

2025 Annual Operating Instructions
 Round Valley C&H Allotment
 New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest

The Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Round Valley Cattle allotment for the 2025 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the permittee on May 22, 2025. The following participated in development of this year’s plan:

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| 1. <u>Ernie Robinson</u> | <u>Permittee (Wyatt Greig)</u> |
| 2. <u>Ryan Waite</u> | <u>Idaho Department of Lands</u> |
| 3. <u>Dana Harris</u> | <u>New Meadows District Ranger</u> |
| 4. <u>Brian McMorris</u> | <u>Range Specialist</u> |

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>PERMITTED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>	<u>2025 AUTHORIZED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>
Ernie Robinson	110 cow/calf 6/15-9/30 (Not to exceed 221 HMs)	110 cow/calf 8/1-9/30

All cattle on the Round Valley C&H allotment should be branded with the **41** brand.

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 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. **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 grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the resource needs of the soils and vegetation. Fisheries biologists have completed Biological Assessments on this grazing activity for Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout (species listed under the Endangered Species Act). Any known and/or potential effects of livestock grazing on the fish species have been mitigated.

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers authorized 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 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 the Forest.

Cattle will start grazing the North Unit approximately August 1. Contact the Forest Service when you begin to move your cattle to the North Unit. The North Unit will be grazed until allowable use is met or September 30 (whichever comes first).

The North Unit has National Forest System lands, private lands, and Bureau of Land Management lands.

Allowable Use/Mitigation Measures

The following allowable use criteria and mitigation measures are to be followed for all grazing activities on National Forest System Administered Lands (allowable use criteria don't apply to BLM, State, or Private Lands). There will be Forest Service personal monitoring these standards throughout the grazing season along with any long-term vegetation monitoring that may be collected this grazing season.

Allowable forage use criteria is 30% use in riparian areas or 4 inch stubble height on hydric greenline species. Allowable forage use on uplands is 40%. All cattle will be moved off the National Forest portion of the allotment once allowable use is reached on the Forest land. When annual use is collected there needs to be about a 10% allowance on either side of the mean percent utilization to account for error and/or bias.

Monitoring and Allowable Use Results

There was nothing in 2024 that was recorded above standards.

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.

Salting and riding will be used to minimize use in the head of Trail Creek and other riparian areas. Salt placement is required to be at least ¼ mile from water. 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 National Forest.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained prior to turning livestock into the Unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement has been properly maintained but 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 during routine maintenance.

All water developments which utilize a storage tank must have a wildlife escape ramp installed. Do not proceed with any spring developments rebuilds until written permission is provided to you by the Forest Service.

The permittees will be allowed to go off trail to salt and maintain range improvements. When salting they will be allowed 2 times (once to put it out and once to gather unused salt). When working on range improvements they will be allowed 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.

MONITORING OF THE ANNUAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACTIVITY

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. 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

MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS

There is an electric fence installed on the south side (NE 1/4, sec. 4, T20N, R1E) of the Circle C subdivision. This fence is maintained by the District Fisheries Biologist. Please contact the New Meadows District if you see problems with the enclosure.

There is fall prescribed burning planned throughout the allotment. The Forest Service will notify you of any prescribed burns that take place on or near your grazing allotments.

There is thinning planned this summer throughout the allotment from Trail Creek south to Mud Creek drainages.

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.

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.

Coordination with DF Development, State Lands, and the BLM will be ongoing throughout the season to assure proper use on all lands. We appreciate your continued communication concerning grazing within the allotment.

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 AOI will serve as the final copy approved by the District Ranger.

/s/ Dana Harris 5/28/2025
Dana Harris Date
New Meadows District Ranger

Ernie Robinson Date
Permittee