ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST
MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT
Grazing Year 2012

ALLOTMENT: GOOSE CREEK C&H

PERMITTEE(S)	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Season of Use	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
Bruce Bedke	165 c/c Forest 33 c/c BLM	5/11-11/15 *	165 c/c Forest 33 c/c BLM	5/11-11/15 *
Cranny Farms	629 c/c Forest 218 c/c BLM	5/11-11/15 *	629 c/c Forest 218 c/c BLM	5/11-11/15 *
Michael Poulton	221 c/c Forest 48 c/c BLM 18 HM's Layton PVT Pasture	5/11-11/15 *	221 c/c Forest 48 c/c BLM 18 HM's Layton PVT Pasture	5/11-11/15 *
Winecup Inc.	484 c/c Forest	5/11-11/15 *	484 c/c Forest	5/11-11/15 *
*FS/BLM MOU dated 8/03/96 allows additional cattle on the Goose Creek allotment from 5/11 to 11/15 with the additional use occurring for a time on the adjoining BLM allotments. 13 days on the BLM Reservoir unit and 20 days on the BLM Coal Banks and Lower Beaverdam units.				
TOTAL LIVESTOCK	**1499 c/c Forest 299 c/c BLM**	**5/11-11/15**	**1499 c/c Forest 299 c/c BLM**	**5/11-11/15**

COMPLIANCE:
These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of your Term Grazing Permit, consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Clause 8(a), and you have agreed to their conditions upon signing the Term Grazing Permit. Failure to follow the instructions in the AOI is a violation of your grazing permit. The contents of this years plan reflect the alternative we jointly agreed to at your Annual meeting. Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes 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 or deviating from these instructions.

Notification: The permittee will provide the Minidoka District Ranger with written notification of any changes or deviation he or she wishes to make in these Annual Operating Instructions. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. The Minidoka District Ranger or his staff will verify the response in writing to the permittee. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.

Noxious Weed Management- Only hay and straw that has been certified as Noxious Weed Free will be allowed on National Forest System Lands in Idaho.

Travel Management Authorization: This direction serves as guidance for grazing permittees authorization as it relates to the implementation of Travel Management on the Minidoka R.D.: Motor vehicle use off existing roads and trails (cross-country travel) is not authorized for any reason. This means livestock may not be gathered and herded cross-country with motorized vehicles. However, cross country travel may be authorized case-by-case on a project specific basis. Only the District Ranger can authorize these activities. Authorization must be obtained in writing in advance of the specific project activity.

Motorized access behind seasonally locked gates is not authorized; permission to access these areas needs to be obtained from the District Ranger prior to entry. Roads and trails that have been physically closed through ripping, barricading, etc.., to restrict motor vehicle use are not authorized for your use. In the limited instances where there maybe structural improvements on these roads you will need to obtain permission from the District ranger to access your improvements.

Motor vehicle use is authorized on roads and trails signed closed to the public only for purposes of improvements maintenance. All actives need to be planned in advance during high use periods, such as hunting seasons, to reduce the exposure of these permitted actions to the general public.

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 through the lockbox and notification is received by the district; notice of payments must be received by the district office prior to your on date. If notice has not been received by the district office you may not turn out your livestock onto National Forest Service administered lands. Payments validate your Term Grazing Permit and authorize you to graze permitted livestock.

2011 GRAZING SEASON REVIEW

Utilization Review

Utilization in most of the uplands is good. More attention needs to be paid to the utilization levels in the key riparian areas within the allotment.

Monitoring

The permittees will need to do a better job of monitoring utilization across their allotment to better manage their livestock during the 2011 grazing season. Because our objective is to maintain or improve the long-term ecological condition of these areas, it is necessary to closely monitor utilization to ensure that proper or allowable use is not exceeded. Permittees need to watch these areas closely and keep cattle from congregating for long periods of time. This means these areas should be ridden regularly and cattle cleaned from them when possible.

Issues Needing Resolution

When cattle begin to fall into the Willow Creek area they need to be cleaned out and pushed back into the Beaverdam unit. If they continue to return or as more cattle begin to find their way into the area they should be pushed ahead into the next unit and the remainder of the cattle need to begin the move at that time. You need to maintain the fence between your Goose Creek allotment and the Pickett's Sheep allotments to keep from have the cattle scattered into those allotments. You need to work on the fences that exist between these allotments and ride more frequently in these areas to keep the cattle on your allotment.

