

**2012 GOODING ALLOTMENT ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST - FAIRFIELD RANGER DISTRICT**

PERMITTEES	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Head Months*	Permitted Season of Use	Authorized Head Months	Authorized Season of Use
SMOKEY DOME LLC c/o ROD GONSALES	620 c/c	2283	6/20 - 10/9	1219 (360 c/c)	6/20 - 9/30 103 days
RESOURCE PROTECTION NON-USE				1064	6/20 - 9/30

HMs are the product of variable numbers and seasons of use (i.e. more time & less numbers or less time & more numbers)

COMPLIANCE:

These Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are considered part of your Term Grazing Permit, Part 2, Clause 8(a), and you have agreed to carry out its provisions and other instructions upon signing the Term Grazing Permit. Consequently, failure to follow this AOI is a violation of your term grazing permit. The contents of this year's AOI reflect our discussion at your annual meeting. Situations may develop during the grazing season requiring changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the Range Management Specialist to obtain approval before initiating the change.

CHANGE REQUEST NOTIFICATION/PROCEDURE: The permittee will provide the Fairfield District Ranger with notification of any proposed changes to these Annual Operating Instructions. This could include changes in animal number, season of use, length of stay, class of livestock, or a change in pasture rotation. The Fairfield District Ranger or his staff will document and consider the request. If approved, the FS will provide confirmation of the change. You must acquire this authorization and confirmation before initiating any changes.

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT: According to Idaho law, hay and straw transported onto National Forest land must be certified Noxious Weed Free.

2011 GRAZING SEASON REVIEW

Utilization Review:

Stubble height and utilization levels on all Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs) within the allotment were in compliance with Forest Service standards.

Management Effectiveness Review:

The management of cattle across the allotment during 2011 season was acceptable despite issues unrelated to your livestock operation. It appeared the cattle were uniformly distributed across the allotment because utilization standards were met.

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Monitoring:

We will continue gathering stubble height and utilization data at riparian and upland DMA locations this summer. Permittees need to watch these areas closely because it is your responsibility to move livestock to meet the required stubble height standards. Grazing Response Index (GRI) sites will continue to be evaluated. The 2011 grazing season was the 4th year of the 5 year NEPA decision that required 35% resource protection non-use. During the 2012 and 2013 grazing seasons non-use for resource protection will still be required.

Issues Needing Resolution:

Tyrannis, King of the West and Lower Carrie Creek remain limited to a 10 day trail through. When rotating to a new pasture, extra riding will be needed to assure livestock are completely cleaned from the previous pasture.

As stated in your permit, maintenance of structural developments must be performed prior to livestock entering the pasture where the developments occur. Remember, it is your responsibility to maintain the eastern allotment boundary fence that separates your Stovepipe Pasture from the Willow Creek C&H Allotment.

Coordination:

There will be one lamb band of sheep crossing the Gooding Allotment. It will trail west to east on the Little Smoky road to their destination near the Five Points campground. This band will be allowed to overnight near the intersection of the Carrie Creek and Little Smoky roads. One other band of ewes without lambs will be trailing off Forest in early October via the Couch Summit road and Five Points Creek trail, exiting the Gooding Allotment at Couch Summit.

BILLING INFORMATION:

Grazing fees for this season will be \$1.35 per head month. Payments are to be made by the DUE DATE shown on your grazing bill. The process takes approximately 10 days from the time you submit your bill until it is processed and verified through Lockbox. Notice of payment must be received by the district office prior to your entry. If notice has not been received by the district office you cannot turn out your livestock onto National Forest lands. Payment validates your Term Grazing Permit and authorizes you to graze permitted livestock.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

The following is a sequence and schedule for distributing your cattle on the Gooding Allotment.

2012 ROTATION SCHEDULE

Order of Use	1st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Last
Unit Name	Beef Pasture	Stovepipe/ Carrie	Worswick/ Grindstone	Williams/ Rosetta	Red Rock	Beef Pasture
Cattle Numbers	360	360	360	360	360	360
Season of Use	6/20 Enter					Leave 9/30

Actual cattle numbers may vary, but actual use will not exceed the 1,500 Authorized HMs.

1. All bulls or livestock over six months of age are considered permitted animals. Livestock will be permitted on the allotment only for 360 cow/calf pairs for the 6/20-9/30 season listed on the Bill for Collection, but only after payment has been received.
2. Planned use may be adjusted by the Forest Service according to range readiness, drought, high fire danger, or due to the availability of forage and water. The length of stay for units may be negotiable but no longer than your permitted season. This will depend on residual stubble heights and overall grazing impacts, especially within riparian areas.

