





Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Pass Creek Allotment. This AOI addresses Forest Service administered lands within the Pass Creek Allotment as discussed during the meetings April 20, 2012. Please review your Term Grazing Permit for range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependent on range readiness and when allowable use indicators 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.

<u>Permittee</u>	<b>Permitted Cattle Authorized</b>			<u>Season</u>	<u>Brand</u>
	<u>Term</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>2012</u>		
Ramshorn Grazing Assoc.	441	0	441	7/15-10/1	
Last Ranch, John Lezamiz	349	0	349	7/15-10/1	
Keith Waymire	137	0	137	7/15-10/1	
Murdock Farms	120	0	120	7/15-10/1	
Moj Broadie	87	0	87	7/15-10/1	
Wade Waddoups	67	67	0	7/15-10/1	
James Andreason	60	0	60	7/15-10/1	
Daryl Andreason	60	60	0	7/15-10/1	
Debbie Broadie	60	0	60	7/15-10/1	
Keith Lewis	235	15	220	7/15-10/1	
P. Hawkins/P. Jones	23	0	23	7/15-10/1	
Albert Fulmer	15	15	0	7/15-10/1	
Leon Williams	6	6	0	7/15-10/1	
	1660	163	1497		

**Grazing Unit Rotation: See Table 4 & 5 attached Pass Creek Allotment 2012 Grazing Plan.**

**Two full time riders are required on the allotment. This means two riders are required on the allotment 7 days per week. If riders need time off permittees need to fill in or ride themselves.**

A Notice of Non-Compliance was issued to the permittees on the Pass Creek Allotment last year for **failure to follow management instructions, failure to maintain range improvements, and failure to meet utilization standards.**

**The following actions are required of you during the 2012 and 2013 grazing seasons to remedy the non-compliance:**

1. All livestock are to be kept in the scheduled pasture according to the AOI or direction from myself or a rangeland management specialist as adjustments are made throughout the season.
2. End of season indicators are not exceeded.
3. Permittees will assist range riders in checking that units ahead and behind the schedule are clean.
4. Range improvements including unit boundary fences, exclosure fences and water troughs are maintained before livestock enter each unit.
5. Cattle are kept out of exclosures.

**Failure to comply with these actions within the prescribed timeframes may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures.**

**Allowable Use Indicators:** End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas except in **Upper Wet Creek, and North Wet Creek Basin where a 6-inch stubble height indicator will be used.** A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height indicator 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. Upland indicator for utilization is 50% use of key species (Idaho fescue and Bluebunch wheatgrass) on current year's growth. **Woody species utilization is 50% current year's growth except Upper and Lower Big Creek where a 30% indicator will be used.** **Streambank alteration indicator of 15% will be used in Upper Wet Creek.**

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.

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.

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.

**Designated Monitoring Areas(DMA's):** DMA's are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit which establishes a record of utilization and trend. The information from the DMA is also used to plan cattle moves, determine if end of season indicators are met, and to evaluate whether current management is effective or needs to be modified. Permittee monitoring, documentation and photos are encouraged before entering and when leaving each unit.

**Cleaning Grazing Units:** Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height indicator being met to ensure allowable use indicators are met. This is especially important during drought conditions. In most cases 7 days should be adequate. **Permittees should assist range riders in moving units and 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 permittees responsibility to correct problems caused by drift from other units.**

**Fence & Water Improvements:** Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit for a list of improvements. Allotment boundary fences should be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment; interior fences should be maintained prior cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

- ✓ **Basin Creek Exclosure water pump and Pine Creek water pumps will be installed prior to livestock entering units.**
- ✓ **Exclosures will be maintained prior to entering units and kept clean of livestock.**

**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. 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 Josh Edwards at (208) 588-3400.

**Table 4. 2012 Annual Operating Instructions Summary \*Estimated 79 days with 1367 head.**

Order of Use	Unit Name	Number of Head	On Date	Off Date	AUM's Permitted 5691	End of Growing Season Stubble Height Indicator/Streambank Alteration/Woody Browse	Trigger Stubble Height	Actual End of Season Stubble Height/streambank Alteration/Woody Browse	Use Exceeded
1	North Wet Creek Basin <sup>1</sup>		7/15			6/NA/50%	7		
2	South Wet Creek Basin <sup>1</sup>			8/13		4/NA/30%	5		
3	Twin Lakes <sup>2</sup>		8/14			4/NA/50%	5		
4	Southeast Pass Creek <sup>2</sup>			8/21		4/NA/50%	5		
5	South Pass Creek <sup>3</sup>		8/22			Wet Creek 4/NA/50% Pine Creek 4/NA/50%	5/5		
6	North Pass Creek <sup>3</sup>			9/11		4/NA/50%	5		
7	Pine Creek		9/12	9/19		4/NA/50%	5		
8	Wet Creek (Upper) <sup>4</sup>		9/20			6/15%/50%	7		
9	Sands/Coal Creek <sup>4</sup>			9/26		4/NA/50%	5		
10	Upper Big Creek <sup>5</sup>		9/27			4/NA/50%	5		
11	Lower Big Creek <sup>5</sup>			10/1		4/NA/50%	5		
	<b>Total</b>			<b>79</b>					

