

RATTLESNAKE CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT 2023 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Boise National Forest
Mountain Home Ranger District

INTRODUCTION

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 or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

Permittee	Permitted*			Authorized**		
	Number	Class	Season	Number	Class	Season
L.G. Davison and Sons, Inc.	282	Cow/calf	5/01-10/31	197	Cow/calf	5/01-10/31
*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit.						
**Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.						

In 2021, you were issued a Letter of Suspension dated November 8th, 2021, on the Rattlesnake Creek C&H Allotment, suspending 30% of your permitted season of use due to repeated permit violations. The suspension for the 2022 effected the grazing season. Turn on date was May 1st and vacated by September 6th. The 2023 grazing season is a reduction of 30% of cow numbers, 282 head to 197 head. The grazing season was returned to the permitted time frame, May 1st through October 31st.

Situations may develop during the grazing season that could require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the Mountain Home Ranger District to obtain approval before initiating or deviating from your AOI. Failure to obtain prior approval could result in permit action.

Some flexibility will be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock need. The period of use is also subject to compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and Implementation Monitoring requirements as discussed below. Please carefully review the standards and guides listed.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Grazing Schedule

Unit	Tentative Dates*
South Fork (91 hd)	May 1 – July 1
Rattlesnake * (106 hd)	May 12 – August 1
Slide Gulch	July 1 – October 31
Elk Creek/Trail Creek	Pastures will be used in conjunction as forage and water allows.
Long Gulch	

*Livestock are not to be present in the Rattlesnake Unit after August 15th, as directed in the Biological Opinion addressing this allotment (File #110.0500/1-4-99-F-17).

Non-use

Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the "on" date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

Non-use Requested: None

All permittees are required to pay their bill and turn on at least 90% of permitted numbers as stated on their grazing permit under Part 2, section 9. Failure to place livestock on the allotted range/pasture without approved nonuse may result in cancellation of the term grazing permit in whole or in part.

You must notify the Forest Service no less than 5 days prior to livestock being placed on the allotments so that authorized livestock numbers can be verified by District range staff if the Forest Service elects to do so.

BILLING INFORMATION

The grazing fee for the 2023 grazing season is \$1.35 per head month for cattle. You will be billed based on the authorized use listed above. Confirmation of payment through the National Finance Center is required and must be received before livestock can enter National Forest System lands. To meet this requirement, please ensure that bills for collection are paid by the due date indicated.

If permitted livestock are required to leave an allotment early because utilization standards have been reached, drought conditions persist or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a credit/refund may be requested. **This request must be submitted in writing to the District Ranger by December 1, 2023.**

STANDARDS AND GUIDES

Close monitoring of utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management, including reductions in Head Months, or permitted area.

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria

Vegetation Type	Percent of Use	Comments
Upland	40%	Early season or season-long pastures
Upland	50%	Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions or late season pastures
Riparian	45%	Minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species

- Livestock salting is prohibited in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs). Place salt no closer than one-quarter mile from water and not within 100 feet of roads. Move salt from areas where utilization standards have been met.
- Salt blocks or tubs shall be moved from unit to unit with livestock and all salt needs to be removed from the allotment at the end of the grazing season.
- Bulls must test negative for Trichomoniasis before entering National Forest System lands.
- Only certified weed-free hay and mulch are allowed on National Forest System lands.

IMPROVEMENTS

The following improvements need maintenance and need completed prior to turnout. Notify Mountain Home range staff when the improvements are complete so they can be inspected prior to turn out.

Item #	Improvement Name	Improvement #	Improvement Type	Improvement Location
1	Unnamed Spring (off of Tipton Loop)	63-24316 (2150)	Trough	N43 35' 38.0" W115 38' 47.76" T.3N R.7E Section 17
2	Unnamed Spring (off of Tipton Loop)	63-24317 2151	Trough	N43 35' 45" W115 37' 58.6" T.3N R.7E Section 16

Your Term Grazing Permit contains a complete list of range improvements associated with the Rattlesnake Creek Allotment. Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on the allotment. Failure to do so is a violation of your Term Grazing Permit and is subject to permit action.

