



File Code: 2230

Date: May 15, 2013

Maureen and Mickey Roskelly
Runing T Cattle Co, LLC

Challis, ID 83226

Dear Maureen and Mickey,

This letter serves as your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions for the Squaw Creek C&H allotment, and should be considered as an extension of Term Grazing Permit # 30013. 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
East Fork Ranches LLC	236 cow/calf	Term	6/16 – 9/30	830
Running T LLC	237 cow/calf	Term	6/16 – 9/30	834
	60 cow/calf		7/16 – 9/30	152
Cutler	142 cow/calf	Term	7/16 – 9/30	359

Authorized Use for 2013

Permittees	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
East Fork Ranches LLC	236 cow/calf	Term	6/16 – 9/30	830
Running T LLC	237 cow/calf	Term	6/16 – 9/30	834
	60 cow/calf		7/16 – 9/30	152
Cutler	142 cow/calf	Term	7/16 – 9/30	359

Pasture Rotation 2013

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Lower Squaw Creek	473 ^B	6/16	7/15
Upper Squaw Creek ^A	473 ^B	7/16	8/15
Juliette	202 ^C	8/16	8/31
Happy Hollow	202 ^C	9/1	9/30
Kinnikinic Creek	473 ^B	9/1	9/15
Trealor Creek (Rest)	0	Rest	Rest
Riparian Pasture (Rest)	0	Rest	Rest

^A Livestock will not graze in the Upper Squaw Creek Unit after August 15 during these rotations to protect spawning bull trout and their redds.

^B East Fork Ranches' 236 cow/calf pairs and Running T's 237 cow/calf pairs will be grazing in the Squaw Creek units and Kinnikinic unit.

^C Running T's 60 cow/calf pairs and Cutler's 142 cow/calf pairs will be grazing only in the Happy Hollow and Juliette Units.



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.

Entry: Livestock will enter the allotment from the BLM to the Trealor Unit either by established roads or upland trails.

Unit Movement: Livestock will be trailed from the Trealor Unit to the Upper Squaw Creek Unit using established roads or trails. The duration of the move is one day for the main herd with up to three additional days to move the remainder, each time with a rider and progressively smaller numbers.

Two permittees will trail livestock to the Happy Hollow Unit via the east third of the Upper Squaw Creek Unit. These cows will end in the Juliette Unit. The duration of each move is two to three days. The third permittee will trail livestock to the Kinnikinic Unit.

Exit: Livestock will be trailed from either the Juliette or the Kinnikinic units to BLM lands and then to the permittees' home ranches

Annual Use Indicators

Unit	Annual Use Indicators			
	Average Greenline Stubble Height (<i>Carex</i> spp.)	% Bank Alteration	% Woody Browse (willow, alder, aspen)	% Upland Utilization
Lower Squaw Creek	>6 inches	<10	<30 ^A or 50 ^B	<50
Trealor Creek	>6 inches	<20	<30 ^A or 50 ^B	<50
Upper Squaw Creek	>6 inches	<20	<30 ^A or 50 ^B	<50
Kinnikinic Creek	>6 inches	<20	<30 ^A or 50 ^B	<50
Happy Hollow	>4 inches	<20	<30 ^A or 50 ^B	<50
Juliette	>6 inches	<20	<30 ^A or 50 ^B	<50

^ASingle-stemmed species such as aspen ^BMulti-stemmed species such as willow and alder

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. Please inform the authorized officer in charge 3 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 ¼ to ½ 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 OPINION (BO) REQUIREMENTS

These conservation measures are reflected in the grazing system, standards and guidelines outlined in this AOI.

- A three unit deferred rotation and rest-rotation grazing system will be used.
- The Lower Squaw Creek and Treavor Creek units will be rested one year out of every three years to protect fish habitat and steelhead redds, and to allow the area to recover and improve riparian and aquatic habitat.
- Upper Squaw Creek Unit will be used August 10 through 20 during the first year of the rotation, primarily to move livestock to the east side of the unit to access the next units in the rotation. Livestock will cross Martin Creek once before August 15 to get to the east side of the unit.
- Herd management will focus on active riding to keep livestock out of the Martin Creek drainage after the crossing to protect spawning bull trout and their redds. Martin Creek is the only known occupied bull trout spawning habitat in the allotment.
- The second and third years of the rotation, livestock will be off the Upper Squaw Creek Unit after August 15 to protect spawning bull trout and their redds.
- The Riparian Pasture Unit will not be grazed to protect fish habitat and steelhead redds. Livestock are kept out of this unit by a combination of natural barriers and existing fence.
- The on-date will be varied depending on range readiness to reduce bank alteration and impacts to vegetation along the greenline.
- All units will have annual woody browse indicators of less than 30% on single stem species (aspen) and 50% on multi-stem species (willow, alder) to ensure livestock impacts to woody species are limited.
- All units will have an upland grass utilization indicator of less than 50% to ensure livestock impacts to grass species are limited.
- Lower Squaw Creek, Treavor Creek, and Upper Squaw Creek units will have a minimum 6 inch *Carex* spp. stubble height annual indicator to improve riparian vegetation.
- The stubble height indicator in the Juliette and Kinnikinic Units will be increased from 4 to 6 inches to improve riparian vegetation.
- The Happy Hollow Unit *Carex* spp. stubble height indicator will continue to be 4 inches.
- All units except for the Lower Squaw Creek Unit will have a less than 20% bank alteration annual indicator to limit livestock impacts on bank stability and trampling.

- Lower Squaw Creek Unit will have a less than 10% bank alteration annual indicator due to bank stability less than the 90% RMO at the monitoring site.
- The annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment. These indicators are designed to help us meet our long-term riparian resource objectives for riparian vegetation and bank stability, particularly in designated critical habitat and potential spawning areas. The annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel.
- Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
- Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas by frequent riding to aid in meeting the annual use indicators.
- Fences and water developments have been placed to reduce livestock use on streams and their associated riparian areas and will continue to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
- Unit moves will be made utilizing uplands and roads to the extent feasible.

Range Improvements

Thank you for your efforts to continue maintenance/reconstruction to structural improvements on your allotment. Per our meeting this spring, reconstruction and/or maintenance need to be completed on the following developments:

Squaw Creek

Logging Camp water development #330162; Maggie's Gulch #1 and #2 water developments #330307 and #330308; Squaw Creek water development #330185; Treavor Ridge Suspension Fence #330127; and Cash Creek Fences #1 and #2, #330110. **These developments are necessary to control livestock and will need to be fully functional prior to livestock turnout in 2013.**

Bayhorse

No range improvements needing maintenance and/or reconstruction were identified in the Bayhorse portion of the Squaw Creek Allotment; however, **all range improvements that are necessary to control livestock will need to be fully functional prior to livestock turnout in 2013.**

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 cows 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 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 off 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 Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879- 4161. We are looking forward to working with you on the allotment this grazing season.

Sincerely,

KRIS STEIN
District Ranger

Enclosures