

**File Code:** 2210/2230

**Date:** June 10, 2013

Randy Capps

Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Randy,

The following letter will document your meeting with Concetta Brown and Ingrid Drieling on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Lake Creek C&H allotment for the 2013 grazing season. The authorized use for the Lake Creek C&H allotment for cattle with the  brand will be as follows:

**Permitted Use:**

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Lake Creek C&H	Randy Capps	106 c/c	484	6/15-10/31

**Authorized Use for the 2013 Grazing Season:**

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Lake Creek C&H	Randy Capps	93 c/c	376	6/15-10/31

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/ Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Lake Creek C&H	South Fork	93 c/c	141	7/1-8/15
	Below Ranch	93 c/c	98	8/16-9/16
	North Fork	93 c/c	138	9/17-10/31
	Camp Creek	-	-	Rest

Only cattle with the  brand are authorized to graze on the Lake Creek C&H allotment. The Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your Term Grazing Permit as per Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Regulations. 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 Concetta Brown and obtain approval before initiating changes of deviating from these instructions. Changes can be made based on resource objectives, provided the changes are first approved and documented by an authorized officer.



The dates listed in the authorized use section may vary based on management needs or range readiness and proper use standards. If a change is necessary, please notify Concetta Brown at (208) 768-2503 as soon as you are aware of the need for changes in the planned use schedule. Any extension of use beyond the permitted dates will not be authorized.

**Allowable Use**

The allowable use standards for the Lake Creek C&H allotment are listed below. It is your responsibility to monitor utilization levels and to move your livestock to the next unit planned or off the allotment when the standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Concetta Brown and she will assist you. Cattle removed from a unit after utilization levels have been reached are not allowed to return to the unit. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

**Lake Creek C&H**

Key Area Location # / Unit Name / Creek Name	Monitoring Attribute	Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
Below Ranch Unit/ Lake Creek*	Browse Use	50%	Willow	45%
	Greenline stubble	4 in.	Hydric spp	5 in.
South Fork Unit/ Lake Creek*	Browse Use	50%	Willow	45%
	Greenline stubble	4in.	Hydric spp.	5in.
Upland Sites/ All Units	Utilization	50%	Upland Grass species	45%
Riparian Areas	Utilization by Key Species	50%	Riparian grass species	45%

\*The site did not meet the guidelines for establishment of a MIM. Photo plots were established. Baseline data will be collected in 2013.

The Biological opinion for the **Lake Creek C&H** Allotment laid out the following measures to be implemented to reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish. The measures are as follows:

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Resting a unit each year provides benefits to riparian vegetation. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for greenline successional status.
2. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness. This will reduce the potential for bank alteration. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
3. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment within the terms of the term grazing permit including moves in response to fish spawning. Annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel.

4. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks. This will continue to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
5. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks, reducing potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
6. Fences and water developments have been placed to reduce livestock use on streams and their associated riparian areas. This will continue to reduce impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.

### **Range Improvements**

Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment.

Part 2, Section 8(i) of your term grazing permit states:

“This permit is issued and accepted with the provision that the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or government-owned, that are assigned for maintenance to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements to be maintained are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The Government may maintain or otherwise improve said improvements when, in its opinion, such action will be to its advantage.”

The following is a list of improvements for the **Lake Creek C&H** Allotment that were discussed in the meeting:

There is an unnumbered boundary fence which separates the Lake Creek and South Fork of Williams Creek Allotments. This fence is on neither permittees permit and is in need of reconstruction. The fence is located around Lake Mountain on the South Fork Road (FS Road 028). You mentioned the fence also needs to be extended to prevent cattle from walking around it. Plans were made to assess the condition and extension of the fence this season and develop a solution. Ingrid suggested this may be a good project for the YCC kids to help with. Concetta will be contacting you to arrange a site visit.

You mentioned that fence #5105 and #5039 would benefit from being converted into letdown fences. Both require major repairs each spring due to the snow.

### **General Management**

The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation. ATVs may be used off of designated routes for improvement maintenance prior to

livestock entering Forest lands. This means, once livestock are on the allotment, ATV use off of designated routes should be limited to the unit cattle are currently in and the unit scheduled to be grazed next only for managing your livestock and/or maintaining improvements.

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. In situations where terrain does not allow proper placement of salt, please contact Concetta and she will determine a suitable location with your input.

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. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require 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 grazing fees for 2013 are the base rate of \$1.35 per head month.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay their grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting **a minimum of 35 days prior** to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

If you spot a wild fire, report it immediately to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center in Salmon, ID at **(208) 756-5157**.

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return within **30 days** of the end of the grazing season.

You have received a letter explaining the Salmon-Challis National Forest concerns with the predicted below average precipitation levels and predicted above average temperatures. During the 2013 grazing season you should be prepared to be vigilantly monitoring forage conditions and stock water availability, and plan for prompt livestock moves to meet allowable forage and riparian browse use standards identified. In dry years it is critical to meet identified annual use indicators for resource health. We appreciate your ongoing cooperation and flexibility in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Sara Norman, Ingrid Drieling or myself.

In addition, approval of requests for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Requests for non-use must be done in writing and the approval of a

request for non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of the allotment, we would like to hear from you.

If you have any questions regarding any of the allotments for which you have permits, please call Concetta at (208) 768-2503, Ingrid Drieling at (208) 768-2516 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

Jay Winfield  
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records