

**2012 Annual Operating Instructions
Lower East Fork C&H Allotment**

1: INTRODUCTION:

Permitted Use:

Permit	Numbers	Season
Baker Ranch Partnership #14507	254 c/c	06/11 – 09/30
Richard D. & Cheryl Baker #4561	30 c/c	06/23 - 09/30

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

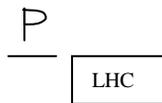
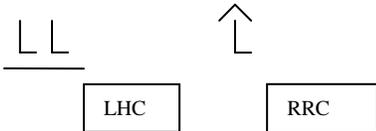
Permittee	Unit	Numbers	Approximate Season*	HMs
Baker Ranch Partnership	Mtn Mdw	30 c/c	06/11 – 07/15	35
	Bluett, then Big Lake	60 c/c	06/11 – 09/01	163
	Big Lake	29 c/c	07/06 – 09/15	69
Richard D. & Cheryl Baker	Big Lake	21 c/c	07/06 – 09/15	50

** 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:

Baker Ranch Partnership

Richard D. & Cheryl 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.

- **Routinely inspect previously grazed unit for stragglers, if cattle are found move them off in a timely manner.**
- In past grazing seasons livestock were reported, and signs of livestock impact documented in the Little Redfish Lake area.
 - **Additional riding and containment efforts will address the issue.**
 - No documented occurrences of livestock in Little Redfish area noted in 2011.

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:

No pasture inspections occurred in 2011 on Big Lake Creek, past ocular estimates made during pasture inspections have indicated compliance with utilization standards.

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*
Mtn Meadow Jr.	On approximately 06/11, 30 c/c will graze Mountain Meadow Unit until 07/15 (those cattle will then go to private land in Stanley)
Bluett Jr.	On approximately 06/11, 60 c/c will go onto Bluett Creek until approximately 07/05, then they will go onto Big Lake Creek on 07/06 until approximately 09/01
Big Lake Cr Jr.	On approximately 07/06, 17 c/c will enter Big Lake Creek until approximately 09/01
Big Lake Cr Doug	On approximately 07/06, 21 c/c will enter Big Lake Creek until approximately 09/15
Boulder Unit	Rested

****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.

6: STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

The following restrictions apply to this allotment:

- **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.*
- **Upper Silver Rule Creek** - *Upper Silver Rule Creek within the Big Lake Creek Unit, is restricted from livestock grazing. A fence is in place in Upper Big Lake Creek, however it needs a short extension on one end to prevent cattle from getting into the restricted area.*
- **Areas where physical barriers are not in place the permittee will need to actively manage to minimize livestock drift, routinely inspect and remove any livestock in the rested or closed areas.**
- **Riders are expected to be on the allotment almost daily, actively herding to minimize livestock drift, routinely inspecting know areas of concern (areas above 9,000 feet elevation) and promptly remove livestock found in rested or 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	Utilization Standard*
Big Lake Bluett	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**
Big Lake Bluett	Sagebrush/grass	50%
	Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass	30%

** Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) will typically be the key species measured to determine upland utilization, though other species 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
Big Lake	Aspen/Cottonwood	30%
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.

- Mtn Mdw Fence # 45304
 - **The drift fence and gate must be in satisfactory condition prior to livestock turnout.**

- Upper Big Lake Fence
 - Fence needs extension on north end, cattle are getting around it
 - A work day will be scheduled in 2012 with the permittee and FS to work on this fence extension.

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.

Big Lake Fence – Fence must be let down within seven days after your "off-date". Please notify the range staff when the fence has been let down.

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

Improvements used in common with 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:

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.

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 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
District Ranger

05/15/2012
Date

