

**2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR THE  
HEATH DUKES C&H ALLOTMENT  
BOARD CREEK, CHERRY CREEK & CAMPGRADE ON/OFF C&H ALLOTMENTS**

**INTRODUCTION**

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the **Heath Dukes C&H Allotment, Campgrade, Cherry Creek, and Board Creek C&H On/Off Allotments** for the 2012 grazing season. This plan was developed with participation of the livestock permittee at the Annual Operating Instruction meeting held at the Andrus Wildlife Management Area office on February 8, 2012. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock permittee who participated in development of this plan were Permittee Robert Howard, Andrus Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Manager Anna Owsiak, Jerry Deal, Ross Winton, Department of Lands Scott Corgill, Payette National Forest District Ranger Greg Lesch, and Rangeland Management Specialists Andy Bumgarner.

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. It is necessary to contact the Forest Service if there are any changes or additions to these instructions through out the grazing season. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions which apply to these Annual Operating Instructions.

<b>Permitted Use</b>			
<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Livestock Numbers</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
Robert N. & Pamela J. Howard	Heath Dukes	330 cow/calf pairs	7/1 - 9/15
	Campgrade on/off	48 head months	4/1-10/31
	Cherry Creek on/off	22 head months	4/1-10/31
	Board Creek on/off	16 head months	4/1-10/31

<b>2012 Authorized Use</b>			
<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Livestock Numbers</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
Robert N. & Pamela J. Howard	Heath Dukes	373 cow/calf pairs	7/11-9/14
	Campgrade on/off	48 head months	9/15-10/31
	Cherry Creek on/off	22 head months	4/10-7/10
	Board Creek on/off	16 head months	9/15-10/31

Permitted Livestock Brands

Permitted Pack & Saddle Stock

## **COMPLIANCE**

This AOI is made part of the Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, item 3, and Part 2, item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing seasons which require 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 changes or deviating from these instructions. The season of use is especially dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation) which influences annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify term grazing permitted use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (b) & (c) of your permit.

Refer to your term grazing permit, part 2 (general terms and conditions) and part 3 (special terms and conditions) for a list of general and specific management practices required by the permittee.

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

## **PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS**

<b>2011 Grazing Rotation</b>		
<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Livestock Numbers</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
Starveout	100 cow/calf pairs	Rest
Dukes Creek	373 cow/calf pairs	7/11 – 8/11
Brownlee	373 cow/calf pairs	8/12 – 9/26
Campgrade on/off	48 head months	4/10-7/10
Cherry Creek on/off	22 head months	9/26-10/31
Board Creek on/off	16 head months	4/10-7/10

<b>2011 Utilization</b>			
<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Upland/Riparian</b>	<b>Percent Utilization</b>
Heath Dukes	Starveout	upland	5%
	Dukes Creek	upland	40%
	Brownlee	upland	30%
Campgrade on/off		upland	25%
Cherry Creek on/off		upland	5%
Board Creek on/off		upland	15%

## **BILLING**

Grazing fees of \$ 1.35/HM must be paid before livestock are authorized to enter the National Forest. Payment must be made to: USDA Forest Service, c/o Citibank, P.O. Box 301550, Los Angeles, California 90030-1550. The Council District Office must receive confirmation from the Citibank Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest.

## **LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

The Heath Dukes C&H, Campgrade C&H On/Off, Cherry Creek C&H On/Off, and Board Creek C&H On/Off Allotments are managed under a deferred rotation grazing system in concurrence with the Andrus WMA grazing rotation.

<b>2012 Grazing Rotation</b>		
<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Livestock Numbers</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
Brownlee	373 cow/calf pairs	7/11-8/9
Dukes Creek	300 cow/calf pairs	8/10-9/14
Starveout	73 cow/calf pairs	8/10-9/14
Cherry Creek on/off	22 head months	4/10-7/10
Board Creek on/off	16 head months	9/15-10/31
Campgrade on/off	48 head months	9/15-10/31

The season of use dates are tentative and may vary according to range conditions and utilization levels both on the Forest and on the Andrus WMA. Pastures move dates will vary and may be shortened or extended as conditions warrant.

Notify the Forest Service at least 5 days before you turn onto the allotment of when and where turnout will occur so that a count can be made if desired.

## **STANDARDS AND GUIDES**

The following are specific utilization standards and guidelines from the July 2003 Forest Plan. Utilization percentages are by weight and are the maximum allowed.

