**Allotment: Elba C&H**

The following letter will document your meeting with Sid J. Lopez on March 10, 2015, and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 summer grazing season on the Elba C&H allotment. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

The grazing system on this allotment is deferred rotation. The scheduled dates of use are flexible but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the below dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

| PERMITTEE(S) | Permitted Numbers | Permitted Season of Use | Authorized Numbers | Authorized Season of Use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paula Nelson | 65 c/c | 6/1-9/30 | 65 c/c | 6/1-9/30 |
| Kenneth Black | 72 c/c | 6/1-9/30 | 72 c/c | 6/1-9/30 |
| Brent Jones | 81 c/c | 6/1-9/30 | 81 c/c | 6/1-9/30 |
| | | | | |
| R.O. Jones & Sons | 128 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 128 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Paul Ward | 80 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 80 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Larry Kincade | 120 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 120 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Denton Whitaker | 182 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 139 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Wrigley Ranches | 48 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 48 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Wallace Sears Jr. | 37 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 37 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Richard Ward | 65 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 65 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Todd Carpenter | 53 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 53 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Doug Ward | 208 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 208 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Brent Jones | 164 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 164 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Ruel Barker c/o Tom Ottley | 82 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 82 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Paula Nelson | 89 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 89 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| Robert Davis | 118 c/c | 6/16-9/30 | 118 c/c | 6/16-9/30 |
| | | | | |
| **TOTAL LIVESTOCK** | **1592 c/c** | | **1592 c/c** | |

## 2015 ROTATION SCHEDULE

The planned use for this year will be from North to South. The following is the schedule for distribution at the time of entry and moving through the season.

| PASTURE | No. of LIVESTOCK | DATE ON | DATE OFF | TOTAL DAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Horse Heaven- West Side**<br>(K. Black 72 c/c- B. Jones- 81 c/c,<br>G Nelson- 65 c/c) | 218 c/c | 6/1 | 7/15 | 45 |
| **Horse Heaven- Cottonwood Creek** (remaining permittees) | 1374 c/c | 6/16 | 7/15 | 30 |
| **Clyde Flat *Note** | **1592 c/c** | **7/16** | **7/20** | **TRAIL** |
| **New Canyon** | 100 c/c | 7/21 | 7/29 | 10 |
| **Flat Canyon-Hereford Pasture** | 100 c/c | 7/30 | 8/14 | 16 |
| **Stinson Creek** | 1492 c/c | 7/21 | 8/20 | 31 |
| | 100 c/c | 8/15 | 8/20 | 6 |
| **Poison Hollow** | 1592 c/c | 8/21 | 9/20 | 31 |
| **Clyde Flat *Note** | 1592 c/c | 9/21 | 9/30 | 10 |

***Note** - Clyde Flat will be used to trail the cattle out of the Horse Heaven unit into the other units. This time should be limited to no more than about 5 days. The majority of the use for this unit will be at the end of the season when the livestock are separated before returning home.

The Independence Lakes area is closed to grazing. No cattle should graze this area at any time during the year. If cattle move into this area, they need to be removed as soon as possible. Plan on taking a trip into the lakes as soon as the weather allows, to look at the maintenance of the fence near the lakes. The Scout fence will be brought up to standard by Minidoka FS personnel.

It is critical that you intensively manage cattle this year to encourage even distribution of use. Riparian areas will need extra monitoring and when utilization is met, livestock will need to be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment.

**COMPLIANCE:**
This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). The scheduled dates of use are flexible, but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the below dates. Other 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, the District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments and salting areas.
We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on the forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

**BILLING:**
Grazing fees will be $1.69 per head per month for 2015.

**DUE DATE:**
Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder, the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees.

**STANDARDS AND GUIDES:**
You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to the next unit in your rotation or off the allotment, when allowable use has been reached. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. If you need assistance determining use levels or locating key areas, please contact Peter. All riparian areas on the allotments are considered key areas.

**RIPARIAN SITES:** Maximum 45% use of grasses, rushes and sedges or a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

**UPLAND SITES:** Early season or season long pastures 40% use of key species. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures 50% use of key species mountain brome, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, squirreltail.

**IMPROVEMENTS:**
Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained before cattle enter the allotments. The maintenance standards listed in part three of your term permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements. As you're doing water trough maintenance, please install wildlife ramps in all troughs that currently don't have them.

