



2025 Annual Operating Instructions

Warm Springs C&H Allotment
New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Warm Springs C&H Allotment for the 2025 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittees on May 7, 2025. In attendance were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. <u>Harrington & Son Inc.</u>	<u>Permittee (Dean Harrington, Joel Maxwell)</u>
2. <u>Shumway and Sons LLC</u>	<u>Permittee (Steve and Dan Shumway)</u>
3. <u>West Ranch Ventures LLC</u>	<u>Permittee (Mike Longtin)</u>
4. <u>Dana Harris</u>	<u>New Meadows District Ranger</u>
5. <u>Brian McMorris</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>
6. <u>Ryan Waite</u>	<u>Idaho Department of Lands</u>

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>PERMITTED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>	<u>2025 AUTHORIZED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>
Harrington & Son Inc.	40 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	40 cow/calf 6/1-10/31
State Land	48 cow/calf 6/1 - 10/31	48 cow/calf 6/1 - 10/31
Shumway and Sons LLC	97 cow/calf 5/15-10/31	97 cow/calf 5/15-10/31
State Land	33 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	33 cow/calf 6/1-10/31
State Land	3 cow/calf 5/15 - 10/31	3 cow/calf 5/15 - 10/31
West Ranch Ventures LLC	249 cow/calf 6/1-10/31	249 cow/calf 6/1-10/31

All cattle on the Warm Springs C&H allotment should be branded with the , , or **2-S** brands and have Forest Service tags fastened to the ear. The Forest has provided you with these tags and you are required to use them. Untagged livestock within this allotment will be a violation of your permit.

The AOI is viewed by the Forest Service as instructions issued for implementing the term grazing permit and as such is part of the permit. This AOI is made part of the term 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 changes become necessary, or if the permittee cannot comply with some part of these instructions, please contact the appropriate District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Refer to Part 2 of the term grazing permit for general terms and conditions that apply to these operating instructions. Failure to comply with the AOI direction is a violation of the grazing permit and will be resolved following agency procedures established in regulation, manuals and handbooks.

The permittee shall notify the District Ranger five (5) days prior to the date and location of entry of livestock onto National Forest system lands. An “on” count may be done at this time. We will notify you if we will be there to count you on.

Grazing fee of \$1.35/head month must be paid before livestock are authorized to go on lands administered by the National Forest. This bill is due five (5) days prior to your earliest turnout

date. The New Meadows District Office must receive confirmation from Lockbox that payment has been made prior to cattle entering the Forest. **Based on current events please do not wait to pay your bill as it may take additional time for checks to clear. We recommend paying online. The web address for payment of the grazing bill on-line is located in the upper right-hand corner of your bill.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers permitted on any given year. The season of use is dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation and temperature) which influences annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify permitted grazing use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (c) of your term grazing permit.

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp, but not saturated, and should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species other than bulbous bluegrass and cheatgrass must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Arrowleaf balsamroot should be in bloom or past bloom.

In accordance with Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2255.1 all grazing permittees are required to conform to livestock laws and quarantine regulations of the State and Secretary of Agriculture while their livestock are on Forest Service administered land. Forest officers shall not allow livestock under quarantine to enter Forest Service administered lands until the quarantine is lifted or until the hold order is released. Grazing permits may be suspended or cancelled, in accordance with FSM 2204, for failure to comply with such laws or with any approved special rules of a recognized livestock association.

Livestock Rotations and Allowable use

As allowable use grazing criteria are reached, livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off Forest Service Administered Lands.

The dates below are approximate, based on data from previous years.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Allowable use</u>
Lower 5/15-7/1	Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness.	40% allowable use on upland vegetation. 6" stubble height on stream bank grass or grass like vegetation or 40% use on key riparian species, whichever occurs first.
Middle 7/1-10/24	Use after allowable use is met in the Lower Unit. Used in conjunction with Upper Unit.	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

Upper 7/1-10/24	Use after allowable use is met in the Lower Unit. Used in conjunction with Middle Unit.	50% allowable use on uplands. Riparian allowable use is 45% use or 4" stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
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In the 2024 grazing season there were instances in which cattle were found grazing in areas not authorized. Based on your timely response to move the cattle back to the authorized area, there is no further action on this issue at this time.

