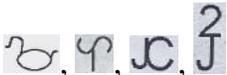


2011 Annual Operating Instructions
Meadows Valley C&H Allotment
New Meadows Ranger District
Payette National Forest

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Meadows Valley Cattle Allotment for the 2011 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittees on April 25, 2011. Those in attendance were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. <u>Rod and Darla Johnson</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
2. <u>Stan Branstetter</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
3. <u>Everett Osborn</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
4. <u>Neil Osborn</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
5. <u>Amy Baumer</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>
6. <u>Brian McMorris</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>
7. <u>Kim Pierson</u>	<u>New Meadows District Ranger</u>

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>PERMITTED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>	<u>2011 AUTHORIZED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>
Osborn Ranch	343 cow/calf 6/1- 9/30	310 cow/calf 6/1 – 9/30
(Private land permit)	15 cow/calf 6/1- 9/30	15 cow/calf 6/1 – 9/30
Rod & Darla Johnson	341 cow/calf 6/1- 9/30	310 cow/calf 6/1 – 9/30
Stan & Mary Branstetter	44 cow/calf 6/1- 9/30	44 cow/calf 6/1 – 9/30

All cattle on the Meadows Valley C&H allotment should be branded with the ,  or  brands.

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. 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 part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions that apply to these operating instructions.

The permittee shall notify the District Ranger five (5) days prior to the date and location of entry of livestock onto National Forest system lands. An “on” count may be done at this time. We will notify if we will be there to count you on upon your five day notification.

Grazing fee of \$1.35/head month must be paid before livestock are authorized to go on the National Forest. This bill is due five (5) days prior to your earliest turnout date. The New Meadows District Office must receive confirmation from Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the resource needs of the soils and vegetation. Fisheries biologists have completed Biological Assessments on this grazing activity for Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout (species listed under the Endangered Species Act). Any known and/or potential effects of livestock grazing on the fish species have been mitigated.

The season of use and livestock numbers permitted on any given year may be adjusted by the District Ranger. The season of use is dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation and temperature) which influence annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify permitted grazing use is further described in Part 2, Section 8(c) of your permit.

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp, but not saturated, and should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species other than bulbous bluegrass and cheatgrass must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

Livestock Rotations and Allowable Use/Mitigation Measures

As allowable use grazing criteria and mitigation measures are reached, livestock are moved to the next grazing Unit or off the allotment.

The following allowable use criteria and mitigation measures are to be followed for all grazing activities. There will be Forest Service personal monitoring these standards throughout the grazing season along with any long term vegetation monitoring that may be collected this grazing season.

2011 Grazing Rotation

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Allowable Use/Mitigation Measures</u>
Meadows Slope Unit	Turnout 6/1 or at Range readiness	40% allowable use on upland vegetation. 4" stubble height on hydric greenline species or 30% use in riparian areas.
Ecks Flat Unit	Turnout 6/1 or at Range readiness	(Same as Meadows Slope Unit)
Goose Lake Unit	Use after flowering	40% allowable use in riparian areas that drain into Goose Lake. In all other riparian areas 30% allowable use or a 4"

stubble height on hydric greenline species or 30% use in riparian areas 40% allowable use in uplands.

Corral Creek Unit Last 40% allowable use on upland vegetation. 4" stubble height on hydric greenline species or 30% use in riparian areas.

Meadows Slope/Ecks Flat Units

Cattle will be turned out in two areas. Osborn Ranch will turn out their cattle in the Ecks Flat Unit. Branstetter and Johnson will turn out in the Meadows Slope Unit. Monitoring of these units will occur several weeks after turn-out. Once allowable use is reached livestock will be moved into the Goose Lake Unit.

Goose Lake Unit

This unit will be monitored after the livestock enter the unit. The permittees will move their livestock to the Corral Creek Unit once allowable use is met.

Corral Creek Unit

This unit will be monitored after the livestock enter the unit. Once allowable use is reached (or September 30, whichever is sooner), livestock will be removed from the allotment.

If livestock are found dead on the allotment you will be responsible to move the carcasses 100 yards away from recreation trails, roads, or live water.

