

Allotment: Rock Creek C&H

The following letter will document your meeting with Sid J. Lopez on April 17, 2015, and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 summer grazing season on the Rock 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	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
✓NJ Brown	23 c/c		22 c/c, 1 bull	
✓Wallace Brown	178 c/c		153 c/c, 3 bulls	
Mason Bros. LLC	332 c/c		300 c/c, 18 bulls	
✓Broken Diamond Ranch	89 c/c		89 c/c	
✓Mathers Ranch	189 c/c		186 c/c, 3 bulls	
✓Brett Meyer	100 c/c		96 c/c, 4 bulls	
✓Kinsey Family Ltd.	420 c/c		327 c/c, 88 c, 5 bulls	
Tugaw Ranches LLC	250 c/c		Non use	
✓Williams Properties LLC	100 c/c		98 c/c, 2 bulls	
✓W. J. & T. A. Williams	300 c/c		294 c/c, 6 bulls	
✓W.T.Williams	1082 c/c		871 c/c, 150 c, 21bulls	
		5/31 – 10/15		5/31 – 10/15

Livestock Management: The following rotation system is intended as an interim to alleviate drought related issues on the allotment. This system is considered temporary and should be refined as necessary. Livestock will be averaged off by removing 50%+ from the allotment five days prior to the off date and the remaining numbers removed no later than five days following the off date. To assist with the Scotch thistle problem in Fifth Fork and McMullen drainages spring entry will be avoided into these lower drainages during turnout for 2015. Turnout will be via Cherry Springs on the east side.

**Fifth Fork Herd (Brown & Meyer Contacts)
Kinsey-420, Mason-318, Brown-137, Helman-89, Williams-80, Meyer-100**

Unit	# OF LIVESTOCK	DATE ON	DATE OFF
Fifth Fork Unit	1,144	5/31	7/7
Enter this Unit with 1144 pairs for approximately 38 days. Apx. 350 pair should be placed east of the Indian Spring's road. The remaining cattle should be kept on the lower portion of the Unit for at least 14 days (5/31-6/13). The fence around the Boundary pond needs to be checked and the north gate opened into the Fifth Fork Unit only. A four inch stubble height will be the allowable use level for this unit. Cattle will remain in this unit through the 7 th , removed earlier if allowable use is reached or insufficient livestock water. All livestock will then be moved into the Black Hills Unit. Note: As cattle accumulate on the southern boundary fence not more than 100 head will be allowed into the northern most portion of the Black Hills Unit. Once cattle are allowed into the Black Hills Unit all Fifth Fork Unit cattle will be moved in the Black Hills Unit within 5 days.			
Black Hills Unit	1,144	7/8	8/20
Cattle from the Fifth Fork Unit will enter the Black Hills Unit for approximately 44 days. Cattle will remain in the Unit until the 20 th or removed earlier if allowable use levels are reached. The Indian Springs let down fence will be put up. 300 pair will be placed on the west side of the Black Hills Unit for not more than 14 days (7/8-7/21). These livestock will then be gathered and distributed as needed onto the east side of the Black Hills Unit. The hotwire fence in upper Shoshone Creek will be put up prior to entry and maintained each day cattle are in this unit. Livestock found within the enclosure will be removed daily.			
Shoshone Unit	1,144	8/21	10/15
Livestock will be put through all of the BH/Shoshone division gates and let cattle drift to the south. If drift doesn't occur within 10 days (8/31) cattle will be distributed along the west side towards the south end of the Unit for approximately 52 days (10/15) or earlier if allowable use is met. This Unit will be well salted along the west side from north to south prior to livestock entering.			

**North Hopper Herd (Williams & Mathers Contacts)
Williams-862, Mathers-189,**

Unit	No. of Livestock	DATE ON	DATE OFF
North Hopper	1,051	5/31	7/13
Enter this Unit first with 1,051 pairs for approximately 44 days. A 4" stubble height will be the allowable use level for this Unit. When allowable use is reached or 7/11 all North Hopper cattle will be moved into South Hopper Unit.			
South Hopper	1,051	7/14	8/22
This is the second unit to be grazed for approximately 40 days or when allowable use is reached cattle will then be moved into the Shoshone Unit. Note: All calves, culls and bulls will be shipped at the Shoshone corrals prior to entering the McMullen and Shoshone Units. Apx. 50% (445 head) of the livestock will go north into the McMullen Unit followed by apx 50% (447 head) going south into the Shoshone Unit.			
McMullen Creek	525	8/23	10/15
Livestock will enter this Unit on 8/23 with 525 cows following weaning and remain for approximately 53 days until the off date (10/15) or until allowable use is met.			
Shoshone Unit	526	8/23	10/15
This Unit will be well salted along the south end and east side prior to livestock entering. Livestock will be distributed into this Unit with 526 cows on 8/23 following weaning and will remain for approximately 53 days until the off date (10/15) or until allowable use is met.			

