**Allotment: Grape Creek 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 Grape Creek 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 | 2015 Authorized Numbers | 2015 Authorized Season of Use |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Robert Davis** | 51 c/c | 6/16 - 9/15 | 51 c/c | 6/16 - 9/15 |
| **Kenneth Black** | 30 c/c | 6/16 - 9/15 | 30 c/c | 6/16 - 9/15 |
| | | | | |
| **TOTAL LIVESTOCK** | 81 c/c | | 81 c/c | |

**2015 ROTATION SCHEDULE**

| PASTURE | # OF LIVESTOCK | DATE ON | DATE OFF | TOTAL DAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Creek Riparian | 81 | 6/16 | 6/22 | 7 |
| Lower | 81 | 6/23 | 8/6 | 45 |
| Upper | 81 | 8/7 | 9/15 | 40 |

The Creek Riparian Pasture will only be used for 7 days and then all livestock will be removed to the next Unit in the rotation. This riparian pasture will be used first 2015-2017. In 2018-19 it will be used second in the rotation and then back to first in rotation for three years. It is the FS responsibility to take down the wire panel exclosures following the grazing season and put back up prior to turnout on the Creek Riparian Pasture.

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.

Improvements requested for 2015 include replacing (2) water troughs on the Lloyd Springs pipeline as well as the permittee installing a FS supplied cattleguard on FS Rd 708 at the west end of the riparian pasture. Due to increased motor vehicle traffic the wire gate across the road is not being kept closed and cattle are moving between the Units.

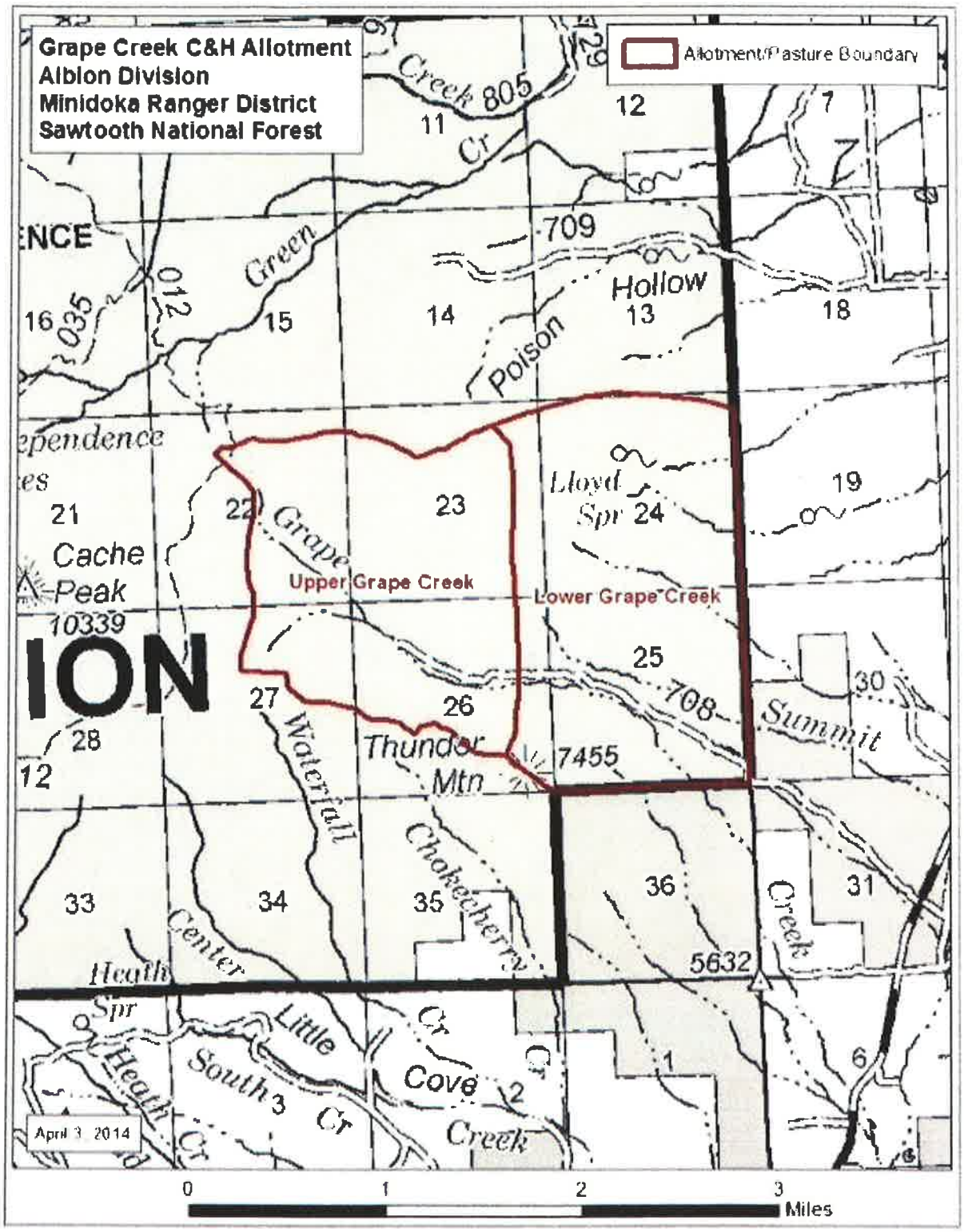
**PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:**
Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads and trails. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. In situations where terrain does not allow proper placement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


Grape Creek C&H Allotment
Albion Division
Minidoka Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest
Allotment/Pasture Boundary
Upper Grape Creek
Lower Grape Creek
Cache Peak
10339
Thunder Mtn
7455
Poison Hollow
Lloyd Spr
Summit
Waterfall
Chokecherry
Center
Heath Spr
Little Cove
South Cr
Creek
Green Cr
Grape
Creek 805
709
708
5632
April 3, 2014
0
1
2
3
Miles