Non-functioning range improvements need to be brought to standard, or arrangements made with district range personnel to have them removed. Abandonment of improvements is not acceptable – if developments are not functioning and are no

longer needed, they must be removed. In the event improvements cannot be practically maintained to standard, notify the office so they can be identified for reconstruction as funds become available.

Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in troughs. These ramps are supplied by the Forest Service. The ramps should be installed in all troughs prior to turn-on. This direction also includes troughs that hold water in the spring but dry up later in the grazing season. Failure to comply could result in adverse action to your permit.

RIDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

Off dates for these allotments are considered approximate and will depend on utilization levels. To prevent over-utilization, a concerted effort should be made to distribute cattle over the entire allotment and to effectively graze all suitable areas in that unit. Permitted numbers are based on the premise that active management will occur to effect adequate livestock distribution. Cattle need to be moved before meeting riparian and upland grazing standards. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and at water developments without being distributed to unused areas of the allotment, the grazing capacity of the allotment is diminished to those areas only.

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

REPORTING

If you are planning to waive your Term Grazing Permit based on either sale of permitted livestock or base property, please submit this intention to me in writing prior to the transaction.

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

Range personnel may require you to delay the entry date on the Rattlesnake Creek Allotment based on range readiness inspections that they have completed. You will be notified as soon as possible if your turn-on date is delayed.

Range personnel may conduct utilization monitoring and improvement inspections periodically on your allotments.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

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 Brad Compton (Southwest Region) at (208) 854-8946 or Regan Berkley at (208) 634-8137. For the Magic Valley Region contact Craig White at 208-644-6303 or Mike McDonald at 208-324-4359.

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 Clayton Wetzstein. He can be reached at (208) 681-8756. If you cannot reach Clayton, Jared Hedelius should be contacted at the Boise District Office at 208-616-5778.

OTHER

When livestock carcasses are located near campgrounds, roads, trails or water, reasonable and appropriate action must be taken to remove any carcasses. The permittee will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate for each specific instance. Although the Forest Service recognizes that disposal of carcasses is not always feasible in many situations there are several reasonable options available for the disposal of single or multiple carcasses. In most cases, carcasses should be moved at least 100 yards from campgrounds, roads, trails, or water. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Mountain Home 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. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off designated routes for administrative use within your allotments and permitted dates for livestock management purposes. However, specific routes will need to be identified each year. If motor vehicle use is needed outside of your permitted dates, please seek authorization from the District Ranger. See description of routes needed for administrative use below. 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.

Routes Approved for Administrative Use:

- 1). Access to the Spring Creek fence located at T3N R7E Section 34 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 2). Access to the Jackass fence located at T3N R6E Section 25 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 3). Access to the Long Gulch boundary fence located at T3N R7E Section 32 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 4). Access to the Rattlesnake division fence located at T3N R6E Section 14 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 5). Access to the Little Rattlesnake drift fence located at T3N R6E Section 15 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 6). Access to the Goodie Patch fence located at T3N R7E Section 23 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 7). Access to the Slide Gulch fence located at T3N R6E Section 2 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 8). Access to the Trail Creek drift fence located at T3N R6E Section 5 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 9). Access to the Trail Creek division fence located at T3N R6E Section 9 via the existing road/ATV trail.
- 10). Trail Creek road system 221.
- 11). Tipton Loop road system 219.
- 12). Grape Mountain to Fury Flat road system 221.
- 13). North Fork road system 222.
- 14). South Fork Unit road to Kesyl Barn (old road system 220).
- 15). Head of Long Gulch behind green gate (old road system 113AA).
- 16). Jackass road (old road system 201).
- 17). Krall Mountain road (old road system 216).
- 18). Little Rattlesnake road (old road system 218).
- 19). Across from Elk Creek enclosure (old road systems 264 and 298).
- 20). Old logging road along Rattlesnake Creek.

<i>Boyd Davidson L.G. Davidson & Sons INC</i>	<i>5/15/2023</i>
Permittee	Date
<i>Adrienne Hoban</i>	<i>5/15/2023</i>
District Ranger	Date