2012 Annual Operating Instructions
Lower East Fork C&H Allotment

1: INTRODUCTION:

Permitted Use:

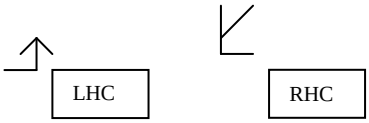
Permit	Numbers	Season
Wayne & Melodie Baker #4557	248 c/c	06/23 – 09/30
Wayne & Melodie Baker #4553	32 c/c	06/11 – 09/30

Authorized Use: Upon payment of fees, you are authorized to graze as follows:

Permittee	Numbers	Approximate Season*	HMs
Wayne & Melodie Baker	124 c/c	06/23-08/25	261
	24 c/c	06/23-08/25	50

*Actual on-dates, off-dates, and grazing rotations will be determined on the basis of range readiness, utilization, or other resource considerations as deemed necessary by the authorized Forest Officer. Such changes will typically be made in consultation with the permittee(s).

Permitted Livestock Brands: Wayne & Melodie Baker



2: COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2 Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements. Your compliance with these instructions is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and these instructions may result in issuance of a notice of non-compliance with the terms of your grazing permit.

Permittees with livestock in rested units, grazing units outside the season of use, and grazing areas not authorized, will be held non-compliant with the terms and conditions of their Term Grazing Permit. Such non-compliance may result in billing for excess use, permit modification / cancellation, or other actions as provided in FSH 2209.13.

Discussed at the previous spring meetings, which apply to the 2012 grazing season:

- **The need to routinely inspect the previously grazed unit for stragglers, if cattle are found move them off in a timely manner.**

- Livestock from the French Unit / Holman drainage have gotten in into the Salmon River Springs Allotment in recent years due an open gate on the trail.
    - **The permittee agreed to routinely check the gate, make sure it is closed prior to livestock grazing the drainage.**

Notice of non-compliance actions: A letter of non-compliance was given to the permittee for the 2011 grazing season.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require modifications to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

All livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest is required to be certified weed free.

3: PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS:

There were no reports of livestock drift onto the Salmon River Springs Allotment in 2011. We appreciate the extra riding efforts to see that the gate remained closed.

See Section 10: Inspections and Monitoring for further information on the 2011 grazing season.

2010 and 2011 Sullivan Creek pasture inspections indicated the need to change the trailing route through the Sullivan/Potaman Unit. As an adaptive management measure, the cattle will stay high on the ridge between Big Lake Creek and Sullivan Creek (avoiding the riparian in Sullivan Creek) and trail only ½ his herd from the S-CNF to Pistol Creek, (the other half will be trucked). The broken brace at the top of Corral Cr & SullivanCr trail has been repaired.

Extra efforts in 2012 will be focused to the maintain the drift fence at the head of Sullivan Creek, and to do additional riding checking for any cattle drift in Sullivan or other areas where utlization standards have been met.

4: BILLING:

The 2012 grazing year rate for cattle is $1.35 per head month. A Bill for Collection will be mailed to you.

Grazing fees must be paid by the date specified on the Bill for Collection to:
USDA Forest Service c/o Citibank
PO Box 301550
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process must be received before livestock can enter NFS lands.

5: LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT:

Pasture	2012 Rotation
Sullivan Unit	The **Sullivan/Potaman area will be used to only trail cattle** from the adjacent Salmon-

Wayne	Challis NF to the French Creek Unit. ➢ Approximately 06/28-06/30 trail ½ the herd from the S-CNF to the ridge between Big Lake Creek and Sullivan Creek with the objective of **avoiding the riparian in Sullivan Creek in 2012** while trailing to Pistol/French ***The Sullivan/Potaman area needs to be routinely checked and cleaned of all cattle.***
French Unit* Wayne	Approximately 07/01 - ½ the herd will be trucked to the corrals at Mill Creek, then trailed up Mill Creek onto the allotment, using Holman, Pistol & French, and spending the last two weeks in Silver Rule Creek (**Slate Creek / Silver Rule Creek - livestock will enter after July 15 for salmon spawning, and will be removed prior to August 15 for bull trout spawning)**, and then to Sink Creek, then onto private by 08/25. ***Utilization will dictate the length of time spent in each drainage.*** ***Previously grazed areas need to be <u>routinely checked and cleaned</u> of all cattle.***

****When utilization standards are met in each pasture, cattle are to be moved on to the next scheduled pasture or removed from the allotment.***

Actual on-dates, off-dates, and grazing rotations will be determined on the basis of range readiness, utilization, or other resource considerations as deemed necessary by the authorized Forest Officer. Such changes will typically be made in consultation with the permittee(s).