Resource Use Conflicts

Cattle need to be kept out of the Dry Gulch exclosure while they are in the Dry Gulch Unit. When moving into and out of the Piney unit livestock should not be left to overnight in the Lower Trout Creek riparian pasture, they need to be pushed through the pasture to one side or the other.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT- This is the first year of this rotation. We will use this rotation for the 2012 and 2013 seasons.

2012 ROTATION SCHEDULE

PASTURE	No. of LIVESTOCK (1)	DATE ON (2)	DATE OFF	TOTAL DAYS
Lone Cedar/Owens Corral Unit & BLM Reservoir Unit	1798 c/c	5/11	6/25	13- BLM 30- Forest
The **BLM –Reservoir Unit should be used for approximately 13 days with full numbers** before livestock are allowed to enter the Forest Lone Cedar/Owens Corral Unit. The Forest Service should be used for 30 days. Allowing livestock onto the forest before May 25 will likely shorten you ability to stay the full time in this unit.				
Upper Beaverdam Unit	600 c/c	6/26	8/4	40
Orangeburg Unit	599 c/c	6/26	8/4	40
NE/Jay Unit	599 c/c	6/26	8/4	40
Livestock will be distributed throughout all of these units for approximately the same time. Livestock will be **trailed thru** the Lower Trout Creek Riparian Pasture. **Livestock will not be allowed to linger inside the Trout Creek pasture, but rather pushed through and moved beyond the West fence line.** Use in this pasture should not exceed five days for the season.				
Piney Unit		8/5	10/1	57
On October 1 everyone will leave the Piney unit and trail to private ground to wean before returning to the remaining units. Livestock will be **trailed thru** the Lower Trout Creek Riparian Pasture **without stopping. Livestock should not be allowed to linger inside the Lower Trout Creek riparian pasture but rather pushed through and moved beyond the East fence line.** Use in this pasture should not exceed five days for the season.				
Dry Gulch Unit & BLM Coal Banks/Lower Beaver Dam Unit		10/2	11/15	10- Forest 20- BLM

The Lower Beaverdam unit should be used for approximately 20 days with full numbers. Michael Poulton has a variable season for use on the Layton Private use pasture not to exceed 18 head months from May 11, 2012 to May 10, 2013. After weaning Michael Poulton will return for fall use in the BLM Coal Banks area. Winecup will return to the BLM in the fall for use in the Coal Banks Area. Cranny Farms will use the Dry Gulch unit on the Forest in the fall after weaning. Bruce Bedke will use the Bedke private pasture in the fall. Generally everyone will return to the allotment on or around 10/20 and will be off the BLM and Forest by 11/15. Please notify the Forest Service and BLM when you plan on returning.

1. All bulls or livestock over six months of age will be considered as a permitted animal. Livestock will be permitted on the allotment only for the season, numbers, and allotment shown on the Bill for Collection and after payment has been received.

2. Dates for rotation are to be considered approximate, actual dates will be determined by utilization levels. When utilization levels are reached for a particular unit, the cattle will be removed from that unit and placed in the next unit, or removed from the allotment as a whole if no units remain.

The pasture rotation schedule listed above is tentative as to days and dates and is our best estimate of equalizing the grazing on the unit. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather, ability to use suitable range, herding, other permittee practices. It will be your responsibility to see that your livestock are moved from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is reached. Rotation/removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation/removal date. You are encouraged to have the livestock moved from one unit to the next within 5 days at the end of any rotation time frame. The permittee is responsible to manage his/her livestock not to exceed the allowable use levels.

STANDARDS & GUIDES

Allowable Use: Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). The use level stated below is the maximum utilization allowed on desirable grass and sedges for the planned season of use. These use levels are the same ones contained in part three of the Term Grazing Permit associated with this AOI.

