



File Code: 2230

Date: May 24, 2013

Preston Cutler

Challis, ID 83226

Dear Preston,

This letter serves as your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions for the Garden Creek C&H allotment, and should be considered as an extension of Term Grazing Permit # 20070. 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
Cutler	260 cow/calf	Term	07/4 – 10/10	846

Authorized Use for 2013

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Cutler	200 cow/calf	Term	07/4 – 10/10	651

Pasture Rotation

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Spruce Gulch/Buster	200	07/04	07/18
Willow Patch	200	07/19	07/31
West Creek	200	08/01	08/15
Big Hill-Keefer	200	08/15	09/15
Daugherty- Keystone	200	09/16	10/10

The on-date is only a guide since actual turnout 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.



Utilization Standards

Unit	End of Season Indicators			
	Median Greenline Stubble Height	Bank Alteration	Woody Browse	Upland Utilization
Buster/Spruce Gulch	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 ¹ or 50 ²	<50%
Big Hill	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 ¹ or 50 ²	< 50%
Daugherty Gulch	None ³	None ³	None ³	< 50%
Kiefer	>4 inches	<20%	None ³	<50%
Keystone	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 ¹ or 50 ²	<50%
Mill Creek	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 ¹ or 50 ²	<50%
West Creek	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 ¹ or 50 ²	<50%
Willow Patch	>4 inches	<20%	< 30 ¹ or 50 ²	<50%

1. Single stemmed species such as aspen
2. Multi stemmed species such as willow
3. There are no listed fish species or designated critical habitat within this unit, but perennial water is present which flows directly into occupied bull trout spawning habitat below the unit boundary. Therefore, riparian end of season indicators will be used.

Conservation Measures

1. Although trailing will occur in the Mill Creek Unit, this unit will not be actively grazed and no trailing will occur in this unit after August 15
2. Livestock will not graze in the West Creek, Buster/Spruce, or Keystone Units after September 15 which will help limit impacts to bull trout redds.

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.*

Range Improvements

Thank you for your efforts to continue maintenance and/or reconstruction to structural improvements on your allotment. Per our meeting this spring, reconstruction and/or maintenance on the following developments are needed on the Squaw Creek Allotment and Garden Creek Allotment boundary fence in the Willow Patch Unit #220245; Challis Creek Allotment and Garden Creek Allotment boundary fence #220259; and the Pine Summit let-down fence #220257. These boundary fences between two allotments are necessary to control and prevent

livestock from entering the wrong allotment. The boundary fence between the Challis Creek Allotment and the Garden Creek Allotment will **need to be fully functional prior to turnout of the Challis Creek permittee on June 16th**. The Big Hill water development # 220458 **will need to be fully functional prior to entering that grazing unit on August 15th**.

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.

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,

KRIS STEIN
District Ranger

Enclosure