You will be responsible for monitoring livestock move thresholds or "triggers" during the grazing season. These "triggers" will assist you in ensuring that end of season utilization standards are not exceeded. The Sawtooth NRA range staff will conduct spot checks as necessary. Typically, "triggers" will be the standard(s) listed below in section 6, "Standards and Guidelines". **It is strongly suggested that livestock be moved before utilization standards are reached.** This will help to prevent forage utilization in excess of standards, allowing for time to clean the unit of stragglers.

The scheduled "off-date" is not the day to start moving your herd; it is the date by which you should have all permitted livestock removed from the pasture or allotment.

If you move your permitted livestock on to the allotment later than the scheduled "on-date", and want to stay past your "off-date", then you must make arrangements early in the grazing season, and obtain approval from the District Ranger or other authorized Forest Officer.

Please realize that it is in your best interest to keep cattle distributed throughout useable areas in the currently authorized pasture. **Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you.** If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and around water developments, utilization standards will likely be reached prior to the scheduled pasture move or "off-date". This may result in directed early pasture moves or early removal of livestock from the allotment.

<u>6: STANDARDS AND GUIDES:</u>

<u>The following restrictions apply to this allotment</u>:

- **Boulder Creek Unit** – *Rested from grazing*

- **Above 9000 feet** – *Areas above 9,000 feet elevation are restricted from livestock grazing. Areas where physical barriers are not in place the permittee will need to routinely inspect and remove any livestock from the closed areas.*

You are responsible for tracking forage use levels and complying with utilization standards. For your convenience, the Lower East Fork C&H Allotment maximum allowable forage utilization levels under the Sawtooth FLRMP are listed below.

Riparian Areas (greenline)*:

Unit	Creek	Vegetative Type	UtilizationStandard*
French Creek	All Creeks	greenline grasses	6" or 30%
		willows	30%
		greenline grasses	6" or 30%
		willows	30%

* Water sedge (Carex aquatilis) and/or Nebraska sedge (Carex nebraskensis) are normally the key grasslike species measured to determine riparian (greenline) utilization. In their absence, the same utilization standards apply to the palatable forage species that are present. In areas dominated by Kentucky bluegrass no more than 40% (dry weight) or less than 3" stubble height is allowed. Any species of willow (salix spp.) may be used to determine riparian (greenline) utilization of woody species.

Forage Utilization standards for riparian areas shall not exceed 30% use of most palatable forage species, or must retain a minimum 6 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first, *when riparian goals and objectives are not being met* (Management Area 3, Standard 03109).

Upland Vegetative Cover Types**:

Unit	Vegetative Type	Utilization Standard**
French Creek	Sagebrush/grass	50%
	Sagebrush/Bluebunch	30%

** Bluebunch wheatgrass (Agropryon spicatum) and Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis) will typically be the key species measured to determine upland utilization, though other species may be may be measured to estimate utilization at the discretion of the Forest Officer.

Early season or season long pastures: 40 percent use or retain a minimum of 3- inch stubble height for Kentucky bluegrass, a 6-inch stubble height for Bluebunch wheatgrass, and a 2-inch stubble height for Idaho fescue. (Standard RAST01).

To meet wildlife winter range needs, maximum bluebunch wheatgrass utilization will not exceed 30% at any time during the livestock grazing season on bighorn sheep winter range in Big Lake Creek, Bluett Creek, and Corral Creek (ROD Page 2).

Aspen/Cottonwood:
To manage for the maximum re-establishment and recruitment of aspen and cottonwood, as well as to prevent high utilization of willows, forage utilization of woody species will not exceed maximum of 30% use of current year's growth (ROD Page 2).

Unit	Vegetative Type	Utilization Standard
French Creek	Aspen/Cottonwood	30%

7: IMPROVEMENTS:

All improvements for which you have maintenance responsibility are listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Range improvements that will be necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2012 grazing season are all boundary fences, unit division fences and water developments used in the units you are grazing, which are listed in your Term Grazing Permits.

- **Pistol Creek W/D # 45708**
  - The highest trough needs new posts
    - All wildlife ramps need to be attached in troughs.

- **Lower Mill Creek Trough #45702**
  - Could use some fittings, and there is no overflow
  - Please provide the FS with a list and we will see if we have any fittings on hand.

Improvements will be maintained to Forest Service standards before livestock enter the pasture/allotment.

When improvements have been maintained, please call the range staff at 774-3000 and report that maintenance has been completed. If verification is not received from the permittee prior to the allotment "on-date", follow-up inspections may be made. If it is found that maintenance has not been completed, and the responsible permittee's livestock are present on the allotment, the permittee may be billed for unauthorized use and / or permit action taken for non-compliance.

If an allotment is in non-use status, the permittee is still responsible for improvement maintenance.

Improvements used in common with an adjoining permittees, such as allotment boundary fences, must be maintained to standard before either permittee allows livestock to enter the allotments.

All troughs must have a wildlife escape ramp installed in them. Failure to install these ramps may result in non-compliance for the season. Please contact SNRA range staff if you need ramps or instructions for installation.

