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**File Code:** 2230; 2210  
**Date:** August 26, 2015

Preston Cutler  
23611 Hwy 75  
Challis, ID 83226

Dear Preston,

This letter serves to modify your 2015 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the remainder of the season on the Garden Creek C&H Allotment. It is based on your conversations with Brianna Goehring from mid-July 2015 through present and the Biological Opinion/Biological Assessment. This AOI modification is made part of your Term Grazing Permit # 20070 consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Further correspondence about the 2015 grazing season will be forthcoming after the conclusion of this grazing season.

Situations may develop which require changes to these instructions. If you think changes are necessary, **contact Brianna Goehring, the Rangeland Management Specialist assigned to your allotment.** Dates listed in the Pasture Rotation may vary in order to meet utilization and streambank alteration standards; by all means, move your livestock to the next pasture to meet these standards regardless of the date. **Other than to meet use standards, obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.** Changes can be made based on resource objectives, provided the changes are first approved and documented by an authorized officer.

**You received a Notice of Non-Compliance dated December 10, 2013. The following actions and time frames for accomplishment in 2015 are required of you to remedy the non-compliance:**

- Prior to turning out cattle in 2015, all fence maintenance specified in Part 3 of your permit must be completed to assure that the fences are functional, and that repairs prevent physical deterioration due to normal use over time. Maintenance must be completed prior to livestock being placed in each pasture, or against a fence in the adjacent allotment. When you have completed your maintenance responsibilities for each pasture, please contact the Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger Districts so an inspection may be arranged.
- Keep your livestock only where authorized.
- It is critical to meet all grazing standards and follow this modified AOI for the remainder of the 2015 grazing season.



**Permitted Use**

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Cutler	260 cow/calf	Term	07/04 – 10/10	846
James Trust	113 cow/calf	Term	06/27 – 09/15	301

**Authorized Use for 2015**

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Cutler	260 cow/calf	Term	07/4 – 10/10	846
James Trust	0 cow/calf	Term	Non-use	Non-use

**Modified Pasture Rotation for the remainder of 2015**

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Big Hill	260	08/16	09/07
Daugherty Gulch	260	09/08	9/26
Keystone	260	9/27	10/10

There will be no more grazing this year in the Buster/Spruce, Willow Patch, West Creek and Keefer Units as they have already been grazed. No trailing through Mill Creek is authorized because August 15<sup>th</sup> has passed. Actual on- and off-dates listed above are dependent on resource conditions and use standards. If cattle have strayed into units and as a result, standards have already been met, you cannot graze those units. No livestock are allowed on the allotment after October 10<sup>th</sup>, even if use standards have not yet been met. If use standards in the last unit are met prior to October 10<sup>th</sup>, livestock must be removed from the allotment early.

I acknowledge that it takes time to move cattle between units, so you should begin to move cattle prior to exceeding the use standards or the off-date identified above – whichever comes first. Moving cattle involves active ridings active; it is not just opening the gate(s). Back-riding for cleanup of each unit needs to be prompt. Moving off of each unit must occur before forage utilization and streambank alteration standards have been met; prompt collection of strays helps ensure that standards are met.

Despite flexible move-dates between units, the following bull trout conservation measures are rigid. (While some dates for these conservation measures have already passed, all measures are included below.)

**Bull Trout Conservation Measures (Biological Opinion/Biological Assessment Requirements)**

1. *Mill Creek*. Only trailing may occur in the Mill Creek Unit until August 15<sup>th</sup>. This unit will not be actively grazed, and no trailing will occur after August 15<sup>th</sup>.

2. **Keefer.** Livestock may not be in the Keefer Unit after August 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Buster/Spruce and Keystone Units.** Per direction from the Biological Opinion/Biological Assessment, cattle may not cross anywhere along Garden Creek nor about ¾ mile upstream up either the north fork (toward Buster Lake) or south fork (up Spruce Gulch) of Garden Creek after September 22<sup>nd</sup>. You are authorized to have cattle in the Keystone Unit past this date **only** with the provision that cattle are kept away from Garden Creek.
4. Do not exceed allowable use standards in the table below.

