DIXIE and MAYSE FLAT C&H ALLOTMENT
2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Boise National Forest
Mountain Home Ranger District

INTRODUCTION

The following information is direction on how livestock management is to be conducted on the Dixie and Mayse Flat Cattle & Horse (C&H) Allotments for the 2015 grazing season. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are part of your Term grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a), and you are responsible for compliance with this direction.

Situations may develop during the grazing season that could require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Monte Miller at 373-4243 or Holly Hampton at 587-7867, and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from your AOI. Failure to obtain prior approval could result in permit action.

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Dixie and Mayse Flat Allotments:

Permittee	Allotment	Permitted Number/Class	Permitted Season of Use
Percy Trust	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/01 – 10/20
	pvt land permit	14 cow/calf	06/01 – 10/20
Ireland Ranches	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/16 – 10/20
	pvt land permit	58 cow/calf	06/16 – 10/20
	Mayse Flat - on	3 cow/calf	05/15 – 10/31
	off numbers	97 cow/calf	05/15 – 10/31

For the 2015 grazing season, you are authorized to graze the Mayse Flat Allotment as follows:

Permittee	Allotment	Authorized Number/Class	Authorized Season of Use
Percy Trust	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/16 - 07/25
	pvt land permit	14 cow/calf	06/01 – 10/20
Ireland Ranches	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/16 - 07/25
	pvt land permit	58 cow/calf	06/16 – 10/20
	Mayse Flat - on	3 cow/calf	05/15 – 10/31
	off numbers	97 cow/calf	05/15 – 10/31

Some flexibility will be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. The period of use is also subject to compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and Implementation Monitoring requirements as discussed below. Please review carefully the standards and guides listed.

BILLING INFORMATION

The grazing fee for the 2015 grazing season is $1.69 per head month for cattle. You will be billed based on the authorized use listed above. Confirmation of payment through the National Finance Center is required and must be received before livestock can enter National Forest System lands. In order to meet this requirement, please ensure that bills for collection are paid by the due date indicated.

If permitted livestock are required to leave an allotment early because utilization standards have been reached, drought conditions persist or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a credit/refund may be requested. **This request must be submitted in writing to the District Ranger by December 1, 2015.**

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Livestock may not enter the Mayse Flat allotment no sooner than May 15 (Ireland Ranches) as identified in the grazing permit.

Due to the Pony and Elk Complex Fires in 2013 Forest Service Lands in the Dixie Allotment will be rested for a minimum of two growing seasons.

The Dixie C&H Allotment had a majority of its landscape burned at low to moderate severity in the Cow Creek Unit, River Unit and Dixie Unit. The Wilson Unit, which falls within the Elk Complex perimeter had a majority of its landscape burned at moderate to high severity. Approximately 87% of the allotment is in the burn area. Severity was mainly low along the South Fork Boise River. Sagebrush and bitterbrush veg types were greatly impacted by the burn.

The Dixie Allotment will likely need to be rested for a minimum of two growing seasons. Length of closure will depend on the seeding/seedling establishment, and the natural re-vegetative recovery rate of the burned area.

Table. 3 Dixie C&H Allotment –Fire Effects for Pony & Elk Complex Fires	
Number of Permitted Cattle	Percy: 128 cow/calf (FS); 14 cow/calf (pvt.) Ireland Ranch: 128 cow/calf (FS); 58 cow/calf (pvt.)
Season of use	Percy: 06/01 to 10/20 Ireland Ranch: 06/16 to 10/20
Approximate % of Allotment Burned	87% (16,169 of 18,603 acres)
• Approx. 89% of allotment is NFS lands	

The Cow Creek Unit and Sproule Flat will be used during the 2015 grazing season. Cattle will enter Cow Creek no earlier than June 16th. Cattle will also use the private portion of the Dixie Unit. Cattle will be removed from the Cow Creek Unit and moved to private land in mid to late July or when utilization standards are met. There will be some drift from cattle in the Dixie Unit on the south side of the South Fork Boise River where cattle will drift down from Cow Creek.

The Mayse Flat C&H Allotment had a majority of its landscape burned at low to moderate severity. Approximately 98% of the allotment is in the burn area.

The Mayse Flat Allotment can be used in the 2015 grazing season. Forest Service lands met ground cover objectives.

Table. 5 Mayse Flat C&H Allotment –Fire Effects	
Number of Permitted Cattle	3 cow/calf on; 97 cow/calf off
Season of use	05/15 to 10/31
Approximate % of Allotment Burned	98% (536 of 545 acres)
• Approx. 25% of allotment is NFS lands	

It has been noted in the past year that salt blocks have been left on several allotments after livestock have been removed. Salt blocks or tubs should be moved from unit to unit with livestock and all salt needs to be removed from the allotment at the end of the grazing season. This standard is part of the terms and conditions in your Term Grazing Permit.

You must notify the Forest Service no less than five (5) days prior to livestock being placed on the allotments so that authorized livestock numbers can be verified by district range staff if the Forest Service elects to do so.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management, including reductions in Head Months or permitted area.

The following standards and guidelines apply to the Dixie Allotment:

- Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown below at the end of the growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions or late season pastures – 50 percent use. (RAST01, p. III-45)

- Livestock salting is prohibited in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs). Place salt no closer than ¼ mile from water and not within 100 feet of roads. Move salt from areas where utilization standards have been met. (RAST04, p. III-45)
- All livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. (RAST09, p. III-45)
- Bulls must test negative for Trichomoniasis before entering National Forest System lands.
- Only certified weed-free hay and mulch are allowed on National Forest System lands.

