

**HANSON CREEK
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT**
2014 Annual Operating Instructions
Cascade Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Hanson Creek Cattle and Horse allotment during the 2014 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Hanson Creek C&H	Vernon and Roxie Himes	01098

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Himes	Hanson Cr. C&H	Variable Numbers— minimum 3 head of horses, maximum 6 head of horses.	Saddle/Pack	Variable Season of use as follows: The maximum use under this permit is 6 head of horses for the season of use of 6/1-10/31. The minimum use under this permit is 3 head of horses.

Authorized Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season

Non-Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Resource Protection	Personal Convenience
Himes	Hanson Cr. C&H	6		6/1 – 10/31

Since there will not be any grazing on the allotment in 2014, the general standards in these Annual Operating Instructions are not applicable.

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Vernon and Roxie Himes
VO – Left Shoulder

COMPLIANCE

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 requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or the Cascade District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

All hay, straw and mulch products used on the Boise National Forest must be certified as weed-free or weed/seed-free by a qualified inspector of the State of Idaho or neighboring states which have weed-free feed or crop certification programs (Region Special Order Number: 04-00-097).

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

In 2012 fencing materials were provided and a fence was to be built prior to grazing the allotment. However, the permittee was unable to get the fence constructed and the allotment was not grazed in 2013.

2014 GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Hanson Creek C&H allotment will not be grazed this year as the permittee has been approved for Non-Use for personal convenience for the 2014 grazing season. The permittee has agreed to fence their private land with an electric fence in order to keep their horses from entering National Forest Lands.

BILLING

The grazing fee for the 2014 grazing season is \$1.35 per head month for horses.

We are required to use the Lock Box system. Send your grazing fees to the address specified on your grazing bill. We cannot accept payments at the District or Forest Supervisor's Office. Allow adequate time for your payment to be received, processed and for the Ranger District Office to receive payment notification. A minimum of 5 days should be allowed for this process. Livestock may not be placed on the allotment until the District Ranger has received notification that the grazing fees have been paid. Placing or allowing livestock onto National Forest System lands prior to payment of grazing fees is a violation of your term grazing permit and may result in the assessment of unauthorized use fees and the suspension or cancellation of your permit.

If permitted livestock are required to leave the allotment early due to excess utilization or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a refund may be requested. A written request for refund must be submitted to the District Ranger if this situation occurs.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

The Hanson Creek C&H allotment will be managed as described in this AOI and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest (Forest Plan).

Compliance with the following standards will be emphasized; this is imperative. Familiarize yourself with this AOI and Forest Management direction. If you need more information about allotment management, contact the Cascade Ranger District.

The North Zone Range Specialist or Technician must be notified at least 5 days in advance and given the date, time, and place where livestock will enter the allotment to allow for counting livestock onto the allotment.

Range Improvements: In order to reduce impacts to fish and fish habitat within the allotment, a season long fence will be constructed adjacent to Johnson Creek to keep livestock from disturbing spawning fish or damaging Chinook salmon or steelhead trout redds. Fencing will be constructed from the southern portion of the allotment abutting private property to north of Ice Hole Campground where the Dead Horse Rapids begin. At a minimum about 1.25 mile of fence will be constructed and maintained as a range improvement. The fence will be located within the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) and five feet outside the bank full width (delineated as the location where flows leave the stream channel and inundate the floodplain) to reduce maintenance. Additionally, the approximately 1,000 foot existing fence located in the far south and east corner of the allotment will be maintained as a range improvement. Roughly, this fence follows Johnson Creek after leaving private property until it ties into the eastern most portion of the allotment at which point it turns south and follows Forest Road 413. This fence restricts livestock access to Johnson Creek and open roads, as well as prevents livestock from leaving the allotment. If livestock disturbance to stream banks is identified on Johnson Creek from Deadhorse Rapid north to the allotment boundary, the fence adjacent to Johnson Creek will be extended north along Johnson Creek to the allotment boundary.

A date has been scheduled in July 2014 between the Forest Service and permittee to look at the proposed fence location and design.

It is the responsibility of the permittee to maintain all range improvements specified in the term-grazing permit.

Range Readiness: Spring moisture and temperature conditions may affect the time when livestock are allowed to turn out on the allotment. The Forest Service will notify you at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled turnout date if this occurs.

Utilization: It is the responsibility of the permittee to periodically monitor and document utilization during the grazing season. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, livestock will be removed from the allotment early. The Forest Service will conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met.

Streambank utilization will be measured along the "greenline" in riparian areas and should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 30 percent or a 6 inch stubble height in riparian areas. The flats or meadows adjoining these riparian areas and/or upland areas, will adhere to the Forest Plan Standard of no more than 40 percent utilization.

