

**Annual Operating Instructions
2016
Thousand Lake Allotment
Fremont River RD, Fishlake NF**

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 which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

Permittee	Ear Tag Color & #'s	Permitted*			Authorized**		
		Number	Class	Season	Number	Class	Season
James Pace	Blue 1-39	39	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15	39	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15
	40-190	Cattle run with Solomon allotment					
Phillip Pace	191-298	108	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15	108	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15
Richard Pace	299-328	30	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15	30	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15
Tyler Blackburn	329-406	78	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15	78	Cow/calf	6/1 – 10/15
*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit.							
**Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.							

Tag numbers 40-190 will be run with the Solomon Allotment on a temporary basis to determine if the USFS will combine the West Pasture to the Solomon Allotment on a permanent basis. This action will combine the Solomon and Thousand Lake permits that are issued to Clyde Magnuson to one allotment (Solomon) this action will aid the Clyde Magnuson’s operation by allowing all of his cattle to be combined into one herd. Magnuson will be able to spend more time herding/checking his cattle in the one allotment verses needing to ride and check two separate allotments. The Solomon allotment likes to wean the calves in September when the livestock are in the Forsyth or East Tidwell pastures. This adjustment will allow the Magnuson’s the opportunity to wean the Thousand Lake allotment calves at the same time. This is a trial basis and all range Improvements as prior assigned will need to be maintained as written on your current ten year permits. After a four year trial basis ending in the fall of 2016, the allotments will be evaluated and a determination will be made as to how the Solomon and Thousand Lake allotments will be managed. Allotment compliance and utilization standards will be monitored during these four years to determine if the allotment adjustments aid the operators in managing the livestock herds. Data to be collected on the Thousand Lake allotment will be forage utilization and browse utilization data accompanied with utilization photographs.

Non-use

Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the “on” date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

Non-use requested: None requested.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

In 2013 the Thousand Lake allotment management will be changed by moving the West pasture to the Solomon Allotment and reducing the livestock numbers on the Thousand Lake allotment from 406 head to 255 head of cow-calf pairs. The Thousand Lake allotment will be run as a three pasture deferred rotational grazing system see the following table:

Grazing Schedule

Unit (Pasture)	Tentative Dates*	Days/Unit	Number of Livestock
Polk Creek	6/1 – 7/1	31	255 cattle
Polk Creek	7/2 – 8/1	31	130 cattle
Flat Top	7/1 – 9/1	62	125 cattle
Sulpher Creek	7/21 – 9/1	43	130 cattle
Sulpher Creek	9/2 – 10/15	44	255 cattle

The Flat Top pasture only has water available for 125 head of cattle. The Permittees would move 125 cow/calf pair to the Flat Top Unit on July 1 and graze until August 1st and then move these cattle to the Polk Creek Unit and bring the remaining 130 cow/calf pairs from the Sulpher Creek Unit to the Flat Top Unit to graze from August 2 to September 1st, all cattle would be moved to the Polk Creek Unit prior to September 1st.

*The above schedule is an **estimate** and may be modified at any time if: utilization levels are met, water availability is inadequate, drought, delayed forage development.

Allowable use levels are more important than tentative dates listed above. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another area of the pasture, moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest. If early pasture moves occur, District range personnel or the District Ranger must be notified. Delayed pasture moves must be coordinated with District range personnel or the District Ranger prior to the scheduled move date.

Type of rotation: Deferred rotation

All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the permitted off date listed above.

Previous year’s grazing results: Utilization Standards were exceeded in the Wiff’s pasture by an average of 3 percent on the Thousand Lake allotment in 2015. The gate on the Wiff’s trail coming off the Flat Top will be replaced with a metal swing gate and additional riding will be needed to ensure that Utilization Standards are met in 2016.

Notice of Non-compliance/Suspension Actions: none

Additional instructions: none

UTILIZATION STANDARDS & MONITORING

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria

Vegetation Type	Stubble Height/Use	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species	4”	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment.

Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6"	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment.
Non-hydric sod forming grass species in riparian areas	1.5"	Primarily Kentucky bluegrass-Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment.
Wheatgrass seedings	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings.
Riparian/upland browse: Sprouts and young-aged plants	≤40%	# of current year's available twigs removed.
Riparian/upland mature browse	≤50%	# of current year's available twigs removed.
Upland grass/forb	40-60% of key species; varies by grazing system and desired condition	% of current year's growth.
Riparian ground cover	Maintain ground cover of at least 70% within riparian areas.	

The above utilization standards take precedence over the tentative dates listed in the grazing schedule. You are responsible to monitor your livestock and comply with the listed utilization standards and to move livestock prior to **any** of the above standards being exceeded.

Compliance monitoring inspections will be conducted by Forest Service personnel throughout the grazing season in key areas across the allotment. You are invited and it is recommended that you participate in these inspections.

Exceeding the utilization standards may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit.

Additional instructions: none

BILLING

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the National Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

You are responsible for maintaining the range improvements assigned to you in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. **All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering a pasture,** even in the event of non-use. Standards are found in your Term Grazing Permit or at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/resources/rangemgt.shtml> . Livestock entry onto the Forest may be delayed if improvements are not maintained to acceptable standards.

Scheduled reconstruction for upcoming season: Continue work on the Polk Creek coral reconstruction. Replace the gate on the Wiff's Trail. Work on funding for the Sulpher Creek pipeline to extend from the saddle below Wiff's pasture to the existing troughs in Sulpher Creek Basin.

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide.

Any improvement, which is no longer functional or no longer needed, will be removed from the allotment by the permittee. The removal of any improvement must have prior approval by the District Ranger.

Failure to maintain your assigned range improvements may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of your permit.

Additional instructions: none

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

You or the association will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

You are required to submit actual use information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the district office within two weeks of removal of livestock from the Forest.

Salt and other dietary supplements are a distribution tool, and as such, should not be placed within ¼ mile of riparian areas, water troughs and ponds; within 200 ft. of designated roads, trails, trail heads or camping spots which have frequent use. Avoid salting in or near tree plantations or regenerating aspen stands. Exceptions to these standards must have prior approval.

Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards.

The Fishlake National Forest Travel Plan must be followed while managing livestock unless approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger.

Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.

All livestock feed or straw brought onto the Forest must be certified weed free per Regional Forester's Order #04-00-058, dated March 26, 1996 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/resources/rangemgt.shtml>).

Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.

All garbage resulting from activities associated with this permit shall be removed from National Forest lands and disposed of properly.

Additional instructions: none