

**PORTER CREEK AND CRUMLEY GULCH
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENTS**

2009 Annual Operating Instruction
Idaho City Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Porter Creek and Crumley Gulch Cattle and Horse allotments during the 2009 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Porter Creek C&H	Donald Rumsey, Double Diamond Ranch	00197A
Crumley Gulch C&H Porter Creek C&H	Jay Branch, Branch Ranch	01078

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Donald Rumsey	Porter Creek	25	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 8/31
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	50	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	53	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15

Authorized Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
Donald Rumsey	Porter Creek	25	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 8/31
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	50	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	53	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15

Non-Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Resource Protection	Personal Convenience
Donald Rumsey	Porter Creek	25		
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	50		
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	53		

Permitted Livestock Brands:
Donald Rumsey

Jay Branch

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 North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or the Idaho City 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).

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

Previous Year's Utilization and Distribution.

Porter Creek. An allotment inspection was made on October 21, 2008. The Range Technician did not observe cattle in the allotment. Trailing and droppings looked to be 2 to 3 weeks old. Grazing use was light to moderate and browse use was slight to light at the areas monitored next to the utilization cages on Conner Creek Ridge. Grazing use did not exceed Forest Plan end-of-season grazing use standards. The cages were in poor condition due to previous heavy snowpack years.

Crumley Gulch. An allotment inspection was made on October 21, 2008. The Range Technician did not observe cattle from the east boundary through Apple Tree Gulch riparian, and uplands on over to Crumley Gulch upland benches. Grazing use was light to moderate around springs in small drainages in Crumley and Apple Tree Gulches. The Crumley upland bench area he was monitoring was mountain sagebrush/lupine dominated. It appears that lupine has increased over the years and this could be a natural community occurrence in this area. Need to look at historical trend photos and trend data. Stubble height use was light to moderate. Browse use was slight to light especially on quaking aspen seedlings. He observed older very light to moderate signs of cattle use. Most likely, the cattle are not staying very long in this area due to lack of forage. He did observe slight to light use in a higher elevation site (swell) that drains into Crumley Gulch, and did observe older light signs of cattle trailing and droppings here. Grazing use did not exceed Forest Plan end-of-season grazing use standards.

Management Effectiveness. Selectively placing the salt to keep the cattle on the lower private lands until the forage on the allotments has past seed ripe stage has been effective. Allotments are above the private land and higher in elevation. Because of this, the cattle tend to stay lower on private land until summer temperatures drive them uphill seeking cooler temperatures.

Problems Needing Resolution. Conner Creek utilization/trend comparative cages need to be repaired or replaced if to be used for future vegetation utilization/trend protocol. The Forest Service is responsible for this.

Crumley Gulch. Range Technician did observe that sheep had previously trailed through along FS Road 374K within the Crumley Gulch allotment. They took light use in some areas off from road. Need to talk with sheep permittee who has a permit in the sheep allotment pasture adjacent to Crumley Gulch and see if his herder is trailing sheep through here as a grazing/trailing route or if he got off into the wrong allotment.

Porter Creek/Crumley Gulch. There were old signs of cattle use in the Boise Basin sheep allotment at the head of North Deadman Gulch close to the boundary of Porter/Crumley and near the 374/374K road junction. I did not see a problem due to the sign being a few head and due to old droppings on the 374 road. I did see sheep use through this area in the wetter meadow sites at the head of Deadman Gulch. I suspect this is the sheep band that trailed down along 374K road within the Crumley Gulch allotment.

Monitoring Results

Porter Creek. October 21, 2008, upland benches browse use, ocular (15-20 percent), upland benches stubble height 4-6 inches (key forage plant method (40 percent use))

Crumley Gulch. October 21, 2008, upland benches browse use, ocular (20-30 percent), upland benches stubble height 3-5 inches (key forage plant method (45 percent use))

Resource Use Conflicts, etc.

Crumley Gulch. Seedling trees in the Deadman crop tree plantation have reached the fourth year growth stage. The let-down plantation fence will not be erected and will eventually be removed by the Forest Service when there is available funding and labor.

2009 GRAZING SCHEDULE

Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek C&H Allotments are under a deferred grazing management system. The deferment is achieved by holding the cattle off the allotments until after seed ripe. This is done by not allowing the cattle onto the allotment until July of each year and by selectively placing salt to keep the cattle on the lower private lands until the forage on the allotments has past the seed ripe stage. The Porter Creek Allotment is above the private land and higher in elevation. Because of this, the cattle tend to stay lower on private land until summer temperatures drive them uphill seeking cooler temperatures. Double Diamond's cattle are trailed onto Porter Creek from the adjacent Jerusalem C&H Allotment On July 1 of each year.

BILLING

Grazing fees for cattle are \$1.35 per head month.

We are required to use the Lock Box system. Send your grazing fees to the address specified on your grazing bill. We cannot accept payments at the District or Forest Supervisor's Office. 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.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek Cattle Allotments 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 North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or the Idaho City District Ranger.

The Idaho City District Ranger, 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 allotments.

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 allotments will begin early enough to satisfy the off-forest dates in October. 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 riparian areas and/or uplands areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan standard of 40 percent utilization for early season and 50 percent for late season pasture use.

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 "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 permittee 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 percent) has been met.

Noxious Weeds. Work on noxious weed eradication 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, Canada thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, knapweed, or other noxious weeds, please let us know so arrangements can be made to start work on their eradication. It has been noted that both cattle and elk seem to selectively graze spring growth on Rush skeleton weed, which is and has been helpful. We will be treating the Boise Ridge road for noxious weeds in July this year.

Salt Placement. Place salt on ridge tops at least 300 feet away from water and main ridge roads. To help prevent trampling of salt grounds, place salt blocks in slightly different locations each year. Whenever possible place the blocks on rocks, low stumps, or manufactured salt containers. This will help prevent the salt from dissolving into the ground and being dug out by wildlife after the cattle have been removed.

Predator Problems. If during the grazing season, you are having problems with predators notify, Animal Damage Control (ADC). Through a Memorandum of Understanding between

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Forest Service, ADC 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 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

Permittees should continue working with their local IDFG and U.S. Wildlife Services representative if depredation issues come up. Any questions you may have concerning what can or cannot be done under current wolf management direction should be directed to **Steve Nadeau** at the IDFG Headquarters Office in Boise, Idaho. He is the State level contact for the IDFG and may be reached at 208-334-3700.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

There are no plans for the construction of any new range improvements on the two allotments. However, if the need arises for spring developments or other improvements please let us know. Maintenance of the Porter Creek let down fence between the Jerusalem and the Porter Creek allotments is assigned to Jay Branch. This fence must be put up and maintained before livestock enter the Porter Creek allotment and prior to livestock entering the adjoining pasture on the Jerusalem allotment, whichever is earlier.

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 that the permittee use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site that they inspect during the grazing season.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Enclosed are yearend grazing reports for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2009 grazing season for the Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek allotments. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto each allotment, the number and date cattle are removed from each allotment, 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 Idaho City Ranger District no later than December 1, 2009.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The Porter Creek and Crumley Gulch allotments 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 this 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 on 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.

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek Allotments are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter this plan during the grazing season, notify the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist at 208-365-7012 or the Idaho City District Ranger at 208-392-6681.

Signatures:

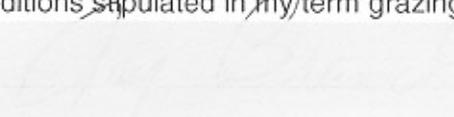


Barbara Levesque
District Ranger

7/7/09
Date

Permittee signature:

I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are 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.



6/17/09
Date

Date