



File Code: 2230

Date: April 24, 2013

Troy Olsen
Manager
Circle Pi Ranch

May, ID 83253

Dear Troy,

This letter serves as your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions for the Sulphur Creek, Pahsimeroi, and Upper Pahsimeroi Allotments, and should be considered as an extension of Term Grazing Permit 20024. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

Permitted Use

Circle Pi Ranch

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	150 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 10/05	626
Upper Pahsimeroi	226 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 08/31	684
Pahsimeroi	400 cow calf	Term	06/06 – 09/28	1512

RJ Hoffman

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	102 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 10/05	429
Pahsimeroi	274 cow/calf	Term	06/01 – 09/28	1036

Authorized Use for 2013

Circle Pi Ranch

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	150 cow/calf	Term	05/20 – 09/23	626
Upper Pahsimeroi	325 cow/calf	Term	07/01 – 08/10	438
Pahsimeroi	325 cow/calf	Term	06/04 – 06/30	288
Pahsimeroi	325 cow/calf	Term	08/11 – 9/28	534

RJ Hoffman

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Sulphur Creek	102 cow/calf	Term	05/20 – 09/23	429
Pahsimeroi	250 cow/calf	Term	06/06 – 09/28	945



Pasture Rotation

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.

Sulphur Creek Allotment

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Camp	252*	6/01	07/31
Trail	252*	8/01	10/05
Sulphur	REST	REST	REST

*Combined Circle Pi and RJ Hoffman cows

The Sulphur Creek allotment will be used in common with RJ Hoffman. The 102 pair of cattle owned by RJ Hoffman will join with the 150 pair of Circle Pi cattle on the adjacent BLM allotment and enter the Forest Service allotment as one herd. They will follow the above rotation and exit the allotment as one herd.

Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Mahogany Uplands	325*	06/06	06/30
Christian Gulch	250**	06/06	06/20
Lower Road	250**	06/21	06/25
Upper Road	250**	06/26	07/31
Spring Hill Uplands/Spring Hill Flats	250**	08/1	8/10
Spring Hill Uplands/Spring Hill Flats	575***	08/11	09/28

*Circle Pi cows

**Hoffman cows

***Combined Circle Pi cows & Hoffman cows

Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch BLM	0	Non-use	Non-use
West Fork Upper Pahsimeroi	325*	07/01	07/20
East Fork Upper Pahsimeroi	325*	07/21	08/10

*Circle Pi cows only in Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment

The Pahsimeroi and Upper Pahsimeroi Allotments will be used together in a deferred rotation system. The 325 pair of Circle Pi cattle will enter the Mahogany Uplands Unit in the Pahsimeroi Allotment and stay for approximately 25 days. They will then move to the Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment and follow the rotation described above. On August 11, the Circle Pi Herd will return to the Pahsimeroi Allotment and use the Spring Hill Uplands/Spring Hill Flats Units.

Around June 6, 250 head of Hoffman cattle will enter the Christian Gulch Unit of the Pahsimeroi Allotment and graze until about June 20. The Hoffman herd of 250 head will be gathered into the Lower Road Unit and trail through between 06/21 and 6/25 to the Upper Road Unit and remain until about July 31. They will then move to the Spring Hill Uplands/Spring Hill Flats Unit on 8/1. Around August 11, the Circle Pi herd will join the Hoffman herd and Circle Pi herd on the Spring Hill Uplands/Spring Hill Flats Unit, for a total of 575 head, and graze until September 22. They will be gathered into the Lower Road Unit and exit the allotment together.

The on-date is only a guide since actual turn out will be when range readiness occurs. Moves from pasture to pasture will occur before forage utilization standards have been met and no later than the scheduled off-date.

Utilization Standards

Sulphur Creek Allotment

Unit	Indicator	Standard
Trail Creek & Sulphur Creek	Greenline	≥ 4"
	Bank Alteration	≤ 20%
	Woody Browse	≤ 50%
	Uplands	≤ 50%
Camp Creek	No visible use, unit is rested in 2013	

Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Indicator	Standard
All Units	Greenline	≥ 4"
	Bank Alteration	NA
	Woody Browse	≤ 50%
	Upland Grazing	≤ 50%

Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment

Unit	Indicator	Standard
Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch	Greenline	NA
	Bank Alteration	≤ 20%
	Woody Browse	≤ 50%
	Upland Grazing	≤ 50%
East Fork	Greenline	≥ 6"
	Bank Alteration	≤ 10%
	Woody Browse	≤ 30%
	Upland Grazing	≤ 30%
West Fork	Greenline	≥ 4"
	Bank Alteration	≤ 10%
	Woody Browse	≤ 30%
	Upland Grazing	≤ 30%

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. *Please inform the authorized officer in charge three days prior to initial cattle 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 cattle, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized. Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored to ensure that utilization standards are met. Range personnel will monitor riparian and upland forage utilization.
4. Salt should be placed on suitable range at least $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows and other areas where cattle 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.
5. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored.* Range personnel will monitor forage use in areas where cattle concentrate.
6. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and cattle 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. Cattle 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 animals 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 for the feeding of horses 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. Inspect and clean motorized and mechanized trail vehicles of weeds and their seeds before and after using Forest roads and trails.

10. *The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the grazing allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the allotment.*

Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion Conservation Measures

Biological Assessment for Pahsimeroi Allotment

The following conservation measures will be implemented as part of the proposed action and incorporated into the term grazing permits to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA-listed fish:

- Several years ago, livestock grazing was discontinued in the Mahogany Creek Unit which includes the entire Mahogany Creek drainage in order to protect and restore the bull trout population and bull trout habitat within Mahogany Creek. This action is being continued as part of the current proposed action. Grazing will not resume in the Mahogany Creek Unit prior to a new biological assessment being prepared.

