

**DIXIE and MAYSE FLAT C&H ALLOTMENT
2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

Boise National Forest
Mountain Home Ranger District

INTRODUCTION

The following information is direction on how livestock management is to be conducted on the Dixie and Mayse Flat Cattle & Horse (C&H) Allotments for the 2010 grazing season. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are part of your Term grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a), and you are responsible for compliance with this direction.

Situations may develop during the grazing season that could require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Tina Ruffing or Cindy Lancaster, district range staff, and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from your AOI. Failure to obtain prior approval could result in permit action.

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Dixie and Mayse Flat Allotments:

Permittee	Allotment	Permitted Number/Class	Permitted Season of Use
Steve Percy	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/01 – 10/20
	pvt land permit	14 cow/calf	06/01 – 10/20
Ireland Ranches	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/16 – 10/20
	pvt land permit	58 cow/calf	06/16 – 10/20
	Mayse Flat - on	3 cow/calf	05/15 – 10/31
	off numbers	97 cow/calf	05/15 – 10/31

For the 2010 grazing season, you are authorized to graze the Dixie and Mayse Flat Allotments as follows:

Permittee	Allotment	Authorized Number/Class	Authorized Season of Use
Steve Percy	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/01 – 10/20
	pvt land permit	14 cow/calf	06/01 – 10/20
Ireland Ranches	Dixie	128 cow/calf	06/16 – 10/20
	pvt land permit	58 cow/calf	06/16 – 10/20
	Mayse Flat - on	3 cow/calf	05/01 – 10/31
	off numbers	89 cow/calf	05/01 – 10/31

Some flexibility will be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. The period of use is also subject to compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and Implementation Monitoring requirements as discussed below. Please review carefully the standards and guides listed.

BILLING INFORMATION

The grazing fee for the 2010 grazing season is \$1.35 per head month for cattle. You will be billed based on the authorized use listed above. Confirmation of payment through the National Finance Center is required and must be received before livestock can enter National Forest System lands. In order to meet this requirement, please ensure that bills for collection are paid by the due date indicated.

If permitted livestock are required to leave an allotment early because utilization standards have been reached, drought conditions persist or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a credit/refund may be requested. **This request must be submitted in writing to the District Ranger by December 1, 2010.**

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Livestock may enter the Dixie allotment in the Cow Creek Unit no sooner than June 1 (Percy) and June 16 (Ireland Ranches), where they will remain until mid-July or until utilization standards are met, whichever occurs first. At that time, livestock will be moved to the Dixie Unit where they will remain until utilization standards are met. Cattle will enter the Wilson Flat Unit last this season. They will access the unit by trailing up National Forest System (NFS) Road 113 to Wilson Creek.

Livestock are authorized to graze Sproule Flat at the same time that the Cow Creek Unit is grazed. As cattle accumulate on the enclosure in Cow Creek, they should be gathered and moved to Sproule Flat. Regular herding and riding needs to be done to prevent livestock drift from Sproule Flat into the river corridor. Cattle that drift into the corridor should be placed back on Sproule Flat early in the season or moved to the Dixie Unit if more feasible.

The river corridor along the north side of the South Fork Boise River is not a grazing unit. Cattle are authorized in the river corridor for only two weeks prior to the off-date and are limited to approximately 50 head. Once approximately 50 head accumulate, they are to be gathered and taken off the allotment. If cattle drift into the river corridor any other time during the grazing season, they are to be removed within 3 days. Someone will contact you by phone if the Forest Service becomes aware of the presence of livestock in this area. I appreciate the diligence you have demonstrated in past seasons to comply with the grazing restrictions in this sensitive and popular recreation corridor.

Livestock may enter the Mayse Flat allotment no sooner than May 15 and will be removed prior to utilization standards being met.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to

meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management, including reductions in Head Months or permitted area.

The following standards and guidelines apply to the Dixie Allotment:

- Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown below at the end of the growing 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.
 - Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
 - Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions or late season pastures – 50 percent use. (RAST01, p. III-45)
- Livestock salting is prohibited in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs). Place salt no closer than ¼ mile from water and not within 100 feet of roads. Move salt from areas where utilization standards have been met. (RAST04, p. III-45)
- All livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. (RAST09, p. III-45)
- Bulls must test negative for Trichomoniasis before entering National Forest System lands.
- Only certified weed-free hay and mulch are allowed on National Forest System lands.

IMPROVEMENTS

Your Term Grazing Permit contains a complete list of range improvements associated with the Dixie Allotment. Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on each allotment. Failure to do so is a violation of your term grazing permit and is subject to permit action. Non-functioning range improvements need to be brought to standard, or arrangements made with district range personnel to have them removed. Abandonment of improvements is not acceptable – if developments are not functioning and are no longer needed, they must be removed. In the event improvements cannot be practically maintained to standard, you should notify this office so we can identify them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Cattleguards are no longer considered part of your annual maintenance. It is still your responsibility to inspect cattleguards annually and inform the Forest Service of known problems or maintenance needs on them within your allotment boundaries. This includes, but is not limited to, wing or grate repair or replacement, brush removal, and cleaning.

The cattleguard at the bottom of Cow Creek (#1611) will be replaced some time this summer with a 24 foot cattleguard. The road will also be paved between the cattleguard and the bridge.

RIDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

When livestock are in the Wilson Flat Unit, the spring areas near the top of House Mountain, which are closed to grazing, need to be checked on a regular basis to ensure that unauthorized cattle use does not occur.

Off dates for these allotments are considered approximate and will depend on utilization levels. To prevent over-utilization, a concerted effort should be made to distribute cattle over the entire allotment and to effectively graze all suitable areas in that unit. Permitted numbers are based on the premise that active management will occur to effect adequate livestock distribution. Cattle need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and water developments without being distributed to unused areas of the allotment, the grazing capacity of the allotment is diminished to those areas only.

Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since permittees will be held accountable for any failures to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Enclosed is a Year-end Grazing Report for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2010 grazing season for the Dixie Allotment. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto the allotment, the number and date cattle are removed from each unit, 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 Forest Service's Mountain Home Ranger District office no later than December 1, 2010.**

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

Range personnel may require you to delay your entry date on the Dixie Allotment based on range readiness inspections that they have completed. You will be notified as soon as possible if your turn-on date is delayed.

Range personnel may conduct utilization monitoring and improvement inspections periodically on your allotments.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

The Idaho Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in our area. Hilary Cooley is the Regional Biologist in charge of wolf management and can be reached at Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Headquarters Office in Boise, Idaho at (208) 334-3700. Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho can be reached at (208) 378-5077. Permittees should also continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. The Fish and Wildlife Services contact for

this area is Jered Hedelius and he can be reached at (208) 681-8756 or (208) 934-4354 (Central District Office). Please contact Jered if you encounter predator problems on your allotment this summer.

OTHER

Any carcass or animal remains will be moved at least 100 yards from live water, trails or roads. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.

The Forest Service’s Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Mountain Home 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. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. 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.

We continue to find more boundary fences located significantly onto NFS land in the vicinity of the private lands near Dixie. I am working to have cooperative landowners relocate the fences or have them removed. While I can affect removal of fences located on NFS land, I have no ability to require the private landowner to fence their boundary. If you find unauthorized livestock on the allotment please advise us so that the situation can be promptly addressed.

<i>/s/ Ireland Ranches by Calvin Ireland</i>	<i>June 3, 2010</i>
Permittee	Date

<i>/s/ Stephaney M. Church</i>	<i>June 3, 2010</i>
District Ranger	Date