<sup>1</sup>The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in the South Wet Creek Basin unit and 50% of the use occurring in the North Wet Creek Basin unit.

<sup>2</sup> The number of head is based on approximately 73% of the use occurring in the South East Pass Creek unit, and approximately 27% of the use occurring in the Twin Lakes unit.

<sup>3</sup>The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in the South Pass Creek unit and 50% of the use occurring in the North Pass Creek unit.

<sup>4</sup>The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in Sands/Coal Creek unit and 50% of the use occurring in the Wet Creek unit

<sup>5</sup> Upper and Lower Big Creek will be run together this year.

**These dates are an estimate and may vary  $\pm$  2-5 days under normal circumstances. Moves will be authorized by Rangeland Manager based on resource conditions. Length of season and days of use in each pasture may change depending on management and weather factors. (See part three of individual permits)**

Table 5. 2012 Annual Operating Instructions \*Estimated 79 days with head. (All actions are permittees responsibility, unless otherwise noted)

Order of Use	Unit Name	EOS Season Stubble Height Indicator	Trigger	Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit	Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit
1	North Wet Creek Basin	6	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permittees to maintain spring enclosures to standard and install floats.</li> <li>• Placement of salt and fence maintenance.</li> <li>• Install Basin Creek water pump before cattle enter unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move cattle out of North Wet Creek Basin an *estimated 30 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met.</li> <li>• Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.</li> <li>• Run 50 percent of the herd in North Wet Creek Unit and 50 percent in South Wet Creek Basin.</li> <li>• Install temporary water pump, pipeline and trough to water cattle away from the Basin Creek Enclosure.</li> <li>• <b>Keep livestock out of enclosures.</b></li> </ul>
2	South Wet Creek Basin	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permittees to maintain spring enclosures to standard.</li> <li>• Placement of salt and fence maintenance.</li> <li>• Maintain Black Tail Canyon Trough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move cattle out of South Wet Creek Basin an *estimated 30 days from entering either units, when trigger is met, or if cattle congregate along fence.</li> <li>• Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.</li> <li>• Run 50 percent of the herd in North Wet Creek Unit and 50 percent in South Wet Creek Basin.</li> <li>• <b>Keep livestock out of enclosures.</b></li> </ul>
3	Twin Lakes	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain permanent spring enclosure to standard.</li> <li>• Fix upper spring development, and winterize trough yearly.</li> <li>• Irrigate trigger area with dirt tank out flow channel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place approximately 1/3 herd in Twin Lakes for an *estimated 8 days or when trigger is met.</li> <li>• Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.</li> <li>• Maintain to standard spring developments.</li> </ul>
4	Southeast Pass Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permittees ensure electric fence and charger is repaired and working.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place 2/3 of herd in Southeast Pass Creek. (*Total of an estimated 8 days in both Southeast Pass Creek and Twin Lakes Units combined, or when trigger is met)</li> <li>• Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.</li> </ul>