Biological Assessment for Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment

The following conservation measures will be implemented as part of the proposed action and incorporated into the term grazing permits to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA-listed fish. These conservation measures are reflected in the grazing system, standards and guidelines outlined in this AOI.

- The deferred rotation, short duration grazing system will be used to help meet the annual use indicators.
- The livestock on-date will be on or after June 12 and will be based on range readiness to reduce the potential for bank alteration and potential impacts to bull trout spawning-incubation areas and designated critical habitat.
- Livestock will be removed from the entire allotment between July 31 and August 10 to prevent livestock from impacting potential bull trout spawning areas. The typical off-date will be July 31.
- Annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel and will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment.
- Permittee will salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks to reduce potential impacts on bull trout spawning areas and designated critical habitat. Livestock will enter and exit the allotment by active trailing and will utilize uplands and roads to the extent feasible.
- The woody browse indicator will be 30% in the East Fork and West Fork Units; 50% on the Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch Unit.
- The stubble height indicator will be four to six inches depending on the season of use, where used as an indicator for the West Fork and East Fork Units.
- The bank alteration indicator will be 20% in the Rock Creek-Spruce Gulch Unit.
- The bank alteration indicator will be 10% in the East Fork and West Fork Units.
- A rider is required to be on the allotment five days per week to distribute cattle away from stream and associated riparian areas.

- The permittee keeps three to four horses in a small fenced pasture near the Rock Creek/Spruce Gulch Unit; cattle are excluded from this pasture (Figure 2). A second fence within the pasture prevents the horses from accessing the Pahsimeroi River.
- The unit boundary fences will reduce livestock use on streams and riparian areas to reduce potential impacts on bull trout spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
- A gap fence will preclude grazing, to protect the high alpine, cirque meadow in the East Fork headwaters.

Range Improvements

Thank you for your efforts to continue your diligent maintenance and reconstruction to your structural range improvements on your allotment.

Per our meeting this spring, we identified range improvements that were not functional and/or in critical condition that will require heavy maintenance or reconstruction that needs to be at the standards described in your term grazing permit that is acceptable to the Forest Service prior to turning out livestock for the 2013 grazing season.

The following are the lists of improvements we identified for each allotment that require significant maintenance or reconstruction:

Pahsimeroi

1. Spring Hill Flats Unit Water Developments (WD) #2203359, #220361, #220360, and #220357, associated pipelines, and four to five water troughs may need to be replaced. The exclosure fences #220357, #220384, and #220358 will need some reconstruction.
2. Spring Hill Flats Unit WD # 220357 and pipeline # 220358 will need replacement and the exclosure fence needs reconstruction.
3. Spring Hill Uplands and the Lower Units Twin Springs (WD) #2203354 pipeline and some troughs will need replacement and the #220335 exclosure fence needs reconstruction.
4. The gap fence # 220379 between the Lower Road and Spring Hills Units needs to be maintained.
5. Christian Gulch WD #220367, associated pipeline, and some troughs will need replacement.
6. Mud Springs WD needs heavy maintenance and some replacement of the pipeline and water troughs. The exclosure fence around the spring development will require some reconstruction.
7. All other range improvements on the allotment need to be maintained to the standards listed in your term grazing permit that is functional for their intended purpose and use.

Sulphur Creek

1. Boundary fences between the Lime Gulch Allotment and Sulphur Creek Allotment (#220469, #220471 and # 220491) require heavy maintenance.
2. The boundary fence #220410 between Lawson Creek Allotment and Sulphur Creek Allotment requires heavy maintenance.
3. The boundary fences #22408 and #220407 between the Wino Basin Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Allotment and the Sulphur Creek Allotment require some heavy maintenance.
4. The fence between the Sulphur Creek Unit, which was rested in 2013, and the Trail Creek Unit # 220477.
5. The fences #220452 and #220478 between the Camp Creek Unit and the Trail Creek Unit, which was rested in 2012, needs maintenance
6. All the water developments and other range improvements need to be maintained to the standards listed in your term grazing permit in a manner that is functional for their intended purpose and use.

Upper Pahsimeroi

1. The Cow Camp area around the cabin needs to be cleaned of all trash this will need to be removed from the allotment.
2. The exclosure fences # 220988 at Cow Camp needs to be reconstructed to the standards listed in your term grazing permit that is functional for the intended purpose and use.
3. Unit boundary fences between the East Fork of the Upper Pahsimeroi and the West Fork of the Upper Pahsimeroi will need to be maintained.
4. The boundary fence #220492 between the Upper Pahsimeroi Allotment and the BLM boundary fence will need to be maintained.

Old, unused pipeline and fencing materials or other garbage associated with spring developments and spring exclosures will need to be picked up and removed from these allotments by the end of the 2013 grazing season.

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing

Permit prior to livestock entering the Sulphuer Creek, Pahsimeroi, and Upper Pahsimeroi Allotments. Range improvements will be inspected by the permittee and maintained *before cattle 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 grazing permit and are shown on the Allotment map. **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 seasons. Please record the date and number of cattle turned onto the allotment, the dates cattle are moved to and from each pasture, and the date cattle are removed from the 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 208-879-4100. We are looking forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Kris Stein*
KRIS STEIN
District Ranger

Cc Ben Yates, Owner-17461 High Street, Los Gatos, CA 95032