

RED ROCK RANCH ON/OFF 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

I. AUTHORIZED USE FOR 2016

NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	ON DATE	OFF DATE	ALLOTMENT
7	Horse	Mature	06/01/2016	12/01/2016	Red Rock Ranch

Proper use for this area is established at 60% use of key species. Once proper utilization has been met on the grass species, all livestock must be removed from the allotment.

II. COMPLIANCE

- This AOI is made part of your 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 this becomes necessary, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.
- Any hay, straw or feed used in association with this permit must be certified and tagged as noxious weed free, or noxious weed seed free as directed by USDA-FS R4 Weed Free Hay Order #04-00-097 dated 02/01/2003 available at the Jackson RD office.

III. BILLING

- Due Date – The Bill for Collection is preferably due 5 days prior to turn-on date. Not paying by the turn-on date may result in administrative and interest charges. Placing livestock on the allotment prior to payment is non-compliance with Part 2, item 3 of the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may include suspension or cancellation of the grazing permit.

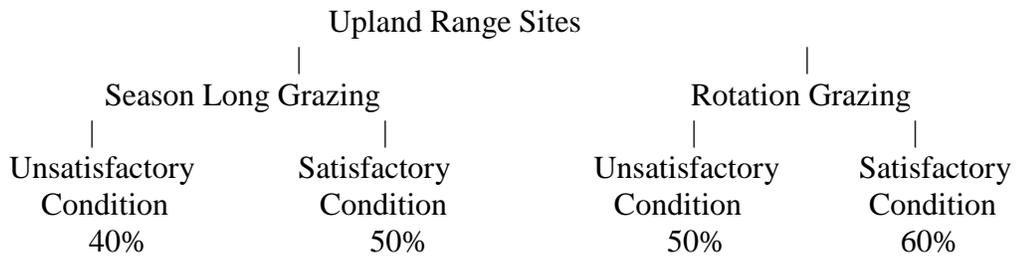
IV. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- Authorized use dates (on & off dates) are tentative and depend on range readiness, forage utilization and resource conditions during the entire grazing season. Livestock shall not enter the allotment prior to the on date or remain on the allotment past the off date.
- Permittees are responsible for monitoring forage utilization within the allotment. When allowable forage use rates are met in identified key use areas, livestock will be herded to another area or removed from the allotment.
- Owners of permitted livestock must comply with State of Wyoming livestock laws and regulations.

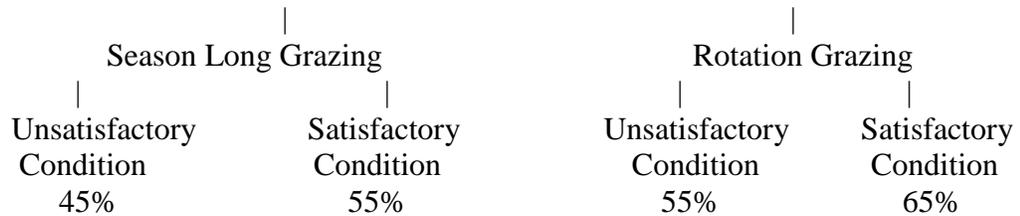
- The Red Rock Ranch allotment consists of National Forest System lands and private lands fenced in to form a grazing unit.

**V. BRIDGER-TETON LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
STANDARDS AND GUIDES**

- Vegetation Range Prescription: Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
- Forage Improvement Standard: Range in less-than-satisfactory condition will be improved. Disturbed areas will be stabilized or regenerated prior to resuming grazing use.
- Forage Utilization Standards: The following utilization standards will be the maximum utilization levels allowed for all herbivores on key vegetative species.



Riparian Range Sites



- During Allotment Management Plan revision, an Interdisciplinary (ID) Team and livestock permittees will prescribe site-specific use levels needed to meet plan objectives. Maximum forage use guidelines apply cumulatively to all types of grazing use including wildlife, livestock and recreational stock. During monitoring and evaluation a utilization guideline may be changed if the prescribed level is not accomplishing planned objectives. An ID team will establish site-specific utilization levels on key wildlife ranges. ID teams will prescribe other proper-use standards to achieve site-specific objectives for the range resource being managed. The standards will be a combination of forage utilization, ground cover, plant vigor, soil disturbance, or stream bank stability.
- Desired Future Conditions within the Allotment:
 - **3 -Theme:** An area managed to give river and scenic recreation experiences. **Management Emphasis** – River segments outside of Wilderness that have been determined eligible for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River system are protected from activities that

could diminish or change the free-flowing characteristic, water quality, or the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, and other values which make the river eligible for designation. **Vegetation: Range Prescription** – Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed condition while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.