Salt placement is required to be at least ¼ mile from a riparian plant community, should be located ¼ mile from timber plantations until the trees have grown to a size that reduces their susceptibility to damage from livestock, and 100 feet off roads, where possible. If this can't be accomplished, the New Meadows District range personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations. All salt blocks shall be removed when livestock have been moved out of a unit or off National Forest.

Livestock Trailing Instructions/Livestock Shipping Instructions

Livestock are trailed onto the allotment from adjacent private land or trucked to the first grazing Unit. All livestock are trailed off of the allotment onto adjacent private lands through the Meadows Slope Unit.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE 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 funding. The permittee is required to provide the materials and labor during routine maintenance.

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 need reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss this with the Forest Service. All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed and maintained.

The Association drift fence on the boundary between the Corral Creek and Goose Lake Units was rebuilt during the 2009 and 2010 grazing seasons. The Forest Service provided the material and the permittee provided the labor.

We have received water rights for the proposed Rock Flat and Bear Creek water developments. These will need to be developed within five years of the issue date (February 6, 2009). The Forest Service would provide the materials and the permittees would provide the labor. After snow melt this spring the permittee and range personnel will need to go look at the sites with the Archeologist to verify there will not be an issue with developing the springs.

The Forest Service and permittee will continue to monitor the Brundage Reservoir drift fence and evaluate if cows can get through the blow down or not. A micro burst went through the area in the fall of 2009.

MONITORING OF THE ANNUAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACTIVITY

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. Forms may be completed by each individual permittee or one form can be completed by the group. However, a form should be completed for each unit grazed by livestock. If you have any questions about completing the form, please call the Range Department at the Forest Service at (208) 347-0300. We request the forms be returned no later than the 2012 AOI meeting.

MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS

All plantation grazing must be coordinated with the Forest Service prior to grazing the plantations. The plantation fence above Last Chance was pulled out in 2008. You will need to make sure cattle do not hang out in this area.

The Meadows Slope 2 project has completed harvest, but could be some thinning in areas. There was a map provided last year at the AOI meeting of the project area.

The Meadows Slope 1 project may have some road work and harvesting taking place. This project is to be completed by July of 2012. This is in the Meadows Slope Unit. A map was provided at the AOI meeting last year.

The Meadows Slope 5 project may potentially have harvest and road work this year. This project is scheduled for completion December 2012. This is in the Meadows Slope Unit. A map was provided at the AOI meeting last year.

The Meadows Slope 4 and Rocky Bear project could be prepped this year. Logging and road work will probably not start until 2012. The earliest prescribed burning will take place would be in 2012.

The Brundage project is on the east side of the Goose Lake Road but on the west side of Brundage Mountain. There are 4 units left to be logged. Osborns will need to coordinate with the Forest Service when they trail up the Goose Lake Road to help mitigate any log truck traffic that might occur. This project is on the Brundage S&G Allotment, but there will be increased truck traffic on the Goose Lake Road.

There may be work on stream crossings on the Twin Lakes/Granite Mountain trail this year .

There was a fence constructed around the stream channel by the Association Corrals last year. We will be looking for an area to put a water tank to help keep the cattle out of the stream channel that was not fenced.

If there is damage to Forest System trails by the permittees' livestock the permittees will need to repair it or pay for it to be repaired.

A Collation Project could begin planning this year.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT

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

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. The Payette National Forest is part of Region 4 of the Forest Service. Region 4 has a requirement that any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

The Fall Creek/Whitebird and Meadows Valley Cattle & Horse Allotments Livestock Grazing Analysis Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on September 30, 2010. Alternative Two (the Proposed Action) was selected. Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), which are long term operating plans which implements the decision referenced above. These plans promote progress towards desired future conditions. Allotment Management Plans are incorporated into Term Grazing Permits. We will have your AMPs to you in the near future.

Please review the AOI for consistency with our discussion at the annual meeting, and sign and return it to me. If I do not receive a signed copy from you within two weeks, this AOI will serve as the final copy approved by the District Ranger.

You are responsible for ensuring that your rider is informed and understands the standards, guidelines, and other management direction in these instructions.

Kim Pierson
New Meadows District Ranger

Date

Osborn Ranch Inc.
Permittee

Date

Rodney and Darla Johnson
Permittee

Date

Stanley and Mary Branstetter
Permittee

Date