

2012 Annual Operating Instructions  
 Warm Springs C&H Allotment  
 New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Warm Springs Allotment for the 2012 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittees on April 4, 2012. In attendance were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. <u>Everett Harrington</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
2. <u>Dean Harrington</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
3. <u>Steve Shumway</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
4. <u>Dan Shumway</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
5. <u>Larry James</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
6. <u>Kim Pierson</u>	<u>New Meadows District Ranger</u>
7. <u>Amy Baumer</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>
8. <u>Brian McMorris</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>PERMITTED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>	<u>2012 AUTHORIZED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>
Harrington, Dean & Everett	40 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	40 cow/calf 6/1-10/31
(State land permit)	48 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	48 cow/calf 6/1-10/31
Shumway and Sons LLC	97 cow/calf 5/15-10/31	97 cow/calf 5/15-10/31
(State land permit)	33 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	33 cow/calf 6/1-10/31
Fisk, Larry & Penny	2 cow/calf 5/15-10/31	2 cow/calf 5/15-10/31
James, Larry	77 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	full numbers non-use – 2yrs
	172 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	172 cow/calf 6/1-10/31

All cattle on the Warm Springs C&H allotment should be branded with the , , , or  brands.

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season 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. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions that apply to these operating instructions.

The permittee shall notify the District Ranger five (5) days prior to the date and location of entry of livestock onto National Forest system lands. An “on” count may be done at this time. We will notify if we will be there to count you on.

In the 2010 and 2011 grazing season there were a few instances in which cattle were found grazing in areas not authorized. Based on your timely response to move the cattle back to the

authorized area, you are authorized full numbers for the 2012 grazing season. You will need to ensure no further violations occur to Term Grazing Permit Part 2, 8(d) for the next two grazing seasons (2012, and 2013). If there is no further violation of Part 2, 8(d) of your term grazing permit during this time, no further action will be taken to your Term Grazing Permits. A Compliance Plan has been cooperatively developed by the Forest Service and permittees. This plan will need to be followed in addition to this AOI. Failure to do so may result in administrative action. This is in reference to the March 9, 2011 letter.

Grazing fee of \$1.35/head month must be paid before livestock are authorized to go on the National Forest. This bill is due five (5) days prior to your earliest turnout date. The New Meadows District Office must receive confirmation from Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS**

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers authorized on any given year. The season of use is dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation and temperature) which influences annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify permitted grazing use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (c) of your permit.

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 other than bulbous bluegrass and cheatgrass must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

**Livestock Rotations and Allowable use**

As allowable use grazing criteria are reached, livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off the Forest.

The dates below are approximate, based on data from previous years.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Allowable use</u>
Lower 5/15-7/1	Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness.  Lost Mountain may be used during the last two weeks if allowable use standards have not been met.	40% allowable use on upland vegetation. 6" stubble height on stream bank grass or grass like vegetation or 40% use on key riparian species, whichever occurs first.

Middle 7/1-8/15	Use after allowable use is met in the Lower Unit	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
Upper 8/15-10/24	Use after allowable use is met in the Middle Unit and after August 15 <sup>th</sup> .	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

There may be Forest Service personal monitoring these standards throughout the grazing season along with any long term vegetation monitoring that may be collected this grazing season. In 2011 the Lower Unit exceeded the 40% use on 9/1/2011 (30-50% use) and 11/7/2011 (44% use). Both dates were after cattle were moved out of the Lower Unit. The use was within standards while permitted to be in the Lower Unit. The Middle Unit was right at allowable use standards, and the Upper Unit was within standards.

If livestock are found dead on the allotment you will be responsible to move the carcasses 100 yards away from recreation trails, roads, or live water.

Salt placement is required to be at least 1/4 mile from live water and 1/4 mile from occupied northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat. If this can't be accomplished, the New Meadows District range personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations. All salt blocks shall be removed when livestock have been moved out of a unit or off the National Forest.

**Livestock Trailing/Shipping**

Cattle will be trailed onto the allotment following range readiness. Cattle will be trailed off the allotment in the fall.

**MAINTENANCE OF RANGE 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 funding. The permittee is required to provide the materials and labor for routine maintenance.

Maintenance of spring developments is vitally important to the health of your livestock and to ensure proper use of the grazing allotment. If you are aware of spring developments that require reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss this with Forest Service range personnel. All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed.

The Rocky Gulch Spring will continue to be monitored by the permittee to see if the spring will run enough water to be rebuilt.