**Utilization and Streambank Alteration Standards**

Unit	End of Season Indicators			
	Median Greenline Stubble Height	Bank Alteration	Woody Browse	Upland Utilization
<b>Buster/Spruce</b>	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 <sup>1</sup> or 50 <sup>2</sup>	<50%
<b>Big Hill</b>	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 <sup>1</sup> or 50 <sup>2</sup>	< 50%
<b>Daugherty Gulch</b>	None	None	None	< 50%
<b>Keefer</b>	>4 inches	<20%	None <sup>3</sup>	<50%
<b>Keystone</b>	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 <sup>1</sup> or 50 <sup>2</sup>	<50%
<b>Mill Creek</b>	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 <sup>1</sup> or 50 <sup>2</sup>	<50%
<b>West Creek</b>	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 <sup>1</sup> or 50 <sup>2</sup>	<50%
<b>Willow Patch</b>	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 <sup>1</sup> or 50 <sup>2</sup>	<50%

1. Single stemmed species such as aspen
2. Multi stemmed species such as willow

**Permittee’s Management Responsibilities**

1. It is your responsibility to insure livestock are moved before forage utilization levels or streambank alteration are exceeded. You must notify your Rangeland Management Specialist of this move.
2. Riding and herding are necessary to properly distribute livestock. You must provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of cattle, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.
3. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards.* Do not rely on range personnel to monitor use.
4. Salt should be placed on accessible range at least ¼ to ½ mile from permanently located

watering places, riparian zones, meadows, and other areas where cattle naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.

5. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider. Notification to your Range Management Specialist of these issues should be made promptly (by end of next day).
6. Move any carcass or animal remains at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by the Rangeland Management Specialist.
7. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the Forest must be Certified Weed Free.
8. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention and inventory of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist.
9. Any motorized travel on routes not designated in the Salmon-Challis National Forest Travel Plan must have District Ranger-signed authorization in advance on a Vehicle Use Permit. Contact Brianna Goehring to initiate such an authorization.

### **Range Improvements**

Thank you for your efforts to continue maintenance and/or reconstruction to structural improvements on your allotment. *Per our meeting this spring, reconstruction and/or maintenance on the following developments are a priority in 2015:*

1. A specific segment (near Squaw Creek itself) of the log worm fence which serves as the boundary between the Garden Creek and Squaw Creek Allotments is planned for reconstruction in 2015. This work needs to be completed prior to turnout in the Upper Squaw Creek Unit (Squaw Creek Allotment) and the Willow Patch Unit (Garden Creek Allotment). All permittees agreed to collectively work together to repair and replace the Garden Creek worm boundary fence. Each permittee has agreed to provide two individuals, for a minimum of three days, to assist with repairs and replacement prior to the Squaw Creek Allotment turnout on July 8, 2015. Please contact the Range Management Specialist at least one week prior to commencing work.
2. Challis Creek Allotment and Garden Creek Allotment boundary fence #220259 and the

**Pine Summit let-down fence #220257.: this fence needs to be fully functional prior to turnout of the Challis Creek permittee on June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you, the Permittee, or any of your personnel without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal yearly maintenance is your responsibility.

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the Allotment map. Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.

**Other Considerations**

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

Enclosed is a Year-End Grazing Report to record Actual Use data for 2015 and range improvement needs for future grazing seasons. Please record the date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off the allotment. Accurate records of these dates and maintenance work completed must be returned to our office by December 1. These reports are also requested annually by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the forms is appreciated.

Please note on the second page of the Year-End Grazing Report our request for your priority reconstruction needs. The Forest Service will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction.

If you have any questions regarding these Annual Operating Instructions, please contact Brianna Goehring, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4130.

Sincerely,

*/S/ KATHERINE WOOD*

KATHERINE WOOD  
District Ranger

cc: Christopher W. James Trust, c/o Joe Heaps

Enclosures: Year-End Grazing Report, Vehicle Use Permit.