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

ALLOTMENT: WEST PARK VALLEY C&H

PERMITTEE(S)	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Season of Use	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
Dale Carter	27 c/c	7/11 – 9/20	27 c/c	7/11 – 9/20
Kunzler Ranch LLC	123 c/c	7/11 – 9/20	123 c/c	7/11 – 9/20
Helen Pugsley	131 c/c	7/11 – 9/20	131 c/c	7/11 – 9/20
Round Mountain Ranch	55 c/c FS 16 c/c PVT	7/11 – 9/20	55 c/c FS 16 c/c PVT	7/11 – 9/20
TOTAL LIVESTOCK	**336 c/c FS 16 c/c PVT**		**336 c/c FS 16 c/c PVT**	

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.

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.

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.

2011 GRAZING SEASON REVIEW

Utilization Review

The allotment was looked over throughout the grazing season and utilization standards were not an issue. Utilization standards, stubble heights and stream bank disturbance standards were all met following the grazing season.

Management Effectiveness Review

For the most part, the permittees completed maintenance, moved cattle in a timely matter and responded to concerns brought to their attention.

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.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT:

2012 ROTATION SCHEDULE

PASTURE	# OF LIVESTOCK (1)	DATE ON (2)	DATE OFF (3)	TOTAL DAYS
Pine Springs	352 c/c	7/11	8/20	41
George Creek	352 c/c	7/11	8/20	41
Meadows	352 c/c	8/10	9/20	40

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.

3. Cattle that stay lower in the George Creek unit will be allowed to remain in the unit until 8/20, while cattle that move up the mountain earlier can be started into the Meadows unit on 8/10.

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, and ability to use suitable range, herding, and 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 West Park Valley 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 West Park Valley Allotment are the riparian areas 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.

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:

The fence into the Meadows pasture needs to be maintained early in the season (as soon as you can get up on top) to prevent cattle from entering the pasture before the scheduled date. The fence around the private land water gap needs repair – it sustained heavy use in 2011. Barnes Canyon goes on 7/11. The fence maintenance between the West Park Valley and One Mile allotments needs to be completed before turning out – One Mile goes on June 16th.

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

APPROVED BY: Scott Donnenya 4/4/12

District Ranger Date