RAST01 - Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the 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) Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
- b) Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

## **IMPROVEMENTS**

All range improvements must be maintained prior to turning livestock into the unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement has been properly maintained but requires reconstruction, a cooperative effort can be made between the Forest Service and permittee to reconstruct the development, depending on material availability. Those projects to which the permittee contributes normally receive higher priority for funding by the Forest Service.

Maintenance of spring developments is vitally important to the health of your livestock and to the grazing allotment. If you are aware of spring developments that require reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss them with your Rangeland Management Specialist.

For a list of assigned maintenance of structural improvements as well as maintenance standards see part 3 of your term grazing permit.

### **PERMITTEE/RIDER INSTRUCTIONS**

Part of good cattle management is riding to assure proper cattle distribution. In particular we want to insure that the stream banks and meadows aren't over used. These riparian areas are considered key areas and will be monitored. When an area has reached maximum allowable use levels cattle will be removed from that area and kept from returning. Keeping cattle off select areas and in areas of less use serves to prolong the time cattle can expect to stay in an area.

If cattle are in the final area of the rotation sequence and utilization standards are reached, then they will have to be removed from the allotment.

Livestock in units outside the season of use or on an allotment other than the one permitted, is a violation of the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. The Forest Service recognizes that under some circumstances 100% gathers are not always achievable but expects a reasonable effort be made to remove all livestock from the pastures and the allotment by the off dates specified in this plan. All animals must be off the Forest by November 1, 2012.

The Brownlee Guard Station Administrative Pasture is not authorized for use by your pack and saddle stock or cattle. This pasture is an administrative pasture and will be used by district stock.

### **Salting**

Salting is restricted to the following:

- No less than ¼ mile from water, and not be placed in meadow bottoms.
- Placed at a minimum distance of 100 yards from open roads and out of sight from roads if possible.
- Should be moved yearly unless present salt ground is located in a rocky area where no vegetation grows.
- Unconsumed salt will be removed from the site.
- ¼ mile from timber plantations with trees less than 15 feet tall. If this can't be accomplished, the District Range and Reforestation personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations.

### **REQUIRED REPORTING**

All requests for refunds or credits for unused portion of grazing fees for Forest System Lands must be received in the Council or Weiser Ranger District office by March 1 following the grazing season.

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed because we are required to report this grazing use to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This information is also very important when conducting future allotment analysis. Any format is acceptable. If you would like a Forest Service form or have any questions about what information to include in the Actual Use Report, please call Andy at 208-253-0114 or 208-549-4262. **Actual Use needs to be turned in no later than December 31, 2012.**

## **INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING**

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp, but not saturated, and should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

Allotment/pasture inspections will be performed periodically throughout the grazing season by Forest Service Personnel. Livestock distribution, correct livestock location, numbers and identification, structural improvement maintenance, and utilization levels will be evaluated during these site visits. If you wish to accompany Forest Service Personnel on these inspections please contact the Rangeland Management Specialist.

## **COORDINATION & COOPERATION**

Cooperation with neighboring permittees is encouraged, however if there are problems occurring that cannot be settled let your Rangeland Management Specialist know so that steps can be taken to correct the problems.

The East Fork Brownlee fuels reduction project will be burning one unit in the Brownlee Pasture of the Heath Dukes C&H Allotment for a total of about 255 acres. This burn is planned for mid March to mid May of 2012 if and when conditions warrant. If conditions do not allow for spring burning and a fall application is scheduled, coordination between the range specialist, burn boss and permittee will occur to facilitate the burn with the remainder of the grazing season.

The burn unit is located within the Brownlee Pasture which is scheduled as the turn out pasture for 2012. Spring burns generally produce low intensity fires which may consume dead plant material but rarely affect plant health. If the spring burn occurs it is not anticipated that rest from livestock grazing will be necessary. However, if post burn conditions suggest seasonal rest is necessary for plant recovery, rest from livestock grazing will be implemented. In this case the range specialist will contact you to determine what management method will be implemented to provide the necessary rest.

Please review the AOI for consistency with our discussion at the annual meeting, if correct sign and return it to Andy.

          /s/ Gregory S. Lesch            
GREG LESCH  
District Ranger

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DATE

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ROBERT HOWARD  
Permittee

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DATE