

**Mill Creek C&H Allotment
2012 Annual Operating Instructions**

Salmon-Challis National Forest
Lost River Ranger District
PO Box 507
Mackay, Idaho 83251

Approved By: /s/ Diane L Weaver 5/4/2012
Diane L. Weaver Date
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ Joshua L Edwards 5/4/2012
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Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: /s/ Rocky Ross 4/27/2012
Rocky Ross Date
Permittee

Please sign and return this page to the above address

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Mill Creek Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Mill Creek Allotment as discussed during the April 19th, 2012 meeting. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependent 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>2012</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Don Phillips/Rocky Ross	554	0	554	7/1-9/30	

<u>Grazing Unit Rotation</u>	<u>Estimated Days</u>	
Cub Canyon	12	7/1-7/12
Horse Lake	12	7/13-7/24
Smithie Fork	19	7/25-8/12
Timber Creek	19	8/13-8/31
Mill Creek	15	9/1-9/15
Squaw Creek	15	9/16-9/30
Total Days	92	

A Range Rider must be on the allotment 5 days a week.

Particular attention needs to focus on preventing cattle drifting out of the Timber Creek unit in the areas of Timber Creek Pass and Snow Bank Meadows onto the Leadore and Pahsimeroi sides of the allotment boundary.

The following standards will apply within this allotment:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>End of Season Standard</u>			
	<u>Median Greenline Stubble Height</u>	<u>Bank Alteration</u>	<u>Woody Browse</u>	<u>Upland Utilization</u>
Squaw Creek	≥ 4 inches	none	≤ 25%	≤ 50%
Mill Creek	≥ 4 inches	none	≤ 25%	≤ 50%
Smithie Fork	≥ 4 inches	none	≤ 25%	≤ 50%
Timber Creek	≥ 4 inches	none	≤ 25%	≤ 50%
Horse Lake				
Little Lost	≥ 6 inches	none	≤ 25%	≤ 50%
Spring Meadow	≥ 4 inches	none	≤ 25%	≤ 50%
Cub Canyon	≥ 4 inches	none	≤ 25%	≤ 50%

End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas in all areas except the Little Lost River portion of the Horse Lake unit where it is a

6-inch stubble height. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height standard 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.

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 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.

INFISH Grazing Module Implementation: We will continue to randomly select key areas for monitoring grazing utilization with permittee participation. Key areas are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit. Key area 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, a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified.

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.

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 cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

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

Grazing Fees: The grazing fees for the 2012 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 2 weeks from the date payment is sent.

Actual Use Report: An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you shortly after cattle leave the allotment. Please notify this office when cattle are removed from the allotment. The association President will need to provide a consolidated report with dates when cattle entered the allotment, when the main herd was 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. Please return the report 2 weeks after it's received to help expedite billing credits for next season and provide data for end of season reports.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Joshua Edwards at work (208) 588-3400.