The Sheep Creek drift fence will continue to be monitored by the permittee and Forest Service to see if cattle are going around it. If this is happening an extension may need to be pursued.

The Lower/Middle Unit drift fence was looked at by the permittee and Forest Service in 2010 to find a location for an extension. Forest Service employees and the permittees agreed there was not a feasible location for a fence extension. The permittees agreed to check the Lower Unit along Lost Creek three (3) or more times a week while cattle are in the Middle Unit.

The Lost Bambi Spring needs to be repaired and possibly rebuilt. This will be looked at by the permittee and Forest Service this year (if funding and time allow) to decide if a rebuild is needed.

The Lower/Middle Unit, Middle/Upper Unit, and Butter Gulch fences will be evaluated and start to be rebuilt in small sections. The Forest Service will look into getting metal rock jacks 6+ for rebuilding fences this year. This will be funding and time dependent.

The Forest Service is continuing to maintain an electric fence in Warm Springs Drainage this year.

The permitties will be allowed to go off trail to salt and maintain range improvements. When salting they will be allowed 2 times (once to put it out and once to gather unused salt). When working on range improvements they will be allowed 4 times throughout the year to put up, maintain, and take down. If more times are needed to drive off road you will need to notify the District Ranger, and they will make a decision on a case by case bases.

### **ACTUAL USE REPORTS**

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. Forms may be completed by each individual permittee or one form can be completed by the group. However, a form should be completed for each unit grazed by livestock. If you have any questions about completing the form, please call the range department at the Forest Service at (208) 347-0300. We request the forms be returned no later than the AOI meeting for the 2013 grazing season. Along with the actual use forms we ask if you would keep a rider log of when/where you ride, what you find when you ride, and if you work on a range improvement.

### **MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS**

A prescribed burn is planned this fall on approximately 200 acres. This burn will be in the Slaughterhouse Gulch area. Map provided at AOI meeting.

The Warm Springs Fuels Reduction Project is finished with the logging. There will be road obliteration, burning, chipping and hauling taking place this year. Burning is scheduled to be about 700 acres and take place in the north end of the project. We will try burning in the spring, but it could take place in the fall. Maps provide at AOI meeting.

The East Lost Squirrel Stewardship Project could have road decommissioning. There is an outhouse scheduled to be installed as a part of this project. Logging and chipping will occur after September 1. There is currently a slash pile on the northern most enclosure on Lost Creek. The fence will be tied to it, and when chipped it will be the loggers responsibility to fix where the pile was (the permittee will still be required to put up and fix the rest of it. The northern portion of the project will be logged and the southern portion will be thinned. There is also a prescribed burn associated with this project possibly starting in 2012 (after thinning is complete). Map provided at AOI meeting

The old Slaughter Campground was turned into an interpretive site last year for the northern Idaho ground squirrel. The grand opening of the interpretive site is scheduled for this summer.

The Weiser River Fuels Reduction Project has started logging in the NE part of the project area (Council Mountain C&H) and should finish up this spring. There may be road work and possible logging taking place throughout the rest of the project area this year. Map provided at AOI meeting.

The Payette National Forest Lost Creek Boulder Creek Restoration Project (New Meadows Coalition project) has started the planning phase. Part of this project lies within this allotment. Map provided at AOI Meeting.

### **SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, a change in authorized grazing activity will occur. If proper use grazing levels are reached then livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off of the allotment. If livestock grazing does not comply with the terms and conditions of these Annual Operating Instructions, then Forest Service policy and procedures regarding administrative permit actions will be followed.

The Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel (NIDGS) was listed in May 2000, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. There are three known colonies of Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel located on the Warm Springs Allotment all in the Upper Unit. The Upper Unit is not scheduled for use until August 15 which is after the Northern Idaho Ground Squirrels have retreated underground for the winter. No further mitigation of livestock grazing effects is required as long as livestock do not enter the area until after August 15.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. The Payette National Forest is part of Region 4 of the Forest Service. Region 4 has a requirement that any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

You are responsible for ensuring that your rider (if you elect to have one) is informed and understands the standards, guidelines, and other management direction in these instructions.

Please review the AOI for consistency with our discussion at the annual meeting, and sign and return it to me. If I do not receive a signed copy from you within two weeks, this AOI will serve as the final copy approved by the District Ranger.

*/s/ Kim Pierson*  
Kim Pierson  
New Meadows District Ranger

5/7/12  
Date

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Shumway and Sons LLC  
Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry and Penny Fisk  
Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Dean and Everett Harrington  
Permittee

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Date

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Larry James  
Permittee

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Date