

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST  
FAIRFIELD RANGER DISTRICT  
Grazing Year 2011**

**ALLOTMENT: WILLOW CREEK C&H**

PERMITTEES	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Head Months	Permitted Season of Use	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
Wolf Springs Ranch c/o Dave Coates	112 c/c	523	6/1 – 10/20	88 c/c	6/1 – 10/20
Willow Creek LLC c/o Linda Miller	282 c/c	1317	6/1 – 10/20	225 c/c	6/1 – 10/20
Toone Ranches c/o Mark & Nancy Toone	225 c/c	1050	6/1 – 10/20	177 c/c	6/1 – 10/20
<b>RESOURCE PROTECTION NON-USE</b>				20%	6/1 – 10/20
<b>TOTAL FOR 2011</b>	<b>619 c/c</b>	<b>2890</b>		<b>490 c/c</b>	

Head Months equals variable numbers, variable season use (i.e. more time & less numbers, or less time & more numbers) and is the equivalent of grazing the permitted numbers for the entire permitted season of use.

**COMPLIANCE:**

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of your Term Grazing Permit, Part 2, Clause 8(a), and you have agreed to their conditions upon signing the Term Grazing Permit. Failure to follow the AOI is a violation of your term grazing permit. The contents of this year's AOI reflect the alternatives we discussed at your annual meeting. Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instruction. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the Range Management Specialist to obtain approval before initiating or deviating from these instructions.

**NOTIFICATION:** The permittee will provide the Fairfield District Ranger with written notification of any proposed changes to these Annual Operating Instructions. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. The Fairfield District Ranger or his staff will document and consider the request. If approved, the FS will provide written verification of the changes to the permittee. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.

**NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT:** Only hay and straw that has been certified as Noxious Weed Free will be allowed on National Forest System Lands in Idaho.

**2010 GRAZING SEASON REVIEW**

**Utilization Review:**

Utilization on all Designated Monitoring Areas within the allotment was in compliance with 2010 FS standards.

**Management Effectiveness Review:**

The management of cattle across the allotment in the 2010 season was acceptable despite issues not related to livestock operations outside of your control. Livestock were well distributed throughout the pastures as was evident by the meeting of utilization standards.

**Monitoring:**

We will continue gathering stubble height data at DMA locations this summer. Grazing Response Index (GRI) sites will also continue to be evaluated. Permittees need to watch these areas as it is your responsibility to move livestock to the next pasture to meet season end stubble height standards.

**Issues Needing Resolution:**

Cattle grazing (unauthorized use) in the Willow Creek or Little Smoky Sheep Allotments needs to be prevented.

**Resource Conflicts:**

Trailing up Nebraska creek is again prohibited this year to promote the improvement of the resource. When livestock leave the Cherry/Nebraska pasture the fence at the bottom of Nebraska Creek is to be left down so livestock will not be bottlenecked in that location.

**BILLING INFORMATION**

Grazing fees for this season will be \$1.35 per head month. Payments are to be made by the DUE DATE shown on your grazing bill. The process takes approximately 10 days from the time you submit your bill until it is processed through the lockbox and notification is received by the district. Notice of payment must be received by the district office prior to your on date. If notice has not been received by the district office you cannot turn out your livestock onto National Forest Service administered lands. Payment validates your Term Grazing Permit and authorizes you to graze permitted livestock.

**LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

The following is a sequence and schedule for distribution your cattle on the Willow Creek Allotment.

**2011 ROTATION SCHEDULE**

Order of Use	1 <sup>st</sup> Toone (T)	1 <sup>st</sup> (C)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (T&C)	3 <sup>rd</sup> (T&C)
Unit Name	Cherry/Nebraska	Pocket	Wine/Devis Dive	Little Smoky
Coates (C) #s	6/20 w/ 100pair	6/11 w/ 200pair	7/15	8/15
Toone (T) #s	6/15 w/ 90pair 7/1 w/ 100pair		7/15	8/15
Totals	390	200	490	490

Order of Use	4 <sup>th</sup> (T&C)	Gather (T)	Last (C)
Unit Name	Liberal	Sorting Field	Beef Pasture
Coates (C) #s	9/15		10/15
Toone (T) #s	9/15	10/15	
Totals	490	190	300

1. All bulls or livestock over six months of age are considered permitted animals. Livestock will be permitted on the allotment only for the season and numbers listed on the Bill for Collection and only after payment has been received.
2. Planned use can be adjusted according to range readiness or due to the availability of forage and water. The length of stay for units may be negotiable depending on residual stubble heights and overall grazing impacts, especially within riparian areas. If the projected season does not meet your projected shipping/weaning date, you may need to consider moving this date or decreasing the number of cow/calf pairs turned out in future seasons.