<b>Order of Use</b>	<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>EOS Stubble Ht Indicator</b>	<b>Trigger</b>	<b>Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit</b>	<b>Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit</b>
5	South Pass Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place cattle in unit before off date in South East Pass and Twin Lakes.</li> <li>Place cattle in this unit first then move to North Pass Creek.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place ½ herd along each side of unit. Try to use South Pass Creek first.</li> <li>Monitor and move cattle when trigger is met</li> <li>Move cattle out of South Pass Creek an estimated 21 days from entering unit.</li> <li>Blue Jay Canyon Jack Fence needs heavy maintenance.</li> </ul>
6	North Pass Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain fences and newly developed springs in Wagon Box and Telephone to standard.</li> <li>Maintain floats to troughs.</li> <li>Do not leave cattle on Summit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place ½ herd along each side of unit. Try to use Southwest Pass Creek first.</li> <li>Move cattle out of North Pass Creek an *estimated 21 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. (*Total of an estimated 29 days in the entire Pass Creek drainage.)</li> <li>Permittees provide additional riding during move, and back ride to ensure unit is clean.</li> <li>Maintain Wagon Box spring to standard.</li> </ul>
7	Pine Creek	4 (stream-called Pine Creek by permittees) 4 (Lower Wet Creek)	5  5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put up let down fence between Pass Creek and Hilts Creek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carefully monitor Pine Creek. If cattle drift into this unit please remove immediately.</li> <li>Back ride regularly to ensure unit is cleared and cattle do not move back into unit</li> <li>Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.</li> </ul>
8	Wet Creek	6	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor this unit while in Sands or Big creeks and remove any cattle that may drift into this unit immediately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor while in Sands/Coal Creek, and Big Creek to ensure no drift into unit.</li> <li>Closely monitor enclosure and maintain to ensure cattle don't get in. If cattle do drift in remove them immediately.</li> </ul>
9	Sands/Coal Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place salt in uplands and complete fence maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor Big Creek and Upper Wet Creek to ensure cattle are not getting into those units</li> <li>Move cattle out of Sands/Coal Creek an *estimated 7 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met.</li> <li>Place cattle in uplands immediately to reduce use on lower riparian areas.</li> <li>Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.</li> <li>Install temporary water pump, pipeline and trough to water cattle from Wet Creek, discourage use in Coal Creek.</li> </ul>

Order of Use	Unit Name	EOS Season Stubble Height Indicator	Trigger	Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit	Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit
10	Upper Big Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain upper enclosure fence.</li> <li>• Maintain Massacre divide spring enclosure and reset headbox to standard before entering unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Lower Wet Creek to keep cattle from drifting into that unit</li> <li>• Monitor Upper Big Creek to keep cattle from congregating.</li> <li>• Distribute cattle in uplands and monitor the Wet Creek unit for drift.</li> <li>• Move all cattle out of both upper and lower Big Creek in an *estimated 4 days from entering either unit, or when trigger is met.</li> <li>• Back riding to ensure unit is clean</li> <li>• Keep livestock out of the Upper Big Creek enclosure.</li> </ul>
11	Lower Big Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain all unit boundary fences, place salt away from creeks</li> <li>• When moving cattle in from bottom cattle will stay in bottom of unit one day and then move into Upper Big Creek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Upper Wet Creek to keep cattle from drifting into that unit</li> <li>• Keep cattle pushed to Upper Big Creek to allow for drifting back into Lower Big Creek.</li> <li>• Move all cattle out of both upper and lower Big Creek in an *estimated 4 days from entering either unit, or when triggers are met.</li> <li>• Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.</li> </ul>

**\*Estimated days in units are based on past management and drought. Remember these are only estimates to help meet triggers in units. If in any unit triggers are met earlier than these estimated dates, cattle need to be moved to next unit accordingly. In the same regard, if cattle are distributed and have not met triggers by the estimated date, these dates may be adjusted with approval from authorized forest officer. Please remember to notify your association president or the Forest Service with any adjustments or changes to your annual operating instructions.**

### General Items To Be Completed Prior to the 2012 Grazing Season

1. Continue to work on communication system.
2. Ensure riders, permittees, and Forest Service personnel:
  - a. Are aware of the need to complete accurate records
  - b. Know where key areas are located
  - c. Know when to measure indicators
  - d. Know how to measure indicators
  - e. Understand riders have authority to move cattle to next unit early, if necessary.
  - f. Know to look for changes in cattle behavior (distribution, congregation, walking fences) as an indication of the time to move
3. Ensure fences and water developments are maintained to standard before cattle enter allotment and units

### General Items To Be Completed During the 2012 Grazing Season

1. Ensure accurate records are kept
2. Hold permittee and Forest Service field meetings during the season to discuss potential issues and resource conditions. One will be held in early September, before cattle move from the Pass Creek side to the Wet Creek side. Others will be held as needed.
3. Ensure salt is placed off streams; at least ¼ mile
4. Ensure units are regularly ridden with emphasis on streams
5. Ensure back riding occurs in all units
6. **Remove Bulls in a timely manner after they have been effective.**
7. **Permittees need to provide additional help to riders when moving from unit to unit to ensure units are being cleaned.**

### 2012 Recommended Developments to Improve Livestock Distribution in Order of Priority

1. Maintain allotment boundary fences prior to cattle entering the allotment; interior fences should be maintained prior cattle entering a new unit.

### Recommended Developments to Protect/Restore Resource

1. **Basin Creek Exclosure water pump and Pine Creek water pumps will be installed prior to livestock entering units.**
2. **Exclosures need to be maintained prior to entering units so that cattle will not get into them.**