

# Boone Creek C&H Allotment 2011 Annual Operating Instructions

Salmon-Challis National Forest  
Lost River Ranger District  
Mackay, Idaho

Approved By: /s/ Diane L Weaver 5/19/2011  
Diane L. Weaver Date  
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ Carmela Leavitt 4/27/2011  
Carmela Leavitt Date  
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jake Johnson Date  
Churn Dasher Ranch  
President, Boone Creek Grazing Association

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nelson Ranch Date  
Heather Nelson  
Permittee

/s/ Donald Hurst \_\_\_\_\_  
Boone Creek Partnership Date  
Permittee

2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
 BOONE CREEK ALLOTMENT  
 SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Boone Creek Allotment discussed at the spring meeting on April 15, 2011. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Boone Creek Allotment. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related circumstances.

Permitted Cattle Authorized

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Dave Nelson (Steve Bauchman) Boone Creek Partnership	986	186	800	6/6-10/15	
Churn Dasher Ranch	214	0	214	7/15-10/15	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1275</b>				

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Garden Creek	10	6/6-6/15
R Fork Boone	20	6/16-7/5
Road Creek	17	7/6-7/22
Ramey Creek	30	7/23-8/21
Fox Creek	27	8/22-9/17
Castle Cr.	10	9/15-9/24
Main Boone	20	9/18-10/7
Rock Creek	8	10/8-10/15

While partial relief from drought has occurred, complete recovery has not. All indications from the Idaho Water Supply Outlook reports are that cumulative drought impacts could persist. If this occurs the Forest Service expects that cattle may need to be removed prior to October 15.

When coming out of Castle Creek the areas adjacent to Castle Creek on the Wildhorse Allotment will need to be cleaned. While it is known that livestock will sometimes travel between the two allotments in this area it is important that the use on the neighboring allotment is kept to a minimum.

The electric fence will need to be put up around the wet meadow in Little Boone Creek. Riding will be necessary to keep the cattle dispersed in the units and keep them from congregating on

riparian areas and causing resource damage.

**Allowable Use:** End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height being met. While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches be used in drier conditions to plan cattle moves.

The drier mesic meadows adjacent to streams and springs should be watched to ensure that 50% use is not exceeded. These meadows are of concern across the district and more focus is going to be put on use levels in these areas. While all adjacent meadows should be looked at, the drier meadows have less chance of regrowth and therefore are of highest concern. The upland annual use level of 50% should be used to manage the dry meadows and your rangeland management specialist will work with you to determine when a desired use level has been met, so that everyone understands what the meadows should look like after livestock use.

Woody Browse use of riparian shrubs will not exceed 50% of new leader production.

Riparian areas with greenlines dominated by Kentucky bluegrass and tufted hairgrass should also receive special attention to achieve end of season stubble height. Greenlines dominated by these plants have less bank stability than those dominated by deep-rooted plants and are sometimes in a lower state of ecological condition. They should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Other factors should be considered for planning cattle moves between units. These include prevention of stream bank trampling, increase in rate of stubble height removal, changes in livestock behavior, changes in grazing preference from grasses and grass-like plants to young willows and other shrubs, large groups of cattle congregating in fence corners, at gates, or riparian areas for long periods of time.

**Designated Monitoring Areas(DMA's):** DMA's are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit. DMA monitoring establishes a record of utilization trend, a location for observation to plan cattle moves, a location to record whether end of season stubble height standards are met, and a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified.

**Riding:** There will be a large number of new cattle on the allotment this year. Having extra help with the riding duties will be necessary to ensure that proper utilization levels are achieved and livestock remain in scheduled units.

**Cleaning Grazing Units:** Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height standard being met to ensure allowable use standards are met. This is especially important during drought conditions. In most cases 7 days should be adequate. Permittees should be prepared to assist range riders in checking that the unit cleaned stays clean. Range riders should keep permittees informed of problems cleaning grazed units. Bulls should be kept with the main herd or removed from the allotment when they disrupt herd management. Frequent back-riding indicates there is a herd management problem. It is also the permittee's responsibility to correct

problems caused by drift from other units. Any cattle from neighboring allotments should be taken care of as neighbors and if that is ineffective contact the Range Specialist and inform them of the situation. Improved riding along allotment boundaries will take place this season to minimize the use on adjacent allotments.

**Fence & Water Improvements:** Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should also be maintained prior to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements. In years of non-use maintenance of improvements is still a requirement.

The fence between Stag Canyon and Castle Creek will be reconstructed this season using Buck and Rail fencing. This will be done with the Wildhorse Grazing Association and will help with the management between the two allotments. This will need to be done before cattle can be placed in the Castle Creek Unit. You are authorized to use a Bobcat and full sized pickup and or ATV to transport the materials to the fence site during the last 2 weeks in June, unless otherwise approved. All ponds that need to be cleaned in the Fox Creek unit should be done in the fall after the ground hardens and notify the Forest Service at that time to get authorization.

**Weed Free Hay:** In accordance with State Law, please ensure that range riders bring hay that is certified and tagged noxious weed free.

**Gray Wolf:** The Boone Creek Allotment is an area of known wolf activity. Any knowledge of wolf activity on the allotment needs to be exchanged between the permittees and the Forest Service.

**Grazing Fees:** The grazing fees for the 2011 season are \$1.35/head month. Your grazing fee payment will need to be received prior to turning livestock out on the National Forest. Receipt of payment could take up to a week from the date payment is sent.

**Actual Use Report:** An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you shortly before cattle leave the allotment. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District two weeks after you have removed livestock from your allotment. The association President will need to provide a consolidated report with the numbers and dates when cattle entered the allotment, moved from unit to unit, when cattle were removed from the allotment. Each permittee will need to provide an individual report with dates when their cattle entered and left the allotment.

This information is used for the purpose of evaluating and analyzing: grazing allotment and grazing unit use, compliance with annual operating instructions, and planning next season's grazing management strategy

Applications for refunds/credits for unused portions of your allotment must be requested and filed separately. Please contact our office if you need an application for refund/credit.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Carmela Leavitt at 588-3400.