follows:

Allotment	Unit	Numbers	Season*	HMs
Lower East Fork	French Creek	19 c/c	07/01 – 09/15	48

**Actual on-dates, off-dates, and grazing rotations will be determined on the basis of range readiness, utilization, or other resource considerations as deemed necessary by the authorized Forest Officer. Such changes will typically be made in consultation with the permittee(s).*

Permitted Livestock Brands:

P
LHC

2: COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2 Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements. Your compliance with these instructions is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and these instructions may result in issuance of a notice of non-compliance with the terms of your grazing permit.

Permittees with livestock in rested units, grazing units outside the season of use, and grazing areas not authorized, will be held non-compliant with the terms and conditions of their Term Grazing Permit. Such non-compliance may result in billing for excess use, permit modification / cancellation, or other actions as provided in FSH 2209.13.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require modifications 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.

All livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest is required to be certified weed free.

Routinely inspect the Sullivan Unit for drift cattle.

3: BILLING:

The 2015 cost per Head Month for cattle is $1.69 per head month/cattle. A Bill for Collection will be mailed to you. Grazing fees must be paid by the date specified on the Bill for Collection to:

USDA Forest Service c/o Citibank
PO Box 301550
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process must be received before livestock can enter NFS lands.

4: LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT:

Pasture	2015 Rotation
Big Lake	Graze Big Lake Creek entering at the lower end.

When utilization standards are met, cattle are to be removed from the allotment.

Actual on-dates, off-dates, and grazing rotations will be determined on the basis of range readiness, utilization, or other resource considerations as deemed necessary by the authorized Forest Officer. Such changes will typically be made in consultation with the permittee(s).

You will be responsible for monitoring livestock move thresholds or "triggers" during the grazing season. These "triggers" will assist you in ensuring that end of season utilization standards are not exceeded. The Sawtooth NRA range staff will conduct spot checks as necessary. Typically, "triggers" will be the standard(s) listed below in section 6, "Standards and Guidelines". **It is strongly suggested that livestock be moved before utilization standards are reached.** This will help to prevent forage utilization in excess of standards, allowing for time to clean the unit of stragglers.

The scheduled "off-date" is not the day to start moving your herd; it is the date by which you should have all permitted livestock removed from the pasture or allotment.

In the event that all permitted livestock are not removed or accounted for by the pasture/allotment "off-date", the permittee will perform additional riding to ensure all cattle are removed immediately.

Please realize that it is in your best interest to keep cattle distributed throughout useable areas in the currently authorized pasture. **Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you.** If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and around water developments, utilization standards will likely be reached prior to the scheduled pasture move or "off-date". This may result in directed early pasture moves or early removal of livestock from the allotment.

5: STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

The following restrictions apply to this allotment:

- **Boulder Creek Unit** – *Rested from grazing*
- **Above 9000 feet** – *Areas above 9,000 feet elevation are restricted from livestock grazing. Areas where physical barriers are not in place the permittee will need to routinely inspect and remove any livestock from the closed areas.*

- **Upper Silver Rule Creek** - *Upper Silver Rule Creek within the Big Lake Creek Unit, is restricted from livestock grazing. A fence is in place in Upper Big Lake Creek to prevent cattle from getting into the restricted area.*
- **Areas where physical barriers are not in place the permittee will need to actively manage to minimize livestock drift, routinely inspect and remove any livestock in the rested or closed areas.**
- **Riders are expected to be on the allotment almost daily, actively herding to minimize livestock drift, routinely inspecting know areas of concern (areas above 9,000 feet elevation) and promptly remove livestock found in rested or closed areas.**

You are responsible for tracking forage use levels and complying with utilization standards. For your convenience, the Lower East Fork C&H Allotment maximum allowable forage utilization levels under the Sawtooth FLRMP are listed below.

Riparian Areas (greenline):
Forage Utilization standards for riparian areas shall not exceed 30% use of most palatable forage species, or must retain a minimum 6 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first, *when riparian goals and objectives are not being met* (Management Area 3, Standard 03109).