**Langford Herd (J. Williams Contact)
Williams-500, Brown-64**

Unit	# OF LIVESTOCK	DATE ON	DATE OFF
Cottonwood Unit	564	6/2	7/25
Enter this Unit with 424 pair from Hub Butte as well as 140 additional pair for approximately 54 days. The south end of the Cottonwood Unit will be well salted prior to livestock entering the Unit. Enter this Unit with 564 pair for approximately 54 days. All livestock will be pushed into the south end, Sheep Spring area, the day after entering the Unit. Cattle will remain in this Unit through the 25th or removed earlier if allowable use is reached. At that time all livestock will be moved into the Langford Pasture.			
Langford Pasture	564	7/26	8/31
564 pair will enter this pasture after seed ripe on Idaho Fescue for approximately 36 days. Cattle will remain in the Unit until the 31st or removed earlier if allowable use is reached. At that time move the cows along the main road to the north and through the gate and into the Shoshone Unit. Note: Yearlings, calves, culls and bulls will be shipped at the Langford Corrals prior to entering the Shoshone Unit.			
Shoshone Unit	564	9/1	10/15
This Unit will be salted well along the south and west end prior to livestock entering. Livestock will be distributed into this Unit with 564 head for approximately 45 days. Cattle will remain until allowable use is met or the allotment off date of 10/15.			

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.

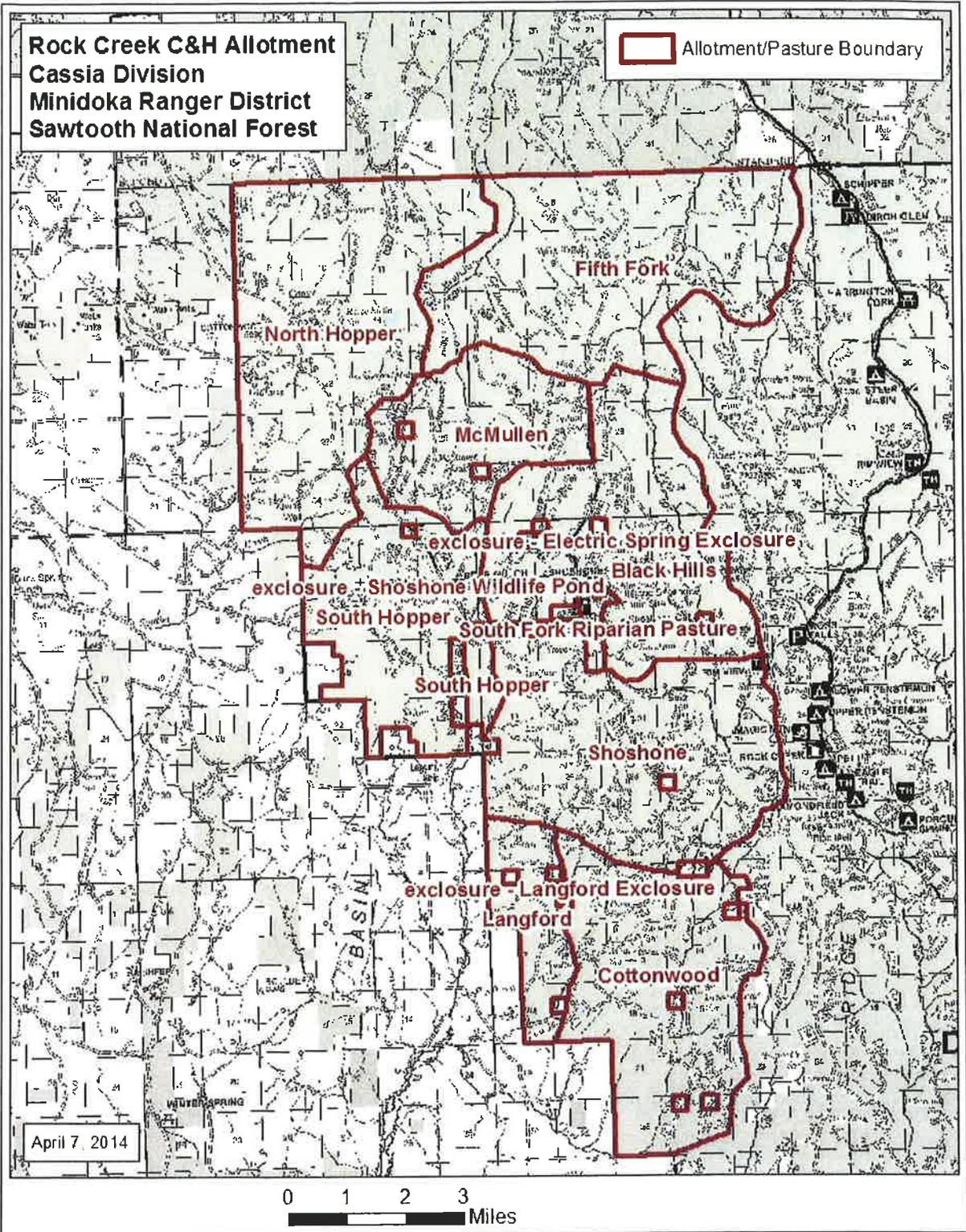
MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:

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.

**Rock Creek C&H Allotment
Cassia Division
Minidoka Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest**

 Allotment/Pasture Boundary



April 7, 2014

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Miles