Utilization: Utilization will be monitored by the permittee and by forest personnel. We welcome your participation in these monitoring activities. Monitoring of key areas will be used to determine the maximum allowable livestock use on the Goose Creek Allotment. Key areas are defined as relatively small areas that serve as monitoring and evaluation sites. These areas guide the general management of the entire area of which it is a part, and will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the range. For the most part, key areas on the Goose Creek Allotment are the riparian areas in Lone Cedar, Right Hand Fork Beaverdam Creek, Johnny's Canyon, NE Creek, Jay Creek, Goose Creek, Willow Creek, Trout Creek, Piney Creek, Thoroughbred Creek and other riparian and non-riparian drainage bottoms

You must be aware when these key areas have been used to the allowable intensity level, or if high impact/concentration areas exceed an acceptable size, you will need to move

the cattle to the next unit or off the allotment. **It will be your responsibility to monitor livestock use and move cattle when the following standards are achieved.**

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 shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

A) Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures -- 40% Use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures -- 50% use.
B) Riparian Areas: Maximum 45% use or retain a minimum 4 –inch stubble height of hydric (water-loving) greenline species, which ever occurs first.
If allowable use is achieved in all areas prior to the end of the grazing season, notify the Minidoka office before removing the livestock.

Utilization standards for the Lower Trout Creek exclosure will be retention of 6 inch Stubble height in the riparian area along the greenline.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS- See Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit for a schedule of improvements. Improvements will be inspected and maintained to Forest Service standards before livestock enter the allotment. Livestock may be held off the allotment if assigned maintenance is not completed. Allotment management fences and water developments must be maintained prior to your livestock entering the grazing unit. 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. When you maintain your water developments make sure the wildlife escape ramps are functioning.

RIDER or PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

Livestock Distribution: - It is agreed that proper salting techniques be used such as placing salt in areas of low natural concentration by the livestock, at least ¼ mile away from water, and on ridges accessible to livestock. Salt must not be placed in shaded areas, in meadows or in areas of heavy utilization. Riding will be done to scatter cattle to avoid livestock concentration.

Ownership - Cattle grazed under term permit must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

REQUIRED REPORTING- The permittee is required to keep good records concerning movement of livestock to accurately furnish such information to the Forest Service. Actual use reports and Improvement Maintenance forms will be supplied to the Forest Service at the end of the grazing season. Accurate records of death loss by pasture during the grazing season should be submitted. Death loss records assist in identifying areas where control may be helpful. These records need to include: number of animals lost, cause of death (plan poisoning, predators, or other causes). All cattle must be counted before they enter the allotment unless the count is waived by the Forest Officer in charge. The Permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District

at least five (5) days before the cattle are turned onto the allotment. This will allow district personnel the opportunity to count the livestock if we so desire. Failure to provide these dates will negate the possibility of any future adjustments in season, any credits or refund as a result of early off dates.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION-

1) The east side of the Trout Creek enclosure from the state line fence to and including the gate at the bottom of Pucker Hill will be maintained by the permittees. The west side from the state line fence up to the gate on Pucker Hill will be maintained by the Forest Service.

2) The fence that borders Pickett's allotment will need to be maintained to keep your cattle from getting onto Pickett's Sheep allotments.

3) The following exclosures on your allotment will be your responsibility to maintaine. The initial maintemance will be preformed by the Forest Service to bring the exclosure to standard and will then be maintained by the permittee for the remainder of the grazing season. It will be your responsibility to keep livestock out of the exclosures and maintain the fences in good condition until the end of your grazing season. The exclosures are as follows:

   A) Trout Creek Exclosure: T 16S, R 19E, Sec 25, 36; T16S, R 20E, Sec 30, 31
   B) Dry Gulch Exclosure: T 16S, R20E, Sec 1, 12

4) As part of the Seep and Spring inventory project two sites will be worked on in the 2012 grazing season.

   A) Jay Creek spring exclosure: T16S, R20E, Sec 19
   B) Owens Corral Spring fence: T16S, R 21E, Sec20

OTHER - Observance, documentation, and reporting of additional uses on the allotment provides valuable information with regard to overall allotment management. These uses could include: unauthorized livestock use, excess use by other permittees, wild horses, wildlife, mining related activities, recreation, etc.

Additional Annual Management Concerns: Stock outside the permitted season or permitted area are considered excess use livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action may be taken. Dead livestock on National Forest Lands within 300 feet of a live spring, stream, recreation trail or roadway will be promptly disposed of.

If you have any questions or suggestions to improve the management of the allotment, please feel free to contact us. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Lucas Phillips at (208) 678-0430 or stop by the District Office at 2306 Hiland Ave. in Burley.

APPROVED BY: Jim Thorpe for Mike Courtney — 3/28/12

Burley BLM Field Manager — Date

APPROVED BY: Scott Sonnenberg — 3/27/12

District Ranger — Date