- Water sedge (Carex aquatilis) and/or Nebraska sedge (Carex nebraskensis) are normally the key grasslike species measured to determine riparian (greenline) utilization. In their absence, the same utilization standards apply to the palatable forage species that are present. In areas dominated by Kentucky bluegrass no more than 40% (dry weight) or less than 3" stubble height is allowed.

Upland Vegetative Cover Types:

- **Early season grazing** (ie: through early July): **40% use** (Standard RAST01), Or retain a minimum of 3-inch stubble height for Kentucky bluegrass, a 6-inch stubble height for Bluebunch wheatgrass, and a 2-inch stubble height for Idaho fescue.
- **Late season grazing**, after seed ripe conditions: will not exceed **50% use**, (Standard RAST01).
- To meet wildlife winter range needs, maximum bluebunch wheatgrass utilization will not exceed 30% at any time during the livestock grazing season on bighorn sheep winter range in Big Lake Creek, Bluett Creek, and Corral Creek (ROD Page 2).

Alterations:
A maximum of 10% streambank alteration due to current years use. (Appendix D-2 of FEIS)

Aspen/Cottonwood:
To manage for the maximum re-establishment and recruitment of aspen and cottonwood, as well as to prevent high utilization of willows, forage utilization of woody species will not exceed maximum of 30% use of current year's growth (ROD Page 2).

- Any species of willow (salix spp.) may be used to determine riparian (greenline) utilization of woody species.

6: IMPROVEMENTS:

All improvements for which you have maintenance responsibility are listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Range improvements that will be necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2015 grazing season are **all boundary fences**, unit division fences and water developments used in the units you

are grazing, which are listed in your Term Grazing Permits. Additionally these fences have special needs:

Improvements will be maintained to Forest Service standards before livestock enter the pasture/allotment.

Extra efforts to the maintain the drift fence at the head of Sullivan Creek need to occur in 2015. Also additional riding checking for any cattle drift in Sullivan or other areas where utlization standards have been met.

When improvements have been maintained, please call the range staff at 774-3000 and report that maintenance has been completed. If verification is not received from the permittee prior to the allotment "on-date", follow-up inspections may be made. If it is found that maintenance has not been completed, and the responsible permittees livestock are present on the allotment, the permittee may be billed for unauthorized use and / or permit action taken for non-compliance.

Permittee (or authorized agent of permittee) use of ATVs and motorcycles outside designated routes shown on the Sawtooth National Forest/Sawtooth National Recreation Area Motor Vehicle Use Map is limited to that required for allotment management operations such as maintenance and repair of range improvements, and distribution or retrieval of salt during or immediately after the authorized grazing season.

If an allotment is in non-use status, the permittee is still responsible for improvement maintenance.

Improvements used in common with an adjoining permittees, such as allotment boundary fences, must be maintained to standard before either permittee allows livestock to enter the allotments.

All troughs must have a wildlife escape ramp installed in them. Failure to install these ramps may result in non-compliance for the season. Please contact SNRA range staff if you need ramps or instructions for installation.

No ground disturbing activities may be conducted by the permittee or their personnel on National Forest System lands without prior approval from the authorized Forest Officer.

Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should be coordinated with the range staff.

7: PERMITTEE OR RIDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Please notify SNRA range staff at 208-774-3000 before allowing your livestock to enter the Lower East Fork C&H Allotment.

Because of increasing public use, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is an inconvenience. However it is still the **permittees responsibility to keep their permitted livestock in the approved pasture/allotment.** Routine checks should be made by you and your rider to assure compliance.

Salt should be used to spread livestock utilization across the pasture being grazed. The permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.

Livestock salting is prohibited within riparian areas and wetlands. Do not place salt within 100 yards of any watering area or meadow unless you receive prior approval. This includes, but is not limited to, springs, seeps, water troughs, and creeks.