IMPROVEMENTS

The following improvements need to have maintenance completed prior to turn-out if grazed; or prior to the end of the grazing season if not grazed this year.

Item #	Improvement Name	Improvement #	Improvement Type (3-wire fence, water trough, etc.)	Allotment Name	Improvement Location (also see maps)
1	Smith Creek Boundary	1075	3-wire Fence	Smith Prairie	T3N R8E Sec 29 NESE
2	Anderson Dam Drift	1045	3-wire Fence	Dixie	T1S R8E Sec 11 SWSE
3	Hot Wire Fence	NA	2-wire Fence	Dixie	Along Dixie Cutoff Road
4	Wilson Flat Pond #2	WS0107511382	Trough	Dixie	T1N R8E Sec 35 SESW
5	Wilson Flat Pond #3	WS0107511384	Trough	Dixie	T1N R8E Sec 36 SWSE

Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on each allotment. Failure to do so is a violation of your term grazing permit and is subject to permit action. In the event improvements cannot be practically maintained to standard, you should notify this office so we can identify them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Non-functioning range improvements need to be brought to standard, or arrangements made with district range personnel to have them removed. Abandonment of improvements is not acceptable – if developments are not functioning and are no longer needed, they must be removed. If they are in a location that does not allow for removal, these non-functioning improvements still need to allow for bird and small mammal escape. Metal troughs need to have holes cut in them large enough to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them or be tipped over so that they do not hold water. Tires also need to have holes cut in them, or be popped loose from their cement bottom and propped up slightly on edge, to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them.

If none of these options are feasible, a wildlife escape ramp needs to be installed and maintained in the trough.

Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in tire troughs. These ramps are being supplied by the Forest Service. These ladders should be installed in all tire troughs on the Dixie Allotment. This direction also includes troughs that hold water in the spring but dry up later in the grazing season. Failure to comply could result in adverse action to your permit. Please contact Monte or Holly as soon as possible if you need to pick up escape ramps.

Cattleguards are no longer considered part of your annual maintenance. It is still your responsibility to inspect cattleguards annually and inform the Forest Service of known problems or maintenance needs on them within your allotment boundaries. This includes, but is not limited to, wing or grate repair or replacement, brush removal, and cleaning.

RIDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

Off dates for these allotments are considered approximate and will depend on utilization levels. To prevent over-utilization, a concerted effort should be made to distribute cattle over the entire allotment and to effectively graze all suitable areas in that unit. Permitted numbers are based on the premise that active management will occur to effect adequate livestock distribution. Cattle need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and water developments without being distributed to unused areas of the allotment, the grazing capacity of the allotment is diminished to those areas only.

Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since permittees will be held accountable for any failures to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Enclosed is a Year-end Grazing Report for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2015 grazing season for the Mayse Flat Allotment. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto the allotments, the number and date cattle are removed from each unit, and estimate the time and cost of management actions, including livestock herding and improvement maintenance, associated with each allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvements. **This report should be returned to the Forest Service's Mountain Home Ranger District office no later than December 1, 2015.**

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

Range personnel may require you to delay your entry date on the Mayse Flat Allotment based on range readiness inspections that they have completed. You will be notified as soon as possible if your turn-on date is delayed.

Range personnel may conduct utilization monitoring and improvement inspections periodically on your allotments.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The Regional Wildlife Wolf Biologist for the Fish and Game is Jennifer Struthers. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her. She can be reached at 208-465-8465 ext. 350.

If you suspect a wolf depredation has occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) should be contacted as soon as possible. The local Wildlife Services contact for this area is Jered Hedelius. He can be reached at (208) 681-8756. In the event that you cannot reach Jered, Todd Grimm should be contacted at the Boise District Office at 208-373-1630.

OTHER

When livestock carcasses are located near campgrounds, roads, trails or water reasonable and appropriate action must be taken to remove any carcasses. The permittee will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate for each site specific instance. Although the Forest Service recognizes that disposal of carcasses is not always feasible in many situations there are a number of reasonable options available for the disposal of single or multiple carcasses. In most cases, carcasses should be moved at least 100 yards from campgrounds, roads, trails or water. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Mountain Home Ranger District. Public motorized, wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated on the current year's Motorized Vehicle Use Map. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. However, specific routes will need to be identified each year. See description of routes needed for administrative use below. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes is **not** included in this authorization. Use of heavy equipment will need to be requested through and approved by the District Ranger on a case-by-case basis.

Routes Approved for Administrative Use:

Dixie Allotment:

1). Access to the Cow Creek-Cayuse Creek drift fence located at T1S R7E Section 11 NENE via existing road/ATV trail.
2). Access to the Cow Creek boundary fence located at T1S R7E Section 12 SESE via existing road/ATV trail.
3). Access to the Wilson Creek drift fence located at T1N R9E Section 31 SWNW via existing road/ATV trail.
4). Access to the Rec Village drift fence located at T1S R8E Section 15 NWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
5). Access to the Sproule-Wilson fence located at T1S R8E Section 10 NESW via existing road/ATV trail.
6). Access to the Cow Creek drift fence located at T1S R8E Section 6 NWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
7). Access to the Anderson Dam drift fence located at T1S R8E Section 11 SWSE via existing road/ATV trail.
8). Dixie Canal Road on FS road 164C.
9). Reed Place Road-existing road/ATV trail.
10). Timmons Field Road-existing road/ATV trail.
11). Powerline Road-existing road/ATV trail.
12). Long Tom Ranch Road on FS road 143.

Mayse Flat Allotment:
1). Danskin Bridge road FS 113C

Stephaney M. Church	4/20/15
District Ranger	**Date**