The maximum allowable use level will be influenced by the number of animals, length of stay, weather, amount of herding, and other permittee management practices. It is your responsibility to move livestock from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is reached. We would be willing to help you determine the proper time to exit the pasture if you feel the 4" riparian utilization standard is getting close. Just bring this concern to our attention so we may be of assistance. We ask that you give us adequate notice to respond to your request. Permittees are responsible to manage their livestock in a way that does not impair or degrade the condition of the range, especially riparian areas.

STANDARDS & GUIDES

ALLOWABLE USE – Allowable use is the degree of grazing use specified for a particular area or plant species. Refer to the use level stated below. It is the maximum utilization allowed on key upland grasses (40-50% or about 3" left) such as Idaho fescue or bluebunch wheatgrass and key riparian sedges (45% or about 4" left) such as Nebraska sedge. These use levels are the same ones contained in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Sawtooth National Forest Utilization Standards

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives may occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in Forest Service Manual 1922.5

- A) **Upland Vegetative Cover Types**: Early season pastures, 1st & 2nd entry – 40% use.
After seed ripe conditions or late season pastures – 50% use.
- B) **Riparian Areas**: Retain a minimum 4 –inch stubble height of greenline species (sedges).
Once in the last pasture, if allowable use occurs prior to the end of your authorized season, cattle must be removed from the allotment.

STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS: See Part 3 of you Term Grazing Permit for a list of structural range developments. The permittee will inspect and maintain each development according to the Term Grazing Permit specifications. This is required before livestock enter or are placed into the next pasture. Livestock may be held off or may be required to leave the allotment if

assigned maintenance has not been completed. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained prior to the entry dates of adjoining allotments. Permittees in non-use status are still responsible for their proportionate share of maintenance. It is the responsibility of the permittee to notify the Forest Service after each pasture has been maintained.

Note: Because this is only your second year and it takes time to learn the allotment we will be as lenient as we can about water development maintenance. You must make a sincere effort to maintain as many as you can. When you maintain your water developments make sure the wildlife escape ramps are present and functional. Please contact us if you need replacement ramps.

Motorized Vehicle Access to Developments: Unless the FS has decommissioned a particular road segment, all constructed mining and logging roads exhibiting cut and fill slopes will remain open to permittee motorized travel. See your Term Grazing Permit (TGP) for a complete list of closures and exemptions. If requested additional motorized closure exemptions may be granted by the District Ranger.

LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION - Proper salting techniques need to be practiced. Place salt in open areas of low natural livestock concentration at least ¼ mile away from water, and on high ground such as ridges or saddles that are accessible and used as livestock travelways. Do not place salt and supplements on system roads, trails or in meadows. Riding must be done to disperse cattle within each allotment pasture.

LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP – Permitted cattle must be owned and marked with a brand registered to the permittee. The brand must also be identified on the TGP application.

REQUIRED REPORTING – The permittee is required to keep accurate records concerning movement of livestock and to furnish such information to the Forest Service. Mid-season actual use reporting must be within a week of moving cattle from one pasture to the other. End-of-season actual use reports must be supplied to the Forest Service no later than the last day of October. Death loss records are also desirable because they assist in identifying areas where plant or animal control may be needed in the future. The Permittee must notify the Fairfield Ranger District at least five (5) days before cattle enter the allotment. This will allow district personnel the opportunity to count the livestock if we so desire. Failure to provide on and off dates will be considered permit non-compliance and will also negate the possibility of any future request to adjust your numbers or season of use, or to receive a credit or refund for unused head months.

OTHER – Observing, documenting, and reporting other uses that occur on the allotment provide valuable information regarding overall management. These uses could include: unauthorized livestock use, mining related activities, recreation conflicts, conflicts with authorized sheep trailing, predator problems, and unusual wildlife sightings (e.g. wolverines, lynx, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, moose, etc.)

ADDITIONAL ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Livestock that are discovered before or after their permitted season or not within their permitted area are considered excess use livestock. When excess use livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee, the permittee will be billed for them at the unauthorized use rate and permit non-compliance action may also be initiated.

Dead livestock must be removed or disposed of on National Forest Lands if they are within 300 feet of flowing water or system trails or roadways.

If you have any questions or suggestion to improve the management of the allotment, please feel free to contact Kevin Eldredge or John Shelly at (208) 764-3202 or stop by the district office in Fairfield.

ACTUAL USE SUMMARY

	Beef Pasture	Stovepipe/ Carrie	Worswick/ Grindstone	Williams/ Rosetta	Red Rock
DATES/NUMBERS ENTERED					
DATES/NUMBERS EXITED					

Remarks: (maintenance, cattle losses, weed infestations, and unforeseen problems)

2012 GOODING AOI

REVIEWED BY:

[Signature] _____
Date

APPROVED BY:

Mike Detton
District Ranger

5-24-12
Date