The Forest Service has conservatively estimated the use period in days for each pasture. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather, herding, and other permittee management practices. It will be your responsibility to move your livestock from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is reached. If after the estimated number of days in a unit are reached and you feel there is sufficient forage and utilization standards have not yet been reached, bring it to our attention and we will visit the unit together to evaluate a possible adjustment. Convincing evidence must exist before an extension of the planned grazing period is warranted. Please give us adequate notice if you anticipate any variance from the projected period of use. The permittee is responsible to manage his/her livestock not to exceed the allowable level of use.

**STANDARDS & GUIDES**

**ALLOWABLE USE** – Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). Refer to the use level stated below, it is the maximum utilization allowed on desirable grass and sedges for the planned season of use. These use levels are the same ones contained in part there of the Term Grazing Permit.

**MONITORING** – Utilization must be monitored by the permittee and by forest personnel. We welcome your participation in these monitoring activities. Monitoring of key areas will be used to determine the maximum allowable livestock use on the allotment. Key areas are defined as relatively small areas that serve as evaluation sites. These areas guide the general management of the entire unit and will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management.

You must remain aware of when these key areas have been used to the allowable intensity level. **It will be your responsibility to monitor livestock use and move cattle so as to meet end of growing season standards.**

#### **Sawtooth National Forest Utilization Standards**

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of 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 Forest Service Manual 1922.5

- A) **Upland Vegetative Cover Types**: Early season or season long pastures – 40% use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50% use.
- B) **Riparian Areas**: Maximum 45% use or retain a minimum 4 –inch stubble height of hydric (water-loving) greenline species, whichever occurs first. If allowable use is achieved in all areas prior to the end of the grazing season, report this to the Fairfield office and remove livestock.

#### **Allotment Specific Riparian Sites**

Sedge communities	4-inch stubble height
Bluegrass communities	2-inch stubble height

**STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS:** See Part 3 of you Term Grazing Permit for a list of range improvements. Improvements will be inspected and maintained to TGP specification before livestock enter each unit. Livestock may be held off the allotment if assigned maintenance has not been completed. Also allotment boundary fences must be maintained prior to the entry dates of adjoining allotments. Permittees in non-use status are still responsible for their proportionate share of maintenance. It is the responsibility of the Permittee to inform the Forest Service when your maintenance is finished.

When you maintain your water developments make sure the wildlife escape ramps are present and functional. If ramps have deteriorated please contact us for a replacement.

### Motorized Travel Management (MTM):

The following exemptions and rules apply to your grazing permit. A flagrant permittee motorized use violation will be treated as a violation of the Term Grazing Permit. Additional motorized access to water developments or fences will not be granted exemption from the MTM rules unless specifically authorized within your AOI. If a route is not exempted, travel management rules associated with the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) will prevail.

#### **General Exclusions:**

1. Unless otherwise specified, all machine constructed roads that exhibit cut and fill slopes will remain open for permittee use even if they are closed to the public. This exclusion does not include the constructed roads that have been recently reclaimed by the Forest Service.
2. If permittee exempted travel causes resource concerns or indirect travel impacts occur because other motorized users are following an undesirable on-the-ground precedent set by a permittee or permittee representative, then an exemption may be cancelled to resolve this resource problem.

#### **Exemptions:**

##### Cherry/Nebraska Pasture:

- That portion of the NF road ending at the salt ground up North Cherry Creek. This is the road access that goes through the Claude Ballard property.
- The jeep road leading up to but not crossing Nebraska Creek.

##### Wine Devils Dive Pasture:

- The lower entrance to elk meadow if and when it is dried out.
- The trail leading south from the Ditto Rd to the 10<sup>th</sup> Ave E. sign, The permittee exemption ends at this intersection, meaning it does not cross Wine Creek to the south.