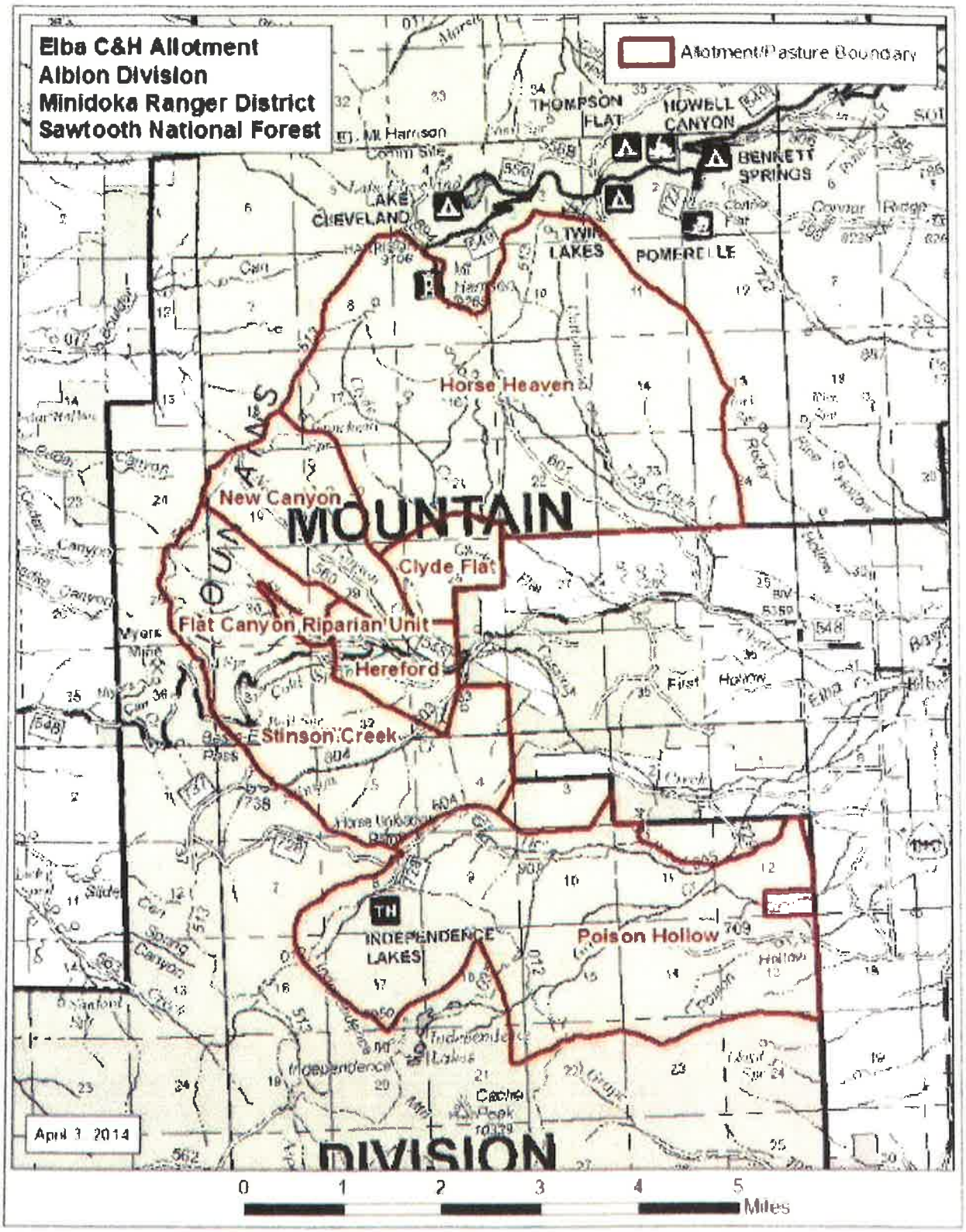
**PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:**
Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads and trails. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. In situations where terrain does not allow proper placement of salt, please contact Peter, and he will determine a suitable location with your input.

**REQUIRED REPORTING:**
Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Please return the forms following the 2015 grazing season by November 30, 2015.

**MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:**
Allotment map has been attached to your AOI. The scheduled dates of use are flexible, but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made to the below dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience non-use is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the non-use request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience non-use may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years, in any ten year period.

If you have any questions or concerns about this grazing season, please call Peter Gula at (208) 677-8290.


Elba C&H Allotment
Albion Division
Minidoka Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest
Allotment/Pasture Boundary
THOMPSON FLAT
HOWELL CANYON
BENNETT SPRINGS
LAKE CLEVELAND
TWIN LAKES
POMERELLE
Horse Heaven
New Canyon
MOUNTAIN
Clyde Flat
Flat Canyon Riparian Unit
Hereford
Stinson Creek
INDEPENDENCE LAKES
Poison Hollow
DIVISION
April 1 2014
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles