HIGH VALLEY
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT
2015 Annual Operating Instructions
Emmett Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the High Valley Cattle and Horse allotment during the 2015 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
High Valley C&H	Charles & Connie MacKenzie	01214

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
MacKenzie	High Valley	80	Cow/Calf	6/1 – 9/30
MacKenzie	High Valley	5	Pack/Saddle	6/1 – 9/30

Authorized Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
MacKenzie	High Valley	80	Cow/Calf	6/1 – 9/30
MacKenzie	High Valley	5	Pack/Saddle	6/1 – 9/30

Non-Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Resource Protection	Personal Convenience
MacKenzie	High Valley			

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock — Up to 5 head at High Valley Administrative Site (Behind bone yard)

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Charles and Connie MacKenzie

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season that requires changes 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.

All hay, straw and mulch products used on the Boise National Forest must be certified as weed-free or weed/seed-free by a qualified inspector of the State of Idaho or neighboring states which have weed-free feed or crop certification programs (Region Special Order Number: 04-00-097).

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The High Valley C&H Allotment will be managed to achieve the Desired Future Condition as described in the revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest. All permitted actions including grazing will comply with standards shown in the revised Forest Plan.

Utilization Standards from the revised Forest Plan are as follows:

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the grazing 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.

1. Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use of hydric greenline species.

2. Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

The 2014 schedule required Little Squaw Creek Pasture to be used first, followed by the Beaver Pond Pasture, followed by the Beal Pond Pasture.

2015 GRAZING SCHEDULE

The High Valley C&H allotment is under a deferred grazing management system.
The grazing rotation schedule on the allotment for the 2015 grazing season will be as follows:

Year	Little Squaw Creek Pasture	Beaver Pond Pasture	Beal Pond Pasture
2015	First	Second	Last

When the utilization limits are approached in the pasture being used cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture to be grazed. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, cattle will be removed from the allotment early.

BILLING

Grazing fees for cattle are $1.69 per head month.

There are now three ways that you can pay your bill, (1) through the Lock Box system by sending a check to the address on the bill; (2) by paying online at the web address on the bill; or (3) paying at the District Office. Please allow adequate time for your payment to be received, processed and for the Ranger District Office to receive payment notification. A minimum of 5 days should be allowed for this process. Livestock may not be placed on the allotment until after the District Ranger has received notification that the grazing fees have been paid. Placing or allowing livestock onto National Forest System lands prior to payment of grazing fees is violation of your term grazing permit and may result in the assessment of unauthorized use fees and the suspension or cancellation of your permit.

If permitted livestock are required to leave the allotment early due to utilization standards being met or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a refund may be requested. A written request for refund must be submitted to the District Ranger if this situation occurs.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

The High Valley C&H allotment will be managed as described in this AOI and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest (Forest Plan).

Compliance with the following standards will be emphasized; this is imperative. Familiarize yourself with this AOI and Forest Management direction. If you need more information about allotment management, contact the Emmett Ranger District.

The Emmett Ranger District, Range Specialist or Technician must be notified at least 5 days in advance and given the date, time, and place where livestock will enter the allotment to allow for counting livestock on the allotment.

Do not wait until maximum utilization levels are met before moving cattle to the next pasture in the grazing schedule. This will result in over-utilization of the pasture therefore, it is important to recognize when you are approaching maximum utilization levels and move all cattle before they are met. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, cattle will be removed from the allotment early.

Closed Areas – The High Valley Guard Station administrative site, with the exception of the pasture behind the bone yard, is administratively closed to cattle grazing. The pasture behind the bone yard is to be used to hold horses only.

Livestock management will need to emphasize moving cattle in a timely manner, removing all of the cattle from the used pasture, and keeping cattle out from that point throughout the season. Another area needing attention is keeping permitted cattle on the permitted allotment, and un-permitted cattle off of the allotment.

Range Readiness: Spring moisture and temperature conditions may affect the time when livestock are allowed to turn out on the allotments. The Forest Service will notify you at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled turnout date if this occurs.

Utilization: It is the responsibility of the permittee to periodically monitor and document utilization during the grazing season. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, livestock will be removed from the allotment early. In addition, it is expected that trailing off the allotment will begin early enough to satisfy the forest off date in September. The Forest Service will conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met.

Streambank utilization will be measured along the "greenline" in riparian areas. The standard of measurement for riparian areas will be maximum use 45 percent, 4 inches stubble height remaining after livestock are removed from riparian areas. To prevent exceeding these standards, it is important to begin moving livestock slightly before this limit is reached. In the flats or meadows adjoining these riparian areas and/or upland areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan Standard of 40 percent utilization for early season and 50 percent for late season pasture use. If cattle do come back to the previous pasture they are to be removed immediately. If they repeatedly return to the previously used pasture, they are to be removed from the allotment.

Upland grazing use should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 50 percent end-of-season use on upland areas. A safe, easy way to visualize this is to "graze half, and leave half" of the grasses. The Forest Service will periodically check the permittee's utilization monitoring to ensure good land stewardship and perform documentation. At times, the permittees and the Forest Service will jointly inspect range conditions. It is your responsibility to remove livestock from the allotment area as soon as the utilization standard (50%) has been met. In an attempt to meet Forest Plan standards for grazing upland and riparian areas in the Little Squaw Creek Pasture, the Range Specialist, Range Technician, and/or permittee will inspect grazing conditions every week from the time cattle enter the pasture. Cattle will be removed from the pasture ***before*** utilization levels have been met. Inspections from the 2011 grazing season indicated heavy use (80%) in this pasture.

Noxious Weeds: Work on noxious weed control will continue this year. These weeds are a continual, and in some places, an increasing problem. Your help is needed. If you find any populations of Scotch Thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, Knapweed, or other noxious weeds, please fill out the enclosed noxious weed inventory card and return to the district office. These sites will be added to the district treatment schedule and will be monitored and treated annually under the Forest's invasive species program.

Salt Placement: The placement of salt should be used as a management tool in helping to minimize use in riparian areas, tree plantations, distribute the livestock, and to help prevent livestock deaths from larkspur poisoning. Salt must not be placed in or adjacent to tree plantations or areas of natural livestock concentration. Do not place salt next to roads, trails, or water. Please use the same general locations but move tubs and salt out of sight to minimize visual impacts and the resulting potential complaints.

Predator Problems: If during the grazing season, you are having problems with predators notify, Wildlife Services. Through a memorandum of Understanding between Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Forest Service, Wildlife Services is responsible for the control of predators. They will provide control services, technical expertise, recommendation of control methods, and reporting livestock as well as predator losses to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Forest Service. You are allowed to protect your livestock from the immediate threat of predators. All other predator control must be conducted through the proper channels, as described above.

Wolves

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 Greg Jones. He can be reached at 541-212-6260. In the event that you cannot reach Greg, Todd Grimm at the Boise District Office should be contacted at 208-373-1630.

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The wolf biologist for Idaho Fish and Game is Jennifer Struthers. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her and she can be reached at (208-465-8465 x350).

Motorized Use

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Emmett 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. These Annual Operating Instructions authorize you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. You will be issued a card that must be present while facilitating this authorization. However, specific routes for administrative use must be identified each year. 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.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements are to be maintained prior to livestock entering any pasture or unit. Range Improvements include all fences, water developments, corrals, and facilities as listed on your permit, and that portion of the fence at Ferncroft plantation at the south end of the Beaver Pond Pasture from the cattleguard east over the ridgeline to the end. All fences listed on your permit are to be maintained.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

1. In cooperation with the State of Idaho, all feed, hay or straw brought to the allotment must be certified weed-free.
2. Report any known invasive plants in your grazing areas.
3. Report areas you have accidentally over-used so the Forest Service is aware of a critical situation before an unhappy public makes us aware of it. This will keep the Forest Service up to date and provide the opportunity to resolve the problem as necessary. In addition, it will reflect more positively on you as a good land manager.
4. It is recommended the permittees use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site they inspect during the grazing season.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Enclosed are year-end grazing reports for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2015 grazing season for the High Valley C&H allotment. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto the allotment, the number and date of each pasture move, and the number and date cattle are removed from the allotment, Also required is an estimate of the time and cost of management actions including livestock herding and improvement maintenance associated with the 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 Emmett Ranger District no later than December 1, 2015.

These Annual Operating Instructions for the High Valley C&H allotment are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter this plan during the grazing season, notify Richard Newton at 208-365-7000 or Monte Miller at 208-373-4243.

Signatures:

Richard S. Newton

District Ranger

5/7/2015

Date

I understand that this Annual Operating Plan is part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions stipulated in my term grazing permit.