



2025 Annual Operating Instructions
 Jacks Creek C&H Allotments
 New Meadows Ranger District, Payette National Forest

The annual operating instructions are a guide for implementing grazing management activities on the Jacks Creek Cattle allotment for the 2025 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittee on May 22, 2025. Those involved in remotely developing this plan are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. <u>Cross O Ranch, Inc.</u>	<u>Permittee (Derek Wilson, Scott Crow)</u>
2. <u>Dana Harris</u>	<u>New Meadows District Ranger</u>
3. <u>Ryan Waite</u>	<u>Idaho Department of Lands</u>
4. <u>Brian McMorris</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>

<u>ALLOTMENT/ PERMITTEE</u>	<u>PERMITTED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>	<u>2025 AUTHORIZED NUMBERS / SEASON</u>
Jacks Creek C&H/ Cross O Ranch	420 cow/calf 7/11- 10/10	380 cow/calf 7/11 – 10/10

All cattle on the Jacks Creek C&H Allotment shall be branded with the , and  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 season of use and livestock numbers permitted on any given year may be adjusted by the District Ranger. The season of use is dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation and temperature) which influence 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/Mitigation Measures

2025 Grazing Rotation

The allotment is to be managed under a two-pasture grazing system.

Cattle will start grazing the Rainbow Lake Unit first after the authorized-on date and range readiness conditions are met. Livestock are not authorized on the allotment until range improvements are maintained to standards.

Cattle are to be moved to the Elk Lake Unit once any of the three allowable use criteria are reached in the Rainbow Lake Unit. The Elk Lake Unit is intended to be grazed after seed ripe on the vegetation. This will be approximately August 20th. Cattle are to be removed from Forest Service administered lands once any of the allowable use criteria is reached in the Elk Lake Unit or by the October 10th off date.

The known or potential areas have been identified below along with the respective mitigation measures designed to eliminate each adverse effect.

The known or potential areas have been identified below along with the respective mitigation measures designed to eliminate each adverse effect.

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>
1. Chinook spawning area below falls on Hazard Creek	Close Hazard Creek riparian area below falls to cattle grazing.

The uplands have a 40% before seed ripe and 50% after seed ripe allowable use limits. Riparian areas are limited to 45% use, or 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species whichever occurs first. As allowable use grazing criteria and mitigation measures are reached, livestock are moved off the Forest.

The following allowable use criteria and mitigation measures are to be followed for all grazing activities. 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.

In 2024 there was no monitoring recorded above standards.

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 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 Land.

Trailing

The Livestock will be trailed onto and off the Jacks Creek allotment. They will trail on to the allotment from Elk Creek east around Hazard Creek Drainage.

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. It is your responsibility to maintain the allotment boundary fence on the east side of the Jacks Creek cattle allotment (Clayburn letdown fence).

The permittee 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 request 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

If there is damage to Forest System trails by the permittees' livestock the permittee will need to repair it or pay for it to be repaired.

There are multiple vegetation projects in the planning phase south of this allotment.

If any prescribed burning is planned, we will let you know. Currently there is no burning planned on this allotment this year.

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.

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
Dana Harris
New Meadows District Ranger

5/28/2025
Date

Cross O Ranch, Inc.
Permittee

Date