



File Code: 2210/2230
Date: April 10, 2025

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Bill,

This letter will serve as our Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bowden Draw Allotment during the 2025 grazing season. This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). The following items will guide our management of the allotment this year.

Grazing Schedule

The scheduled dates below are to be used as guidelines. The amount of time spent in each unit will depend upon actual forage utilization and distribution patterns. It is the responsibility of the permittee to move cattle when allowable use standards are met. The dates proposed and the units scheduled are tentative and depend upon the availability of forage, water, and the effects of weather. We will follow the proposed schedule unless there is good reason to change. Situations may develop during the grazing season which may require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the Range Specialist before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Permitted Numbers

| <u>Permittee</u> | <u>Kind</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Nonuse</u> | <u>Season</u> |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cook, Bill | Cow/Calf | 260 | 0 | 6/22-9/27 |

Grazing Schedule

| <u>Unit</u> | <u>Sequence</u> | <u>Dates of Use</u> | <u>Days</u> | <u>Allowable Use</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
| East Mckee Draw | 1 st | 6/22-7/20 | 29 | ≤ 50% of key forage species ≥ 4" residual stubble height of graminoids along the greenline |
| Bowden Draw | 2 nd | 7/21-8/7 | 19 | |
| Pipe Creek | 3 rd | 8/8-9/5 | 29 | |
| Greens Draw | 4 th | 9/6-9/27 | 22 | |

Proper Allowable Use

The maximum allowable forage use practices described in your permit will be implemented in each unit on the allotment. The grazed unit needs to be checked regularly by the permittee(s) to ensure that maximum allowable forage use levels are not exceeded. **When the maximum allowable forage use levels are met, permittees are expected to move cattle into the next unit immediately. If the maximum allowable forage use occurs on the allotment before the scheduled allotment off date, permittees will remove cattle from the allotment.**

The primary determining factor for moving livestock from one unit to the other is utilization. It is the responsibility of the permittee to move cattle when allowable use standards are met. Allowable use will be monitored at key areas on the allotment. Key areas are those rangelands or riparian areas on the allotment most preferred by livestock and are typically grazed first and receive the most concentrated use. When allowable use is met in key areas, cattle will be moved to the next scheduled unit or removed from



the allotment, if it is the last scheduled unit to be grazed.

Allowable use levels were determined in the Allotment Management Plan for the Bowden Draw Allotment. Allowable use is 50% in upland forage areas in all units. A greater than four stubble height of riparian forage species, such as sedges, will be left in all riparian areas (i.e., stream corridors and wet meadows) at the end of the grazing season. Utilization cages, ocular utilization examinations, or stubble height measurement may be used to determine forage use by livestock in key areas.

Livestock Distribution and Management Practices

- The permittee will furnish sufficient riders to ensure proper livestock distribution patterns and utilization levels. Please make sure that the rider understands the importance of moving cattle away from riparian areas because utilization levels achieved in these areas will determine how long you are allowed to stay on the allotment.
- Livestock need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit when needed. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season.
- Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows.
- **Off road travel is not allowed** unless pre-authorized for range improvement construction or maintenance. Off road travel by any vehicle is not allowed for salting and herding. It is the permittee responsibility to know which roads/trails are system routes and which roads and trails have been closed.
- Cattle should be drifted instead of trailed whenever possible. Previously grazed units shall have all livestock removed from them.
- Any hay or straw used in association with your grazing permit should be certified and tagged as noxious weed free as directed by Forest Service Order #04-2021-03. Please make sure that any hay, straw, or mulch used on the Forest complies with this order.

Range Improvement Maintenance and Construction

All allotment boundary fences, division fences, water developments, and other improvements of the first unit used will be repaired before livestock are allowed onto the allotment. All water developments, unit fences, and other improvements will be in good working order before cattle are permitted to enter the next scheduled unit in the rotation. We will be inspecting these fences and developments before livestock go on and before they move into each unit. If these repairs are not done, you will not be allowed onto the allotment, or you may be required to come off the allotment early.

To be completed by the end of the grazing season:

- Construct Bowden Fence Realignment and remove old fence.

Fees

Please ensure that your Bill for Collection for the upcoming grazing season is paid by the due date. Payment options now include on-line payment (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/billpay/>), point of sale service (Forest Service office), or the traditional mailed payment to the address on the bill. Please include a copy of your bill with your payment and allow 4 business days for payment processing. Payment must be received and processed before livestock can enter NFS lands.

Waiver of Permit

If for any reason you are considering waiving the permit to another individual it is critical that you coordinate with the Forest Service before this transaction occurs. A waiver is not always automatic and requires an applicant to meet basic qualifications (livestock and base property ownership, United States citizen, etc.).

Actual Use Record

Enclosed is an Actual Use Form for your use in recording the actual livestock use, losses, and operating expenses during the upcoming grazing season. Please make sure that the information recorded on this form is correct and returned to our office **no later than October 31st**.

We look forward to working with you again this year and appreciate your willingness to cooperate with us in the proper management of the Bowden Draw Allotment. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Todd Irish at:

Cell: (435) 299-9098 cell (text or call)

Email: todd.irish@usda.gov

Sincerely,

Ron Brunson
District Ranger

Enclosure (2)
Bill
Actual Use Form