2015 Annual Operating Instructions
Sydney or Karen Dowton #4583
Upper East Fork C&H Allotment #45000

1: INTRODUCTION:

Permitted Use:

Livestock and Period of Use*					Grazing Allotment
Number	Kind	Class	From	To	
*The numbers and season below reflect **349* head months (HMs)* *OR any combination of numbers & season of use, within the period of use listed below, which is less than or equal to 349* HMs*					
161	cattle	Cow/calf	06/10	08/14	Upper East Fork C&H Allotment #45000
When the Bowery Unit is used the below numbers & season of use can equal up to 553 HMs* *OR any combination of numbers & season of use, within the period of use listed below, which is less than or equal to 553* HMs*					
255	cattle	Cow/calf	06/10	08/14	Upper East Fork C&H Allotment #45000

*To meet management direction (ROD) and grazing standards 349 head months (HM) of livestock grazing use will be provided until such time such as riparian conditions are met in all pastures. A deferred rotation grazing system (with the possibility of rest) will be followed involving East Fork, Bowery, Grouse/Albert and West Pass pastures, so technically, each unit (including Bowery) could be used every year. The actual times each unit is scheduled for use (i.e. year and season), however, will depend on if desired conditions can be maintained over time and the permittee is able to comply with end of season allowable use standards. Additionally, authorized use numbers can be, and would be, adjusted at times (0-553 HM), as would time spent within individual pastures in order to "lighten" the overall distribution and grazing intensities in a given year. Of course, full rest would also be prescribed when determined to be necessary. Grazing strategies may vary and management of individual pastures will be determined in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

Authorized Use:

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

Allotment	Numbers	Season*	HMs
Upper East Fork	145 c/c	06/10-08/14	315

*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

3S "LRC" or "RHC"

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.

Additional riding will be required on all units to assure pasture moves are made before utilization standards are exceeded and livestock remain in the proper unit.

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

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:

2015 Rotation:

Unit	Numbers	Season*
Fisher / Narrow Canyon	100 c/c	06/10-07/31
Grouse / Albert	45 /c	06/10-07/31
Move approximately 100 pr. to East Fork Unit from units above, leaving 45 pr. on the above units until 07/31		07/01-07/31
Long Tom	145	08/01-08/14
Bowery	rested	rested
West Pass	rested	rested
Hot Springs	rested	rested

***Livestock will be moved out of each pasture before utilization standards are exceeded.**

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:

- **West Pass Creek Unit** – *Livestock shall not enter before 07/15 for steelhead emergence, and livestock must be removed before 08/15 for bull trout spawning.*
- **Main East Fork River** – *Livestock shall be removed prior to 08/01 for salmon spawning.*
- **Grouse/Albert** – *Livestock shall be removed prior to 08/01 for salmon spawning.*
- **South Fork of the East Fork & West Fork of the East Fork** – *Livestock will be restricted from grazing in the upper reaches of both drainages. The closed area begins approximately ½ mile up Trail #112 in the West Fork and Trail #113 in the South Fork.*
- **Bowery Unit –** *Livestock will be removed before 08/15 for bull trout spawning. Bowery Unit will be grazed every third year, and monitored to assure goals and objectives are being met.*

Proper Use Standards:
Your Term Grazing Permit specifies maximum allowable utilization levels applicable to your allotment. To comply with the Amended 2012 Sawtooth FLRMP, changes to some of the allowable use levels have been implemented; specifically when the riparian goals and objectives are not being met. When utilization estimates indicate that allowable use levels have been reached in the pasture currently being grazed, livestock must be moved to the next scheduled pasture, or removed entirely from the allotment regardless of any time remaining in the grazing season schedule.

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

- Riparian Areas: To implement FLRMP Management Area 3 standard 03109 for riparian areas that are not meeting Goals and Objectives identified in the Upper and Lower East Fork EIS and ROD and areas functioning at risk in the 2004 Proper Functioning Condition Assessment[1], proper use criteria must be set to improve the condition. The following table set proper use criteria by unit, drainage and reach.

Unit	Drainage	Creek	Reach	Utilization Standard
East Fork	East Fork	East Fork Of Salmon	1, Trib 1, Trib 2, 3&4	30% (6")
		Lower South Fork	All	45% or 4"
		Lower West Fork	All	45% or 4"
		Ibex	All	45% or 4"

[1]Proper Functioning Condition Assessment for the Sawtooth NRA Upper and Lower East Fork Salmon River C&H Allotments conducted by Steve Leonard and John Anderson, July 6-10, 2004

Unit	Drainage	Creek	Reach	Utilization Standard
Grouse/Albert	East Fork	East Fork	Bowery GS downstream to boundary	30% (6")
		All Trib.	All	45% or 4"
West Pass	West Pass Creek	West Pass Creek	Reach 6, Headwaters to first confluence	30% (6")
		All Trib.	All	45% or 4"
Bowery	Bowery Creek	Bowery Creek	3&4	30% (6")
		Rest of Bowery and All Trib.	All	45% or 4"

- Upland vegetative cover types: In a pasture that is used for early season grazing (June- early July), use will not exceed 40 percent. In a pasture that is used late season, slow growth vegetation and after seed ripe, use will not exceed 50 percent (FLRMP Standard RAST01).

- Woody species: Use of aspen, cottonwood, and willows will not exceed maximum of 30% of current year's growth. This applies to all stands in all pastures of the allotment.

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

6: IMPROVEMENTS:

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

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

This year you agreed to rebuild the S/SW portion of the Bowery Admin Pasture Fence (#45205 on your Term Grazing Permit) prior to livestock entering the East Fork Unit. Other Forest Service portions of that fence will be rebuilt by the retired smokejumpers 06/27-07/03 and 07/05-07/11. Please coordinate your fence building during that same timeframe, so you will have access through the admin pasture locked gate.

When improvements have been maintained, please call the Stanley Ranger Station 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.

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

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.
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.

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.

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.

7: PERMITTEE OR RIDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Continued active riding should keep cattle from heading up the West Fork of the East Fork and the South Fork of the East Fork.

Please notify SNRA range staff at 208-774-3000 before allowing your livestock to enter the Upper 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 a grazing 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:

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, (See Section #3). 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:

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
Sydney or Karen Dowton #4583

Planned use from the AOI:

Unit	Numbers	Season
Fisher / Narrow Canyon	100 c/c	06/10-07/31
Grouse / Albert	45 /c	06/10-07/31
Move approximately 100 pr. to East Fork Unit from units above, leaving 45 pr. on the above units until 07/31		07/01-07/31
Long Tom	145	08/01-08/14
West Pass / Hot Springs / Bowery	rested	rested

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	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:_____