

**OLA C
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT**
2024 Annual Operating Instructions
Emmett Ranger District
Boise National Forest

ORIGINAL

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Ola C Cattle and Horse allotment during the 2024 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Ola C C&H	Mike and Robin Rood	02268
Ola C C&H	Tom and/or Drew Blessinger	00278
Ola C C&H	J.R. Simplot Company	02271
Ola C C&H	Edward Ray and Susan Montierth	02283
Ola C C&H	Tom and/or Drew Blessinger	PL276

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Rood	Ola C C&H	100	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/15
Blessinger	Ola C C&H	115	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/15
Montierth	Ola C C&H	197	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/15
Simplot	Ola C C&H	232	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/15
Blessinger	Ola C C&H	4	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/15

Authorized Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
Rood	Ola C C&H	100	Cow/Calf	6/16 – 10/15
Blessinger	Ola C C&H	115	Cow/Calf	6/06 – 10/15
Montierth	Ola C C&H	197	Cow/Calf	6/02 – 10/15
Simplot	Ola C C&H	232	Cow/Calf	6/02 – 10/15
Blessinger	Ola C C&H	4	Cow/Calf	6/06 – 10/15

Non-Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Resource Protection	Personal Convenience
Rood	Ola C			
Blessinger	Ola C			
Montierth	Ola C			
Simplot	Ola C			
Blessinger	Ola C			

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock – Up to eight head at the Second Fork Cow Camp

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 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.

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 that have weed-free feed or crop certification programs (Region Special Order Number: 04-00-097).

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

The 2023 schedule required Pine Creek/Cottonwood to be used first, followed by Wilson Meadows, followed by Second Fork.

2024 GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Ola C C&H allotment is under a deferred rotation grazing management system

The grazing rotation schedule on the allotment for the 2024 grazing season will be as follows:

Year	Second Fork	Wilson Meadows	Pine Creek/Cottonwood
2024	First	Second	Last

BILLING

Grazing fees for cattle are \$1.35 per head month.

There are now three ways that you can pay your bill, (1) through the Lock Box system by sending a check to the address on the bill; (2) by paying online at the web address on the bill; or (3) paying at the District Office. Please 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 utilization standards being met 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 Ola C 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.

Grazing will begin in the Second Fork pasture, move to Wilson Meadows when utilization limits are approached in the first pasture, and move to the Pine Creek/Cottonwood pasture when utilization limits are approached in the Wilson Meadows area. If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, cattle will be removed from the allotment early.

Do not wait until maximum utilization levels are met before moving cattle to the next pasture in the grazing schedule. This will result in overutilization of the pasture; therefore, it is important to recognize when you are approaching maximum utilization levels and move all cattle before they are met. If 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, getting the used pasture cleaned out, and keeping cattle out from that point throughout the season. Another area needing attention is keeping permitted cattle on the permitted allotment, and unpermitted cattle off, especially in Pine Creek.

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 allotments will begin early enough to satisfy the forest dates in October. The Forest Service will conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met. Riding should be done to assure that livestock grazing adjacent to Bull Trout habitat meets Forest Plan standards.

Outside Bull Trout patch area 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 50 percent for late season pasture use. If cattle do come back to the previous pasture, they are to be removed immediately. If they repeatedly return to the previously used pasture, they are to be removed from the allotment.

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.

Bull Trout: The Ola C allotment has occupied Bull Trout habitat in the allotment (see attached map). This year the permittees and Forest Service will work together to identify known spawning and rearing habitat where Bull Trout have been documented in the past. After the areas have been identified on the ground, the Forest service and permittees will work together to take the necessary steps in protecting the areas that are identified as being impacted.

The Allotment Biological Assessment on Ongoing Actions Squaw Creek Bull Trout Subpopulation Watershed dated December 14, 1999, supported by a Letter of Concurrence from The Fish and Wildlife Service on January 21, 2000 amended the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan with specific management direction for livestock grazing on allotments within the Decision area. The following management practices in regards to bull trout apply:

"Annual operating plans call for leaving at least 6 inches of stubble height on streamside vegetation. This equates to "light" levels of utilization (or about 30% based on observations in Bear Valley – Reference Burton and Kozel 1994). No salt is allowed near streams. Water developments encourage cattle watering away from streambanks. In addition, the Areas of Concern for bull trout early life stages are fenced." (pg 38 of BA).

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

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. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be

directed to Ryan Walrath, Southwest Region - Nampa 15950 N. Gate Blvd. Nampa, ID 83687. (208) 854-8964 phone Ryan.walrath@idfg.idaho.gov

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, Wildlife Services Biological Technician (208) 550-5488 phone douglas.a.hansen@usda.gov Work overlaps Emmett, Idaho City RDs Mike Jennings, Wildlife Services Biological Technician (208) 550-7783 phone Michael.j.jennings@usda.gov Work overlaps Emmett RD, Idaho City, Lowman, and Cascade RDs

Motorized Use

The Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Travel Management Rule (36 CFR §261.13) is in place on the Emmett RD, which prohibits motorized use off-road/trail. Public motorized wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated for motorized use on the current Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The permittee would be allowed to use wheeled motorized vehicles on all NFS routes for administrative use within the allotment for livestock management purposes. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Any other motorized vehicle use for allotment management activities shall be approved in writing by the District Ranger and approved routes would be monitored by Forest Service personnel. 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.

It is important that all fence work be completed prior to cattle entering the unit. Electric fences need to be inspected often to assure that they are functioning and effective. The electric fences are a deterrent to grazing, however, any cattle seen within these areas need to be removed immediately and fences inspected to assure effectiveness. Cattle will not be allowed into the area of Rammage Meadows until the ex-closure is maintained and inspected. Approx. dates for the completion of this maintenance is June 6th-20th 2024. During the grazing season, this exclosure should be inspected often and if cattle are found within the exclosure, they should be removed immediately and the exclosure fence inspected and repaired.

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 the permittees use GPS units to record the location of each utilization monitoring site during the grazing season.

5. Pre graze inspections are scheduled to meet at the gravel pit at the intersection of the 626 and 618 roads.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN

The Ola C C&H allotment will be managed to achieve the Desired Future condition as described in the revised Land and Resource management Plan (Forest 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.

Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

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. (RAST01, p. III-45)

These Annual Operating Instructions for Ola C 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 Emmett Ranger District at 208-365-7000.

Signatures:



District Ranger / Forest Supervisor

4/8/24

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

Daron Heggestad "simplot"

3-22-24

Date

Robin Rood

3-22-24

Date

Ray Montano

3/22/24

Date

Dr J Blessing

4/04/2024

Date