Salt will be removed from areas where the maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season, whichever occurs first.

By USDA order #04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

8: REQUIRED REPORTING:

Enclosed is an actual use record form for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the time (dates) livestock spend on an allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, salting, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs etc. The grazing use record should be returned to the district office within 30 days after the grazing season.

Please submit requests for credits or refunds before December 31.

9: INSPECTIONS & MONITORING:

Due to a requirement from NOAA fisheries, data must be collected for at least one annual indicator in each grazed pasture each year to maintain compliance with their consultation letter.

- Permittee assistance with photo and stubble height of aquatic big leaf sedges estimates were discussed with the permittees at the 04/08/2010 annual meeting. The permittees agreed to taking photos and write down stubble estimates as the cattle are put on a pasture, and when leaving the pasture. A map of MIM sites was provided to you in 2010. Contact Robert Garcia (774-3014) or Beth Bratlie (774-3013) if you would like help locating the MIM sites or need a new map. Please be sure to get this information to the range staff in Stanley at the end of the grazing season.
- **This also applies to the 2015 grazing season.**

Brands will be checked periodically throughout the grazing season.

Range inspections may be made several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. If you are interested in participating in allotment inspections, please notify the range staff at the beginning of the grazing season.

End-of-season compliance monitoring will be conducted by the SNRA Range Staff. Exceeding end-of-season utilization standards will be regarded as an instance of non-compliance with the terms of your grazing permit. In addition to the potential for permit action, this may further result in the modification of grazing management (including reductions in Head Months or permitted area) until the risk of adverse impacts to habitat is minimized.

10: COORDINATION & COOPERATION:

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending livestock, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to:

- Craig White, IDFG SW Idaho Regional Wildlife Program Mgr. - Nampa, Idaho (208-465-8565)
- Todd Grimm, State Director USDA APHIS Wildlife Services - Boise, Idaho (208-378-5077)
- Sam Kocherhans, Wildlife Services Technician - Ketchum, Stanley & Fairfield (208-681-8792)
- Jason Husseman, Idaho F&G Regional Wildlife Wolf Biologist – Salmon, Idaho (208-756-2271)

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

In order to reduce the potential for depredation, the Forest Service recommends that the following procedures be implemented each grazing season:

- Remove cattle and saddle stock carcasses from the area where they will not serve as an attractant to predators. The intent of this recommendation is not to require removal of carcasses from the allotment, but to remove them out of areas currently being grazed or areas soon to be grazed.

Work with IDF&G and Wildlife Services in implementing other effective preventative actions to reduce the risk of depredation.

11: OTHER:

Currently the Sawtooth NRA Area Ranger position is vacant; I am filling in temporarily as the Sawtooth NRA range and noxious weed Line Officer. If you would like to discuss anything please contact me at 208-622-5371, or Robert Garcia 774-3014, or Beth Bratlie 774-3013.

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's resources.

12: SIGNATURE:

Kurt J Nelson 6-3-2015

Kurt Nelson, Ketchum Ranger District Ranger **Date**

Permittee **Date**

13: MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:

a) Permittee actual use form (use, losses, costs, etc.)

2015 ACTUAL USE RECORD
Richard & Cheryl Baker #4595

Planned use from the AOI:

Allotment	Unit	Number	Season
Lower East Fork C&H # 45700	Big Lake Cr	19 c/c	07/01-09/15

Please fill in your actual use by the unit grazed and the number of livestock and dates grazed in each unit. Bulls count as part of your permitted numbers.

Unit	Number of Livestock	Class of Livestock	Date Entered Unit	Date Left Unit

LOSSES: Indicate number and class of animals lost by cause.

Unit	Class of Lvstk	Predators	Poison	Other

Days spent maintaining allotment improvements:_____
Approximate cost of materials: $_____
Approximate cost to manage livestock on National Forest, including riding, salting etc.:$_____

Comments:

Signature:_____Date:_____