



File Code: 2230

Date: May 22, 2013

Hubert Miller

Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Hubert,

This letter serves as your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions for the Cow Creek allotment, and should be considered as an extension of Term Grazing Permit 20071. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Hubert & Sara Miller	180 Cow/Calf	Term	06/01 – 10/10	781
Stan & Trish Dowton	115 Cow/Calf	Term	06/01 –10/10	499

Authorized Use for 2013

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Hubert Miller	160 Cow/Calf	Term	0601 – 10/10	694
Stan & Trish Dowton	Non-use	Term	Non-use	Non-use

Pasture Rotation

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Allison Creek	162		8/05
North Fork Cow Creek	277		10/10
Cow Creek	0	REST and No Trailing	

The on-date is only a guide since actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moves from unit to unit will occur before forage utilization standards have been met and no later than the scheduled off-date. It is critical that standards be met in all units at the end of the 2013 grazing season.



Utilization Standards

Unit	Indicator	Standard
North Fork Cow Creek	Greenline	> 4"
	Bank Alteration	< 20%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Allison Creek	Greenline	> 4"
	Bank Alteration	< 20%
	Woody Browse	< 30%
Cow Creek	Greenline	> 6"
	Bank Alteration	< 10%
	Woody Browse	< 30%

It is critical that standards are met in Cow Creek Unit in 2013. This unit is being completely rested, with no trailing allowed.

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. *Please inform the authorized officer in charge 3 days prior to initial livestock turn-out. If you move onto the allotment late and want to stay past your off-date, you must make arrangements early in the grazing season and obtain prior approval from the District Ranger.*
2. *Do not wait for the authorized officer to tell you it is time to move to the next unit. It is the permittee's responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded and to notify the Forest Officer of this move.*
3. *Riding and herding is necessary to properly distribute livestock. The permittee will provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of livestock, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized.*
4. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by the permittee to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards. Range personnel will monitor forage use in riparian and upland areas where livestock are or have been grazing.*
5. *Salt should be placed on suitable range at least ¼ to ½ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows and other areas where livestock naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.*
6. *With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still the permittee's responsibility to keep their animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture within 24 hours of notification by phone or letter. Early use or repeated use of unauthorized pastures could result in an early move or off-date, or cancellation or suspension of your*

permit. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.

7. Any carcass or animal remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by a forest officer.
8. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the forest must be Certified Weed Free.
9. The agency requests that you (the permittee) be a pro-active partner in the inventory, management and treatment of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist.
10. *The off date is the date you must have all livestock off the grazing allotment, not the day to start moving livestock off the allotment.*

BA and BO REQUIREMENTS

The conservation measures below are reflected in the grazing system, standards and guidelines outlined in this AOI.

The 2010 Biological Assessment prepared by the Forest Service lists the following conservation measures:

- The permittee will continue to ride to reduce potential impacts of livestock to streams and their associated riparian areas. This will reduce or eliminate impacts to fish, fish habitat, and redds.
- Troughs have been placed to reduce livestock impacts on streams and their associated riparian areas. This will reduce or eliminate impacts on fish, fish habitat, and redds.
- It is the permittee's responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded.
- The permittees will distribute cattle over the entire pasture and make a concerted effort to use all grazable areas in a pasture. Cattle will be moved out of a pasture when forage utilization in riparian and/or upland areas is at grazing standards.
- It is the permittee's responsibility to monitor use of riparian areas. The move-off date is the date all cattle have to be off the grazing allotment. It is not the day to start moving cattle.
- Prior arrangements must be approved by the District Ranger or authorized officer early in the season if a permittee needs to stay past their move-off date.
- Salt is to be placed in areas where past and/or present forage use is light. Salt should be used to spread utilization across the pasture being grazed. Place salt at least ¼ mile from riparian areas to reduce or eliminate impacts on fish, fish habitat, and redds. Salt should

be picked up and moved when an area has been sufficiently used. Do not place salt in the same footprint areas used last year. The permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.

- Any carcass or animals remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by Range Specialists. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.
- Fences will be checked and maintained before cattle enter a pasture or allotment. Range improvements should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should first be coordinated with the Range Specialist. Improvements are listed in the grazing permit and are shown on the allotment map.
- A Forest Weed Free Hay Special Order #04-00-097 is in effect as February 11, 2003; “Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as weed free”.

The 2010 Biological Opinion from US Fish and Wildlife Service lists the following conservation recommendation:

- The Service recommends monitoring all six focus indicators on all allotments whenever possible to better track long-term trends. This is especially useful on allotments such as this one where long-term data is missing.

The 2010 Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Service lists the following conservation recommendations:

- To mitigate the effects of climate change on ESA-listed salmonids, follow recommendations by the ISAB (2007) to plan now for future climate conditions by implementing protective tributary, mainstem, and estuarine habitat measures; as well as protective hydropower mitigation measures. In particular, implement measures to protect or restore riparian buffers, wetlands, and floodplains; remove stream barriers; and to ensure late summer and fall tributary streamflows.
- Require permittee to routinely evaluate and document resource conditions (i.e., bank alteration, stubble height, shrub utilization) in each unit and begin moving livestock at the appropriate move trigger such that an annual use indicator exceedance is avoided.

Range Improvements

Range improvements that are necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2013 grazing season that will need maintenance or reconstruction are: Allison Creek and North Fork Unit fences #220207 and #220206; Allison Creek water development and troughs #200639; Flat

Springs water development and troughs # 200641; and North Fork Creek water development and troughs #220463.

No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by the permittee or their personnel without approval from the District Ranger. Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance will be provided to the permittee by the Forest Service whenever possible. Materials for normal yearly maintenance are the responsibility of the permittee.

Thank you for your efforts to continue maintenance and/or reconstruction to structural improvements on your allotment. All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. Range improvements will be maintained *before livestock enter a pasture or the allotment*. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the allotment map. If you have questions regarding what improvements are your responsibilities, please contact your Range Management Specialist. *Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.*

Other Considerations

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the Allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your Allotment.

Enclosed is a Year End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use data for 2013 and range improvement needs for future grazing season. Please record the date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs should be returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction.

If you have any questions regarding these Annual Operating Instructions, please call me or Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at 208-879-4161. We are looking forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kris Stein
KRIS STEIN
District Ranger

Enclosures