Monitoring and Allowable Use Results

There shall be Forest Service personnel monitoring these allowable use standards throughout the 2025 grazing season along with any long-term vegetation monitoring that may be collected this grazing season.

The Lower/Middle/Upper Unit documented allowable use was either right at or below standards in 2024.

Other Requirements

If livestock are found dead on the allotment you will be responsible to move the carcasses 100 yards away from recreation trails, roads, or live water.

Salt placement is required to be at least 1/4 mile from live water and 1/4 mile from occupied northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat. If this can't be accomplished, the New Meadows District range personnel will work with you to find acceptable locations. All salt blocks shall be removed when livestock have been moved out of a unit or off the National Forest System lands. Salt may need to be placed in a container if holes in the soil are becoming an issue.

Livestock Trailing

Livestock will be trailed onto the allotment through adjacent private land following range readiness. Shumway and Sons will turnout all their livestock in the Trail Creek/Cold Springs/Warm Springs Drainage. Harrington and Son will turnout all their livestock in the West Fork Weiser Drainage. West Ranch Ventures will turnout around 77 pair in West Fork Weiser Drainage with Harrington and Son and around 100 pair in the Rocky Gulch Drainage. All livestock will be trailed off the allotment in the fall from the Middle and Upper Units through the Lower Unit to adjacent private land.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained to standard prior to turning livestock into the Unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement requires reconstruction, a cooperative effort can be made between the Forest Service and permittee to reconstruct the development depending on funding. The permittee is required to provide the materials and labor for routine maintenance.

Range improvements in each unit need to be maintained to standard at least 2 weeks prior to approximate dates listed above and may need to be earlier depending on the year.

Maintenance of spring developments is vitally important to the health of your livestock and to ensure proper use of the grazing allotment. If you are aware of spring developments that require reconstruction or extensive maintenance, please discuss this with Forest Service range personnel. All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed.

The fences will continue to be rebuilt in small sections if needed. This will be funding and time dependent. If multiple fences need rebuilt at the same time they will need to be prioritized. No work will be allowed until approval is provided to the permittee in writing from the Forest Service. Do not proceed until written permission from the Forest Service is provided. There may need to be input from a wildlife biologist or qualified designee before or during the rebuilding process to mitigate the NIDGS sites along the fence.

The Sheep Creek Fence will look at being rebuilt. This fence was cleared in 2017. This will be funding and time dependent.

The Middle/Upper Unit division fence is in the process of being pulled. The part along the West Fork Weiser Road will remain to keep livestock from bypassing the Middle Unit and going directly to the Upper Unit. Cattle will be allowed to graze in both units at the same time for the 2025 grazing season.

The Rocky Gulch Spring will continue to be monitored by the permittee to see if the spring will run enough water to be rebuilt. If this spring is rebuilt no work will be allowed until approval is provided to the permittee in writing from the Forest Service. Do not proceed until written permission from the Forest Service is provided.

The Lower/Middle Unit drift fence was looked at by the permittee and Forest Service in 2010 to find a location for an extension. Forest Service employees and the permittees agreed there was not a feasible location for a fence extension at this time. The permittees agreed to check the Lower Unit along Lost Creek three (3) or more times a week. After moving out of the Lower Unit.

The permittees and Forest Service will look into possibly fencing off some stock ponds and having them feed a water tank. We will continue to look at stock ponds this year to get an idea of what ones we may want to pursue running a pipeline from the stock pond to a water trough with float valve. The Forest Service has provided the permittee written approval to clean out stock ponds on the allotment. The permittee will need to work with the range specialist or qualified designee while the ponds are being cleaned out. The Evergreen Pond is the only pond approved to be cleaned out, fenced and have a stock tank added. Please coordinate any work with the range specialist.