- **6A – Theme:** A mostly pristine area where the presence of people is rarely or never noticed. **Management Emphasis:** is for the protection and perpetuation of pristine biophysical conditions, and a high degree of solitude with essentially no perceptible evidence of human use. Natural biological processes are not adversely or artificially changed over time by human use. **Vegetation: Range Prescription** – Livestock grazing is not permitted. Pack and saddle stock grazing is permitted.
- **6B – Theme:** A mostly pristine area where the presence of people is rarely or never noticed. **Management Emphasis:** is to provide for the protection and perpetuation of natural biophysical conditions and a high degree of solitude for visitors but with some perceptible evidence of past human use. **Vegetation: Range Prescription** - Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed condition while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
- **6C – Theme:** A mostly pristine area where the presence of people is rarely or never noticed. **Management Emphasis:** is to provide for the protection and perpetuation of essentially natural biophysical conditions. Solitude, a low level of encounters with other users, and little evidence of past use are important. **Vegetation: Range Prescription** - Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed condition while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
- **12 – Theme:** An area managed for high-quality wildlife habitat and escape cover, big game hunting opportunities, and dispersed recreation activities. **Management Emphasis:** is on providing such important habitat for big-game as winter range, feedgrounds, calving areas, and security areas. **Vegetation: Range Prescription** - Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife, particularly big game.

VI. IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements will be maintained so as to function for its intended purpose and to extend the functional life of the improvement. Improvements will be maintained while taking non-use. All improvements will be maintained prior to placing livestock in the allotment. Improvements will be maintained the entire grazing season. Replacement of improvements that are no longer maintainable to function, will usually involve a 50:50 cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the permittee. When using an electric fence, the permittee will provide labor and maintenance as needed to keep it functioning with livestock and big game.

VII. PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

- Salt can be used to improve livestock distribution. No more than 50 pounds of salt will be placed at any one location at any time. Salt will be placed on rock or hardened areas to prevent salt leaching into the ground and permanent site damage. Salt will not be placed outside the allotment boundary. All salting will be done away from key forage use areas and traditional livestock congregating areas. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile of streams or wetlands, riparian areas, roads, FS trails, developed recreation areas, dispersed camp and recreation sites except as agreed to by the Forest Service. Prior to an area reaching the forage use standard, all salt will be removed.
- The permittee will insure that all personnel performing on the ground livestock management are thoroughly familiar with the terms of the grazing permit, annual operating instruction and allotment management plan.
- All camp sites used in conjunction with livestock operations must be maintained to present a clean, neat and orderly appearance. Flammable trash will be completely burned in a safe and reasonable way. All unburnable material will be removed to a disposal site. **Burying of trash is not allowed.** Temporary holding pens, corrals, mangers and hitching racks will be removed when the camp is moved or relocated. Facilities authorized on a permanent basis must be kept clean at all times and cleaned up after use. All camps must have a serviceable axe and shovel for fire control.
- There will be enough riders to achieve proper distribution of livestock within the allotment for uniform proper forage utilization. Livestock will not be turned onto the allotment or allowed to congregate within any portion of the allotment for an extended period of time that creates areas of non-uniform proper forage utilization.
- Horses and mules used in conjunction with this permit will not be picketed or tied to trees in a manner that creates trampled vegetation and compacted soils.

VIII. REQUIRED REPORTING

- An Actual Use form is attached with this AOI and will be returned to the Jackson RD office within 30 days of the end of the grazing season.
- The Permittee should keep records of turn on dates, livestock numbers and losses, locations, dates and movement of livestock within the allotment,

IX. INSPECTIONS & MONITORING

- Range Readiness – Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until soils are dry enough to prevent damage to vegetation or increase soil erosion, and when key plants are phenologically ready to be grazed. Indicators are listed below.