Upland grazing use should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 40 percent end-of-season use on upland areas. The Forest Service will periodically check the permittee's

utilization monitoring to ensure good land stewardship and perform documentation. At times, the permittees and the Forest Service will jointly inspect range conditions. It is your responsibility to remove livestock from the allotment area as soon as the utilization standard (40 percent) has been met.

Noxious Weeds: Work on noxious weed control will continue this year. These weeds are a continual, and in some places, an increasing problem. Your help is needed. If you find any populations of Scotch Thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, Knapweed, or other noxious weeds, please fill out the enclosed noxious weed inventory card and return to the district office. These sites will be added to the district treatment schedule and will be monitored and treated annually under the Forest's invasive species program.

Salt Placement: Salting in the past has been on the permittee's private land. If there is salting on National Forest System lands, the following must be adhered to. Salt will be placed in containers and moved occasionally during allotment use to discourage concentrations of horses for a long period of time. Salt will be removed from the allotment when the grazing season is completed. Salt will not be allowed in riparian conservation areas and must be placed away from any streams or riparian areas. Salting will be done where low use is observed. Historic salting locations will be avoided during the grazing season.

Predator Problems: If during the grazing season, you are having problems with predators notify, Wildlife Services. Through a memorandum of Understanding between Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Forest Service, Wildlife Services is responsible for the control of predators. They will provide control services, technical expertise, recommendation of control methods, and reporting livestock as well as predator losses to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Forest Service. You are allowed to protect your livestock from the immediate threat of predators. All other predator control must be conducted through the proper channels, as described above.

Wolves

If you suspect a wolf depredation has occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) should be contacted as soon as possible. The local Wildlife Services contact for this area is Doug Hansen. He can be reached at (208) 550-5488. In the event that you cannot reach Doug, Todd Grimm at the Boise District Office should be contacted at 208-373-1630.

Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The wolf biologist for Idaho Fish and Game is Jennifer Struthers. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her and she can be reached at (208-465-8465 x350).

ALLOTMENT MONITORING

The proposed monitoring on the allotment for the 2014 grazing season will be as follows:

1. Inspection compliance monitoring
2. Utilization monitoring
3. In-season stubble height monitoring

4. End-of-season stubble height monitoring
5. Grazing Response Index (GRI)

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock are critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management following the adaptive management strategy.

Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since the permittees will be held accountable to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

1. In cooperation with the State of Idaho, all feed, hay or straw brought to the allotment must be certified weed-free.
2. Report any known invasive plants in your grazing areas.
3. Report areas you have accidentally over-used so the Forest Service is aware of a critical situation before the public makes us aware of it. This will keep the Forest Service up to date and provide the opportunity to resolve the problem as necessary. In addition, it will reflect more positively on you as a good land manager.
4. It is recommended that the permittees use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site they inspect during the grazing season.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Enclosed are year-end grazing reports for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2014 grazing season for the Hanson Creek C&H allotment. You need to record the date and number of horses turned onto the allotment, the number and date horses are removed from the allotment, and estimate the time and cost of management actions including livestock herding and improvement maintenance associated with the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvements. This report should be returned to the Cascade Ranger District no later than December 1, 2014.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The Hanson Creek C&H Allotment will be managed to achieve the Desired Future Condition as described in the revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest. All permitted actions including grazing will comply with standards shown in the revised Forest Plan.

Utilization Standards from the revised Forest Plan are as follows:

- Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within the allotment will not exceed the values shown below at the end of the growing season. Those utilization levels are as follows:

- Riparian use will be a maximum of 30 percent use of most palatable forage species, or retain a minimum of 6-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
- Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 40 percent use.

1. The following desired conditions are identified as indicators of meeting Forest Plan Standards.

a) Effective Ground Cover (EGC) for Upland Sites

Boise NF Soil SHR	Expected Ground Cover
Landtype	(percent)
102	81-100

b) Riparian Vegetation.

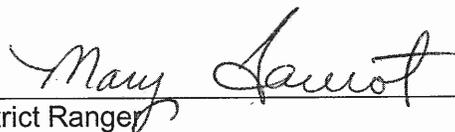
- i. Greenline successional status rating of 61 (late) or greater.
- ii. Greenline Bank Stability Rating of 6 (high-mid) or greater.

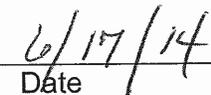
INSPECTIONS

Periodic inspections for compliance to the grazing permit and the annual operating instructions will be made by the Forest Service. Allotment inspections and unit examinations will be conducted during the grazing season to meet the utilization standards set forth in these instructions. Permittee participation in these activities is always encouraged.

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Hanson Creek C&H allotment are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter these instructions during the grazing season, please notify Monte Miller in Boise at (208) 373-4243 or Mary Faurot in Cascade at 208-382-7400.

Signatures:


 District Ranger


 Date

I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions stipulated in my term grazing permit