

**PORTER CREEK AND CRUMLEY GULCH
CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENTS**

2023 Annual Operating Instruction
Idaho City Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on the Porter Creek and Crumley Gulch Cattle and Horse allotments during the 2023 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Crumley Gulch C&H Porter Creek C&H	Branch, Jay or Cindy	02278

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	50	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	53	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15

Authorized Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Authorized Season
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	0	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	0	Cow/Calf	7/1 – 10/15

Non-Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Resource Protection	Personal Convenience
Jay Branch	Porter Creek	50		Yes
Jay Branch	Crumley Gulch	53		Yes

Permitted Livestock Brands:



Jay or Cindy Branch

COMPLIANCE

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 North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or a Range Technician.

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a).

Crumley Gulch and Porter Creek Cattle Allotments will be managed as described in this AOI; the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest (Forest Plan); the Allotment Management Plans (AMP); and the Porter Creek Crumley Gulch Range Project Environmental Assessment.

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).

Situations may develop during the grazing season that requires changes to the AOI. If this becomes necessary or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the Rangeland Management Specialist or the District Ranger at Idaho City Ranger District at (208) 392-3700 and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

2023 GRAZING SCHEDULE

Jay and Cindy Branch have been approved for non-use for personal convenience for the 2023 grazing season.

BILLING INFORMATION

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.

The grazing fee for 2023 is \$1.35 per head month of cattle.

The grazing fee for excess and unauthorized use is \$26.60 per head month of cattle and horses.

This rate will apply to, but not be limited to, the following circumstances: excess number of livestock grazed; livestock grazed outside the permitted grazing season; livestock grazed in areas not authorized under a grazing permit and a bill for collection; or livestock grazed without a permit. Refer to 36 CFR Part 222.50.

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 Range specialist must be notified at least 5 days in advance and given the date, time, and place where livestock will enter 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 allotments will begin early enough to satisfy the off-forest dates in October. The Forest Service may conduct end-of-season monitoring to determine if grazing use standards have been met and that cattle are not present after the off date.

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.

Upland grazing use should not exceed the Forest Plan standard of **no more than 40% early season and no more than 50 percent end-of-season**. A safe, easy way to visualize this is "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 permittee and the Forest Service may jointly inspect range conditions. It is your responsibility to remove livestock from the allotment area before as the utilization standards been met.

Noxious Weeds

Work on noxious weed eradication will continue this year. Your help is needed. If you find any populations of Scotch Thistle, Canada thistle, Dalmatian Toadflax, knapweed, or other noxious weeds, please let us know so arrangements can be made to start work on their control.

Salt Placement

Place salt on ridge tops at least 100 feet away from roads and one-quarter mile away from water. To help prevent trampling of salt grounds, place salt blocks in slightly different locations each year and in location where low use is observed. Whenever possible place the blocks on rocks, low stumps, or manufactured salt containers. This will help prevent the salt from dissolving into the ground and being dug out by wildlife. Salt will be removed from the allotment once the grazing season is completed.

Predator Problems

If during the grazing season, you are having problems with predators notify, Wildlife Services. There is 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 Fish and Game (IDFG) and the Forest Service.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. Any questions you may have should be directed to their main office at 208-634-8137.

If you suspect a wolf depredation as occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services should be contacted as soon as possible at 208-373-1630.

Motorized Use

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Idaho City 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 of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments 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 will need to be specified and routes would be improved in these instructions. 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

Per your grazing permit, you are responsible for the maintenance of:

Porter Creek Pasture Division Fence—3 miles

Porter Creek Water Development

The fence must be put up and maintained before livestock enter the Porter Creek allotment and prior to livestock entering the adjoining pasture on the Jerusalem allotment, whichever is earlier. Please refer to your permit for more details describing your maintenance responsibility.

Signatures:

_____	_____
District Ranger	Date

Permittee signature:

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.

_____	_____
	Date