

# ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2016 INDIAN-SPRINGMAN ALLOTMENT #2003

HF RANCH  
C/O BRENT HOGGE  
PO BOX 1386  
BIG PINEY, WY 83113

67 FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP  
C/O MIKE MILLER  
PO BOX 67  
BIG PINEY, WY 83113

## I. INTRODUCTION

The authorized use for the Indian-Springman allotment is as follows:

97 cattle, cow/calf	08/15 - 09/30	HF RANCH
105 cattle, cow/calf	08/15 - 09/30	67 FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

The permitted numbers and season of use for the 2016 grazing season are as follows:

97 cattle, cow/calf	08/15 - 09/30	HF RANCH
105 cattle, cow/calf	08/15 - 09/30	67 FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

The Permittee(s) must notify the range personnel at Big Piney, 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest.

Non-use of less than 90% of the permitted livestock numbers requires written approval. Verbal applications will not be accepted. If total non-use is approved the permittee is still responsible for their assigned improvement maintenance.

A credit/refund application must be submitted within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

The permittees are responsible for meeting the terms and conditions of the grazing permit, including day to day monitoring of forage utilization and moving livestock according to management guidelines. The vegetative utilization limits for this allotment are described below. We have attached a landscape appearance form that provides a narrative description of what different vegetative utilization percentages look like in the field. The vegetative utilization descriptions should aid the permittees and their riders in determining when the vegetative utilization limits are

reached. **As a rule of thumb, two inches of stubble should remain in upland areas and four inches of stubble should remain in riparian areas.** Please contact the range personnel at Big Piney if you have questions or would like additional training in the use of these guides.

Forest Service personnel will be checking permit compliance periodically during the grazing season and will perform long term monitoring to determine if management objectives are being met.

The Forest Service will be asking for your actual use records at the end of the grazing season. This includes the number and dates livestock enter and leave grazing units. It also includes livestock losses and causes of death. Please keep accurate records.

## **II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

Initial distribution of your livestock on July 15th will be throughout the allotment, not just allowing the livestock to distribute themselves. Vegetative utilization on **Riparian & Upland** range sites is limited to **50%** of key forage species. All livestock will be removed from the allotment by August 30th, unless vegetative utilization limits are reached before the end of the season.

Some flexibility in livestock turn on may be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. However, any changes need to be approved by forest personnel.

Regular herding and riding practices is the key to achieving proper livestock distribution and provides for the fullest use of the grazing season.

Salt must be placed out of bottoms, oil locations, clearcuts, and no closer than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from water, and not within 300 feet or insight of roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

If you encounter any bear or wolf depredation problems on the allotment, please contact forest personnel. Take no lethal control action.

Livestock that have died on the forest must be removed 300 feet from roads, trails and live water and out of sight.

Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

## **III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a good functioning condition before livestock are placed on the allotment. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

## **IV. ALLOTMENT STATUS**

The livestock management on Indian-Springman allotment will follow the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved in 1998. The Standards and Guidelines identified in the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan that deal with the management of this allotment are included in the AMP. It is

very important you understand these Standards and Guidelines since they form the basis for the management of this allotment.

Effectiveness monitoring is long-term monitoring that occurs over an extended period of time. It is used to determine if management practices are effective in meeting Forest Plan Goals, standards and objectives for livestock grazing. The specific objective based on the established monitoring bench mark areas for the Indian-Springman allotment are, ground cover of 70%, stream bank stability rating of 7 or higher and a riparian ecological status of late seral or higher on 85% of the steams. If these objectives are met allowable utilization limits of vegetation will be 50% of key species. If objectives are not met allowable utilization limits of vegetation will be reduced to 40% to provide for improvement.

Current condition and allowable vegetative utilization on the Indian-Springman allotment by pasture is as follows:

ALLOTMENT	GROUND COVER/TREND	STREAM BANK STABILITY RATING	RIPARIAN ECOLOGICAL STATUS	CURRENT ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION LIMIT
Indian-Springman	91/S	8.5 Indian Ck	100% meeting	50%

Trend Equals: U-upward, S-stable, D-down, N-one reading no trend yet.

#### V. OBSERVATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS SEASON

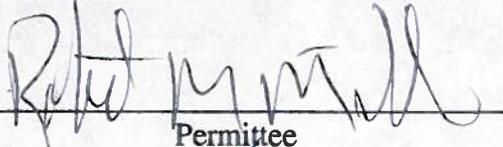
Utilization along the Indian Creek corridor was lite last grazing season. Please continue to monitor this area as it is prone to receiving heavy livestock congregation.

#### VI. OTHER

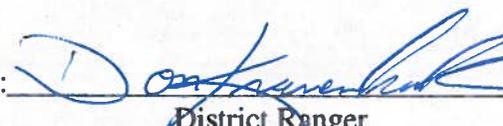
The grazing fees for the 2016 grazing season are \$2.11 per head month.

You are required to pay your grazing fees before livestock are turned onto the Forest.

**ONLY** Certified Weed-Free hay is allowed on national forest system land in Wyoming. If you need sources of Certified Weed-Free hay, please contact the Sublette County Weed and Pest Control office at 307/367-4728.

Review by:   
Permittee

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Permittee

Approved by:   
District Ranger