**DRY BUCK**
**CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT**
2014 Annual Operating Instructions
Emmett Ranger District
Boise National Forest

## INTRODUCTION

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

| Allotment | Permittee | Permit Number |
|---|---|---|
| Dry Buck C&H | Moses Cattle Company | 02257 |

| Permitted Use | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Permittee** | **Allotment** | **No. of Livestock** | **Livestock Class** | **Permitted Season** |
| Moses | Dry Buck C&H | 9 | Cow/Calf | 7/1 – 9/30 |

| Authorized Use | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Permittee** | **Allotment** | **No. of Livestock** | **Livestock Class** | **Authorized Season** |
| Moses | Dry Buck C&H | 9 | Cow/Calf | 7/1 – 9/30 |

| Non-Use | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Permittee** | **Allotment** | **No. of Livestock** | **Resource Protection** | **Personal Convenience** |
| Moses | Dry Buck C&H | | | |

Permitted Livestock Brands:

Moses Cattle Company

## 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 that 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 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

There were a total of 9 head of cattle grazed under "on/off" provisions on the Dry Buck C&H Allotment during the 2013 grazing season.

## 2014 GRAZING SCHEDULE

There will be a total of 125 cattle permitted under "on/off" provisions of this permit to graze the Dry Buck C&H Allotment during the 2014 grazing season.

## ON/OFF PERMIT PROVISIONS

This permit provides for grazing a total of 125 head of cattle for the grazing period of 7/1 to 9/30, on Forest Service land and land controlled by the permittee which together form a natural grazing unit. The use by these livestock will be approximately 7 percent on Forest Service administered land and 93 percent on lands controlled by the permittee.

The livestock will graze only upon the specified allotment and only during the permitted grazing period. Any grazing use in excess of that authorized will be treated as a violation of the terms and conditions of the permit.

Private and State of Idaho Lands constitute the "off" portion of this permit.

## BILLING

Grazing fees for cattle are $1.35 per head month in 2014.

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 after 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 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 Dry Buck 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 Emmett Ranger District.

The Emmett Ranger District, 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 on the allotment.

If forage utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, cattle will be removed from the allotment early.

Livestock management will need to emphasize moving cattle in a timely manner and maintaining good distribution through out the grazing season. Another area needing attention is keeping permitted cattle on the permitted allotment, and unpermitted cattle off of the allotment.

**Range Readiness:** Spring moisture and temperature conditions may affect the time when livestock are allowed to turn out on the allotments. 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. In addition, it is expected that trailing off the allotment will begin early enough to satisfy the forest off date in September. 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. The standard of measurement for riparian areas will be maximum use 45 percent, 4 inches stubble height remaining after livestock are removed from riparian areas. To prevent exceeding these standards, it is important to begin moving livestock slightly before this limit is reached. In the flats or meadows adjoining these riparian areas and/or upland areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan Standard of 40 percent utilization for early season and season long pastures and 50 percent for late season pasture use.

Upland grazing use should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of no more than 50 percent end-of-season use on upland areas. A safe, easy way to visualize this is to "graze half, and leave half" of the grasses. 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 (50 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:** The placement of salt should be used as a management tool in helping to minimize use in riparian areas, tree plantations, distribute the livestock, and to help prevent livestock deaths from larkspur poisoning. Salt must not be placed in or adjacent to tree plantations or areas of natural livestock concentration. Do not place salt next to roads, trails, or

water. Please use the same general locations but move tubs and salt out of sight to minimize visual impacts and the resulting potential complaints.

**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 Greg Jones. He can be reached at 541-212-6260. In the event that you cannot reach Greg, 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).

**Motorized Use**

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Emmett Ranger District. Public motorized, wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated on the current year's Motorized Vehicle Use Map. These Annual Operating Instructions authorize you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. You will be issued a card that must be present while facilitating this authorization. However, specific routes for administrative use must be identified each year. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes is not included in this authorization. Use of heavy equipment will need to be requested through and approved by the District Ranger on a case-by-case basis.

## RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements are to be maintained prior to livestock entering any pasture or unit. Range Improvements include all fences, water developments, corrals, and facilities as listed on your permit.

## 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 an unhappy 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 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 Dry Buck C&H allotment. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto each allotment, the number and date cattle 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 Emmett Ranger District no later than December 1, 2014.

## COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The Dry Buck 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 each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the grazing 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 of hydric greenline species.

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.

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Dry Buck C&H allotment are consistent with Forest Plan management direction. If you have questions or the need to alter this plan during the grazing season, notify the Richard Newton at 208-365-7000 or Monte Miller at 208-373-4243.

Signatures:

Richard E. Newton
District Ranger

5/2/2014
Date

I understand that this Annual Operating Plan is 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.

Permittee(s) signature

_____ _____
Date

_____ _____
Date