##### Little Smoky Pasture:

- Starting July 1, the trail from the Ditto Rd taking off at the Gathering Field fence corner to the double tire troughs within the gathering field, then crossing Sheep Creek heading west to the rubber tire trough on the hill, then continuing west by southwest along the old sheep drive way fenceline trail, then east (upstream) of the old dredge tailings, and ending at the gate just east of the Ditto road ford on Little Smoky Creek.
- The trail heading north off of the Sawmill Creek Rd to the salt drop where the jeep trail splits.
- The route leading to the upper Stovepipe fence that heads west from the Little Smoky Rd is exempt only to where it ends at the lower salt drop location. The steep portion of the jeep trail

beyond this point is not exempt. Motorized access to the trough up the steep portion of road is not exempt.

- The old logging roads that are accessed near the Pine Creek/Little Smoky confluence.

#### Liberal Pasture:

- The old trail heading south from the Ditto gate toward the double troughs separated by the Dive/Liberal fenceline, but only as far as the salt drop point before leaving Ditto Flats.
- The trail leading from the Ditto Rd/gathering field northern most fence corner west (downstream) to the double tire troughs in Sheep Creek.
- All old logging roads in the Liberal Pasture (upper White Rag) including the one leading to the Beef pasture fence separating the Willow & Wardrop allotments.
- The ¼ mile ATV trail leading west from the Liberal road to the double trough which is south of the Liberal Creek Road.

The above routes are open to ATV or motorcycle use only for the purpose of maintaining fences or water developments and distributing salt or other supplements. They are not open to full sized motorized vehicles or for the purpose of herding cattle with an ATVs.

Motorized access to satellite rider camps will be exempt as long as the camp location has been authorized. Any changes or exceptions to the above language must be approved by the District Ranger and this change must be documented in your Annual Operating Instructions.

#### **RIDER or PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS**

**LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION** -- It is agreed that proper salting techniques need to be practiced. Placing salt in areas that would otherwise not receive much use by livestock, are at least ¼ mile away from water and on ridges accessible to livestock. Salt must not be placed in shaded areas, on meadows or in areas of heavy utilization. Riding is needed to disperse cattle.

**OWNERSHIP** -- Cattle grazed must be owned and branded with that of the term permit holder.

**REQUIRED REPORTING** -- The permittee is required to keep accurate records concerning movement of livestock and to furnish such information to the Forest Service. Actual use reports and improvement maintenance documentation will be supplied to the Forest Service at the end of the grazing season. Death loss records are also desirable because they assist in identifying areas where plant or animal control may be needed. These records need to include: number of animals lost and the cause of death (plant poisoning, predators or other causes). The Permittee must notify the Fairfield Ranger District at least five (5) days before cattle enter the allotment. This will allow district personnel the opportunity to count the livestock if we so desire. Failure to provide on and off dates will negate the possibility of any future request to

adjust numbers or season of use. It will also affect approval of your application to receive a credit or refund for unused head months.

**OTHER** – Observing, documenting, and reporting additional uses on the allotment provides valuable information with regard to overall management. These uses could include: unauthorized livestock use, mining related activities, recreation conflicts, conflicts with authorized sheep trailing, predator problems, unusual wildlife sightings, etc.

**ADDITIONAL ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS** – Stock outside the permitted season or permitted area are considered excess use livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action may be taken.

Your dead livestock on National Forest Lands within 300 feet of a live spring, stream, recreation trail or roadway must be promptly removed or disposed of.

If you have any questions or suggestion to improve the management of the allotment, please feel free to contact Kevin Eldredge or John Shelly at (208) 764-3202 or stop by the district office in Fairfield.

**ACTUAL USE SUMMARY**

	Cherry/Nebraska	Pocket	Wine/Dive	Liberal	Little Smoky	Beef Pasture
DATES/NUMBERS ENTERED						
DATES/NUMBERS EXITED						

**Remarks: (maintenance, cattle losses, weed infestations, and unforeseen problems)**

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2011  
WILLOW CREEK AOI

ACCEPTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee

District Ranger

*Mark Dutton*

Date

Date

5-24-11