No ground disturbing activities may be conducted by the permittee or their personnel on National Forest System lands without prior approval from the authorized Forest Officer.

Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should be coordinated with the range staff.

8: PERMITTEE OR RIDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Please notify SNRA range staff at 208-774-3000 before allowing your livestock to enter the Lower East Fork C&H Allotment.

Because of increasing public use, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is an inconvenience. However it is still the **permittee's responsibility to keep their permitted livestock in the approved pasture/allotment.** Routine checks should be made by you and your rider to assure compliance.

Salt should be used to spread livestock utilization across the pasture being grazed. The permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.

Livestock salting is prohibited within riparian areas and wetlands. Do not place salt within 100 yards of any watering area or meadow unless you receive prior approval. This includes, but is not limited to, springs, seeps, water troughs, and creeks.

Salt will be removed from areas where the maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season, whichever occurs first.

By USDA order #04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

9: REQUIRED REPORTING:

Enclosed is an actual use record form for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the time (dates) livestock spend on an allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, salting, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs etc. The grazing use record should be returned to the district office within 30 days after the grazing season.

Please submit requests for credits or refunds before December 31.

10: INSPECTIONS & MONITORING:

Mulitple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) sites read in 2011 were Sullivan Creek, Upper French Creek, Upper Pistol Creek.

- End of season 6" stubble height compliance on water sedge (Carex aquatilis) or Nebraska sedge (Carex nebraskensis) was not met.
    - **Adaptive management action is needed in livestock management in such a way as not to exceed the end of season riparian standards.** Possible management actions are reduced number of days on the unit, timing, reduced number of livestock, back riding to check for strays in previouslly grazed units, and / or daily riding.
    - **It is up to the permittees to determine how to achieve these standards for 2012. If standards are not met at the end of the 2012 grazing season, further administrative action will occur prior to the 2013 season.**

Due to a requirement from NOAA fisheries, data must be collected for at least one annual indicator in each grazed pasture each year to maintain compliance with their consultation letter.

- Permittee assistance with photo and stubble height of aquatic big leaf sedges estimates were discussed with the permittees at the 04/08/2010 annual meeting. The permittees agreed to taking photos and write down stubble estimates as the cattle are put on a pasture, and when leaving the pasture. A map of MIM sites was provided to you in 2010. Contact Robert Garcia (774-3014) or Beth Bratlie (774-3013) if you would like help locating the MIM sites or need a new map. Please be sure to get this information to the range staff in Stanley at the end of the grazing season.
- **This also applies to the 2012 grazing season.**

Brands will be checked periodically throughout the grazing season.

Range inspections may be made several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. If you are interested in participating in allotment inspections, please notify the range staff at the beginning of the grazing season.

End-of-season compliance monitoring will be conducted by the SNRA Range Staff. Exceeding end-of-season utilization standards will be regarded as an instance of non-compliance with the terms of your grazing permit. In addition to the potential for permit action, this may further result in the modification of grazing management (including reductions in Head Months or permitted area) until the risk of adverse impacts to habitat is minimized.

11: COORDINATION & COOPERATION:

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending livestock, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to:

- John Rachael at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Headquarters Office in Boise, Idaho (208-334-3700)
- Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208-378-5077)
- Eric Simonson, local Wildlife Services contact in Challis, Idaho (208-879-2178)

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

In order to reduce the potential for depredation, the Forest Service recommends that the following procedures be implemented each grazing season:

- Remove cattle and saddle stock carcasses from the area where they will not serve as an attractant to predators. The intent of this recommendation is not to require removal of carcasses from the allotment, but to remove them out of areas currently being grazed or areas soon to be grazed.

Work with IDF&G and Wildlife Services in implementing other effective preventative actions to reduce the risk of depredation.

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12: OTHER:

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment's resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of this allotment, we would like to hear from you. If you have any questions concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please call Robert Garcia 774-3014, Beth 774-3013 or myself at 727-5000.

13: MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:

See actual use record for below

14: SIGNATURE:

/s/ Joby P Timm 05/15/2012

District Ranger **Date**

2012 ACTUAL USE RECORD
Lower East Fork C&H Allotment

Planned use from the AOI:

Permittee	Unit	Number	Season	HMs
Wayne & Melodie Baker	French Creek	124 c/c	06/23-08/25	261 HMs
		24 c/c	06/23-08/25	50 HMs

Please fill in your actual use by the unit grazed and the number of livestock and dates grazed in each unit. Bulls count as part of your permitted numbers.

Unit	Number of Livestock	Date entered Unit	Date left Unit

LOSSES: Indicate number and class of animals lost by cause.

Unit	Class of Lvstk	Predators	Poison	Other

Days spent maintaining allotment improvements:_____
Approximate cost of materials: $_____
Approximate cost to manage livestock on National Forest, including riding, salting etc.:$_____

Comments:

Signature:_____Date:_____