Plant Type	Visual	Phenolgy
GRASS		
Wheatgrass spp.	8 inch plant height	Seed stalk showing
Idaho Fescue	5 inch leaf length	Seed head present

Praire Junegrass	5 inch leaf length	Seed head present
Sandberg bluegrass	Plant mature	Seed head in dough stage
Pinegrass	4-6 inch leaf	
Tufted hairgrass	6+ inch height	Seed head present
Kentucky bluegrass		Seed head present
GRASSLIKE		
Nebraska sedge		Seed in late dough
FORBS		
Western Yarrow	Flower stalk showing	
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	$\frac{3}{4}$ leaf development	Blossom beginning
Geranium	4 inch leaf length	Flower in bloom
SHRUBS		
Serviceberry		Blossom present
Antelope Bitterbrush		Flower bud swollen
Snowberry		7-8 bud leaves unfolded

- Desired Future Condition in Identified Key Use areas by Cover Type:

COVER TYPE	PERCENT GROUND COVER FOR FUNCTIONALITY*
Alpine	90
Aspen	80
Mt Big Sagebrush	70
Tall Forb	80
Mt Brush	70

*FSH 2209.21 Chapter 20 Section 22.1.2

- Proper Use Guidelines. Forage use within identified key use areas should range between 4 and 6 inch stubble height for riparian grass species at the end of the grazing season. Stubble height will be determined as an average of the stubble height within identified key use areas in each pasture at the end of the grazing season. Key use areas may change and will be agreed to by the Forest Service and the permittee.
- Permittee Monitoring – It is the Permittees responsibility to ensure that Forest Plan, Allotment Management Plan and Annual Operating Instructions utilization standards are met.
- The Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide can be used to determine use within the allotment. The Forest Service encourages the use of photo points, landscape appearance and cover by life form transects and will assist in monitoring training and evaluation.

X. COORDINATION & COOPERATION

- The Bridger-Teton Forest-wide Noxious Integrated Weed Management Plan emphasizes inventory and implementing treatment programs within the District.

Noxious weeds of concern in the allotment are: Spotted/Diffuse Knapweed, Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Hound's Tongue, Dalmatian Toadflax and Leafy Spurge. Permittees are encouraged to report known noxious weed locations to the Forest Service.

- The permittee will adhere to Teton County Weed and Pest Control Districts quarantine of weed infested farm products.
- All predator control will be in accordance with State and Federal Laws. Black and Grizzly bear, wolf, and lion predation should be reported to the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept., and coyote predation reported to the USDA-APHIS office. Death of any livestock will be reported to the Forest Service as quickly as possible.
- All permitted livestock carcasses must be removed, only when human safety is not jeopardized. Removal from 1) at least ½ mile from sleeping areas, forest system roads or recreation sites, 2) acceptably stored at least 100 yards sleeping areas, Forest System roads or recreation sites and 3) at least 100 yards from water. Please refer to Occupancy and User Order # 04-00-104 (the Food Storage and Sanitation Order) for specific requirements.

XI. OTHER

- All human, pet and livestock food (except baled or cubed hay without additives) beverages, garbage, cooking grease, and other odorous substances must be stored, handled, and disposed of to make it unavailable to bears. Unavailable means stored in a bear-resistant container (approved by a Forest Official), in a closed vehicle constructed of solid non-pliable material, or suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points and at all points 4 feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole. Please refer to Occupancy and User Order # 04-00-104 (the Food Storage and Sanitation Order) for specific requirements.
- Burying food, garbage, refuse, or grease is prohibited.
- Burn garbage and grease so that it is burned completely. All garbage will be stored unavailable to bears and non-burnable garbage will be packed out and not allowed to accumulate.
- Bear resistant containers will be required for food/refuse storage in camps if the camps do not have "acceptable storage" facilities for food and refuse. Please refer to Occupancy and User Order # 04-00-104 (the Food Storage and Sanitation Order) for specific requirements.
- If additional terms and conditions are required in the Biological Opinion prepared by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, it will become part of your AOI upon approval of the Biological Opinion.

