

**2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
NORTH HORNET & CROOKED RIVER ON/OFF C&H ALLOTMENTS**

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the **North Hornet and Crooked River On/Off C&H Allotments** for the 2011 grazing season. This plan was developed with participation of the livestock permittees at the Annual Operating Instruction meetings held at the Council Ranger District Office on April 27, 2011. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock permittees who participated in development of this plan were Permittees Everett Harrington, Dean Harrington, and Jack Rubelt, and Rangeland Management Specialists Andy Bumgarner and Jennifer McMorris, and District Ranger Greg Lesch.

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. It is necessary to contact the Forest Service if there are any changes or additions to these instructions through out the grazing season. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions which apply to these Annual Operating Instructions.

Permitted Use			
Permittee	Allotment	Livestock Numbers	Season of Use
Jack & Ava Rubelt	North Hornet	97 cow/calf pairs	5/16-10/31
	Crooked River On/Off	100 cow/calf pairs	6/16-6/30
Harrington D & E	North Hornet	270 cow/calf pairs	5/16-10/31

2011 Authorized Use			
Permittee	Allotment	Livestock Numbers	Season of Use
Jack & Ava Rubelt	North Hornet	97 cow/calf pairs	5/16-10/31
	Crooked River On/Off	100 yearlings	7/1-7/31
Harrington D & E	North Hornet	270 cow/calf pairs	5/16-10/31

Permitted Livestock Brands

Permitted Pack & Saddle Stock

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of the Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, item 3, and Part 2, item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing seasons which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. The season of use is especially dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation) which influences annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify term grazing permitted use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (b) & (c) of your permit.

Refer to your term grazing permit, part 2 (general terms and conditions) and part 3 (special terms and conditions) for a list of general and specific management practices required by the permittee.

All livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest is required to be certified weed free.

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

2010 North Hornet Grazing Rotation			
Permittee	Unit	Livestock Numbers	Season of Use
All	Pleasant Ridge/Rock Creek	367 cow/calf pairs	5/29-6/24
	4 th of July Creek		6/25-7/18
	North Hornet Creek		7/19-7/26
	Weasel Gulch		7/27-8/16
	Chipmunk Springs		8/17-9/10
	Summit Creek		9/11-10/31

2010 Crooked River On/Off Grazing Rotation			
Permittee	Unit	Livestock Numbers	Season of Use
Jack & Ava Rubelt	All	100 yearlings	7/1-7/31

BILLING

Grazing fees of \$ 1.35/HM must be paid before livestock are authorized to enter the National Forest. Payment must be made to: USDA Forest Service, c/o Citibank, P.O. Box 301550, Los Angeles, California 90030-1550. The Council District Office must receive confirmation from the Citibank Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

2011 North Hornet Grazing Rotation			
Permittee	Unit	Livestock Numbers	Season of Use
All	Pleasant Ridge/Rock Creek	367 cow/calf pairs	5/16-6/24
	4 th of July Creek		6/25-7/18
	North Hornet Creek		7/19-7/26
	Weasel Gulch		7/27-8/16
	Chipmunk Springs		8/17-9/10
	Summit Creek		9/11-10/31

2011 Crooked River On/Off Grazing Rotation			
Permittee	Unit	Livestock Numbers	Season of Use
Jack & Ava Rubelt	All	100 yearlings	7/1-7/31

The season of use dates are tentative and may vary according to range conditions and utilization levels within the pastures. Pasture move dates will vary and may be shortened or extended as conditions warrant.

Several known populations of the ESA listed Threatened Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel (NIDGS) are located on the North Hornet Allotment in the Cottonwood Corral vicinity, Fourth of July Creek, Fourth of July Creek West, Chipmunk Springs, and Rocky Top. Ground disturbance must be avoided in NIDGS sites, until approved by the Wildlife Biologist. Mitigation of livestock grazing effects includes avoiding grazing or trailing through these areas, as well as no salting within ¼ mile of these sites. All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) are *not authorized* off roads near any NIDGS sites.

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, a change in the authorized grazing activity will occur. If proper utilization levels are reached, then livestock will be moved to the next grazing area or off the forest. If livestock grazing does not comply with the terms and conditions of these Annual Operating Instructions, then the Forest Service policy and procedures dealing with administrative permit actions will be followed.

Notify the Forest Service at least 5 days before you turn onto the allotment of when and where turnout will occur so that a count can be made if desired.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES

The following are specific utilization standards and guidelines from the July 2003 Forest Plan. Utilization percentages are by weight and are the maximum allowed.

RAST01 - Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown 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.

- a) Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
- b) 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.

IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained prior to turning livestock into the unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement has been properly maintained but requires reconstruction, a cooperative effort can be made between the Forest Service and permittee to reconstruct the development, depending on material availability. Those projects to which the permittee contributes normally receive higher priority for funding by the Forest Service.

Maintenance of spring developments is vitally important to the health of your livestock and to the grazing allotment. If you are aware of spring developments that require reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss this with your Rangeland Management Specialist.

A new trough will be provided to you for Harrington springs. No ground disturbance is authorized.

For a list of assigned maintenance of structural improvements as well as maintenance standards see part 3 of your term grazing permit.

PERMITTEE/RIDER INSTRUCTIONS

Part of good cattle management is riding to assure proper cattle distribution. In particular we want to insure that the stream banks and meadows aren't over used. These riparian areas are considered key areas and will be monitored. When an area has reached maximum allowable use levels cattle will be removed from that area and kept from returning. Keeping cattle off select areas and in areas of less use serves to prolong the time cattle can expect to stay in an area.

If cattle are in the final area of the rotation sequence and utilization standards are reached, then they will have to be removed from the allotment.

Livestock in units outside the season of use or on an allotment other than the one permitted, is a violation of the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. The Forest Service recognizes that a 100% clean pasture is not always achievable by the pasture move date however; adequate effort is expected to achieve that.

Salting

Salting is restricted to the following:

- No less than ¼ mile from water, and not be placed in meadow bottoms.
- Placed at a minimum distance of 100 yards from open roads and out of sight from roads if possible.
- At least ¼ mile from NIDGS sites.
- Should be moved yearly unless present salt ground is located in a rocky area where no vegetation grows.
- Unconsumed salt will be removed from the site.
- ¼ mile from timber plantations with trees less than 15 feet tall. If this can't be accomplished, the District Range and Reforestation personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations.

REQUIRED REPORTING

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed because we are required to report this grazing use to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This information is also very important when conducting future allotment analysis. Any format is acceptable. If you would like a Forest Service form or have any questions about what information to include in the Actual Use Report, please call Andy at 208-253-0114 or 208-549-4262. **Actual Use needs to be turned in no later than December 1, 2011.**

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp but should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species must be a minimum of 6 inches. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

Allotment/pasture inspections will be performed periodically throughout the grazing season by Forest Service Personnel. Livestock distribution, correct livestock location, numbers and identification, structural improvement maintenance, and utilization levels will be evaluated during these site visits. If you wish to accompany Forest Service Personnel on these inspections please contact the Rangeland Management Specialist.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Cooperation with neighboring permittees is encouraged, however if there are problems occurring that cannot be settled let your Rangeland Management Specialist know so that steps can be taken to correct the problems.

Please review the AOI for consistency with our discussion at the annual meeting, if correct sign and return to Andy.

Greg Lesch
District Ranger

Date

Jack & Ava Rubelt
Permittee

Date

Harrington D & E
Permittee

Date