The permittees will be allowed to go off trail with a motorized vehicle to salt and maintain range improvements. When salting they will be allowed two (2) times (once to put it out and once to gather unused salt). When working on range improvements they will be allowed four (4) times throughout the year to put up, maintain, and take down. If more times are needed to drive off road you will need to notify the District Ranger, and they will make a decision on a case by case

bases. Off road vehicle use by permittees will not be allowed in occupied NIDGS sites except on authorized travel routes.

ACTUAL USE REPORTS

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. Forms may be completed by each individual permittee or one form can be completed by the group. However, a form should be completed for each unit grazed by livestock. If you have any questions about completing the form, please call the range department at the Forest Service at (208) 347-0300. We request the forms be returned no later than the AOI meeting for the 2026 grazing season. Along with the actual use forms we ask if you would keep a rider log of when/where you ride, what you find when you ride, and if you work on a range improvement or salt.

MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS

There may be logging South of Lost Valley Res to Rocky Gulch Road Jct on both sides of Lost Creek. This is part of the Cold Bear Timber sale.

Rough-Finn may have work on Road and chipping above the gravel pit off Lost Creek. There may be chipping of slash on the West Fork Weiser and the north end of 089 road. There may be logging off the West Fork Weiser road between Sheep Creek and Corral Creek.

There may be road work and logging occurring for the Grouse Creek Timber sale. Just next to your allotment.

There may be potential logging from Butter Gulch to Railroad Saddle.

There may be spring burning from Bear Gulch South to Rocky Gulch road jct. in Lost Creek and Warm Spring drainages.

The Forest service will notify you before initial burning operations if there are .

The Payette National Forest Coalition project #4 called Huckleberry is to the east of the allotment. Implementation (burning, road work, thinning, logging) of this project may be taking place, but will not be on your allotment.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, a change in authorized grazing activity will occur. If proper use grazing levels are reached, then livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off of the allotment. If livestock grazing does not comply with the terms and conditions of these Annual Operating Instructions, then Forest Service policy and procedures regarding administrative permit actions will be followed.

The Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel (NIDGS) was listed in May 2000, as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. There are three known colonies of Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel located on the Warm Springs C&H Allotment in the Upper Unit and one located in the

Middle Unit. If you stay within allowable use standards and don't allow cattle to congregate in the NIDGS interpretive site no additional mitigation is required.

Other Species listed are Whitebark Pine was listed as threatened December of 2022 and Wolverine was listed threatened January 2024. If you stay within allowable use standards in these areas currently no further mitigation is needed.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of rangelands. The Forest Service asks the permittee to provide assistance in identifying new weed infestations and to help prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Please pay particular attention to areas where stock is concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. The Payette National Forest has a requirement that any hay (non-pelletized), straw or mulch that is brought onto the National Forest be certified weed free. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed Certified Weed Free Forage for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

If there is a wildfire on your allotment, we will work with you and try to provide as many updates as possible. Please work with your local district office who will be working closely with any fire teams. Make sure you have a plan if a wildfire happens on or near your allotment.

The Forest Service will work with you within our rules and regulations during exceptionally dry years. Allowable-use levels will continue to be used to trigger livestock movements or removal. Contingency plans need to be made for your livestock, should utilization levels require removal of livestock prior to the end of your permitted grazing season. Please work closely with your assigned rangeland management specialist as you make decisions for your operation.

You are responsible for ensuring that your rider (if you elect to have one) is informed and understands the standards, guidelines, and other management direction in these instructions.

Please review the AOI for consistency with our discussion at the annual meeting, and sign and return it to me. If I do not receive a signed copy from you within two weeks, this signed AOI will serve as the final copy approved by the District Ranger.

/s/ Dana Harris
Dana Harris
New Meadows District Ranger

05/09/2025
Date

Shumway and Sons LLC
Permittee

Date

West Ranch Ventures, LLC
Permittee

Date

Harrington & Son Inc.
Permittee

Date