Annual Operating Instructions
2016
Niotche Creek Allotment
Richfield 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.

		Permitted*			Authorized**		
Permittee	**Ear Tag Color & #'s**	**Number**	**Class**	**Season**	**Number**	**Class**	**Season**
Gurney, Alan K.	Personal	500	Cow/calf	6/25-10/10	all	Cow/calf	same
Gurney, Alan K	"	234	Yearlings	6/25-10/10	all	Yearlings	same

*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.

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.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Grazing Schedule

Unit (Pasture)	Tentative Dates*	Days/Unit	Number of Livestock
Lower Range	50% Utilization		all
Upper Range	60 % Utilization		all

*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 or wet soil conditions.

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 rest rotation

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

Previous year's grazing results: Good to excellent.

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. Once we have received notification of your payment clearing the lock box, we will issue you a letter authorizing you to turn your livestock onto the allotment. Do not place your livestock on the allotment without this letter.

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 the allotment, 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: None

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide except for personal use of insect repellant.

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).

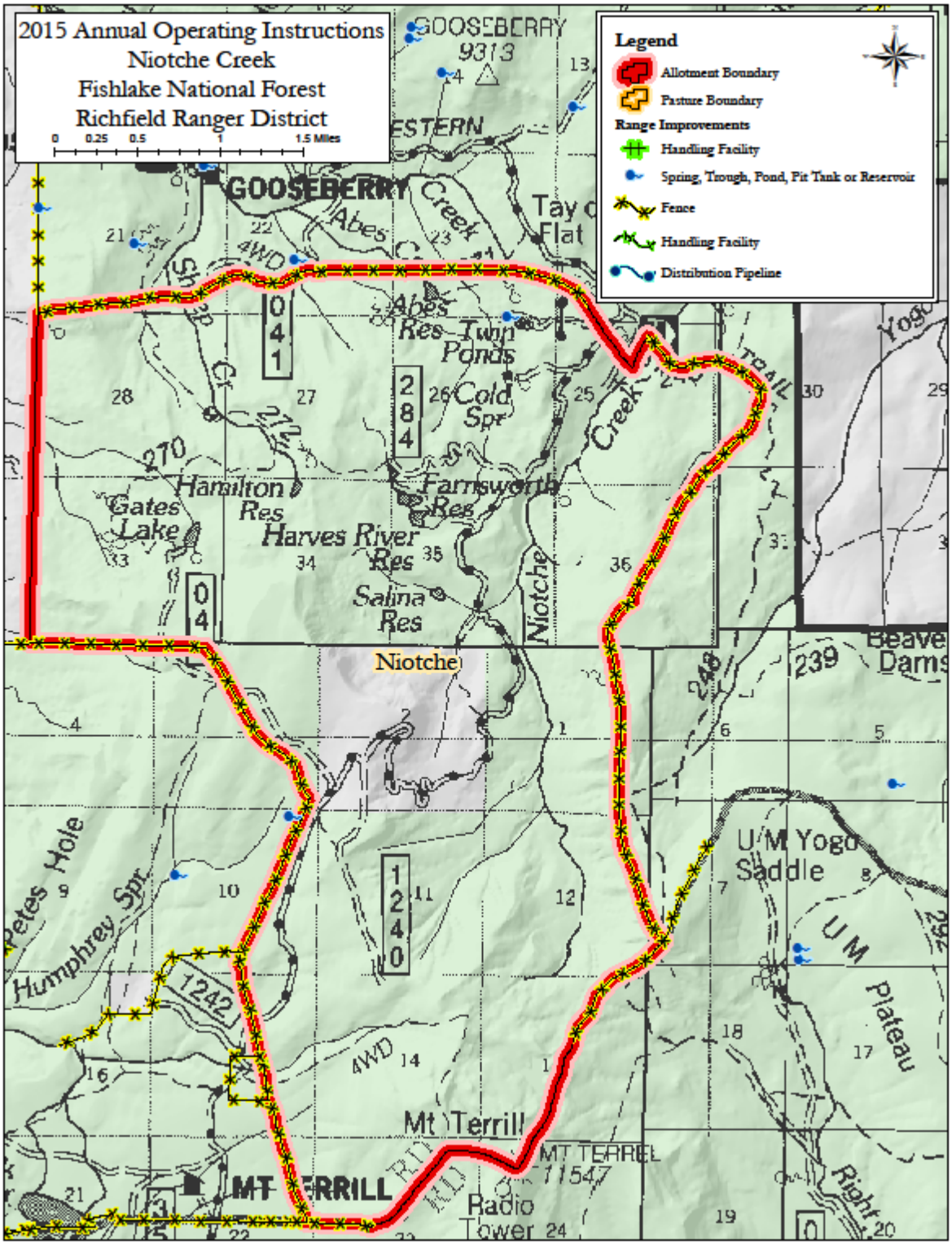
Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.

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

Additional instructions: None

If you have any questions please call Bob Tuttle at 435-979-7839.

JASON KLING
District Ranger


2015 Annual Operating Instructions
Niotche Creek
Fishlake National Forest
Richfield Ranger District
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles
Legend
Allotment Boundary
Pasture Boundary
Range Improvements
Handling Facility
Spring, Trough, Pond, Pit Tank or Reservoir
Fence
Handling Facility
Distribution Pipeline
GOOSEBERRY
9313
GOOSEBERRY
Abes Creek
Tay Flat
Abes Res
Twin Ponds
Cold Spr
Hamilton Res
Farnsworth Res
Gates Lake
Harves River Res
Salina Res
Niotche
Niotche Creek
Beaver Dams
U M Yogo Saddle
U M Plateau
Humphrey Spr
Mt Terrill
MT TERRILL
MT TERREL
11547
Radio Tower
Right
041
284
04
1240
1242