

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2016 SHERMAN ALLOTMENT #2007

LOUIS ROBERTS
P.O. BOX 34
DANIEL, WY 83115

I. INTRODUCTION

The permitted use for the Sherman Allotment is as follows:

858 cattle, cow/calf	07/01 - 09/15	LOUIS ROBERTS
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The authorized numbers and season of use for the 2016 grazing season is as follows:

772 cattle, cow/calf	07/01 - 08/05	South Pasture
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772 cattle, cow/calf	08/05 - 09/15	North Pasture
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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. **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.

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 will be in the North Pasture. Some flexibility in livestock turn on and pasture moves may be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. However, any changes to the grazing season need to be approved by forest personnel.

The following Bridger-Teton National Forest plan proper use standards shall apply to this allotment for all classes of livestock:

Upland range sites - not to exceed 50% utilization on key forage species for rangelands meeting objectives and 25% utilization for rangelands not meeting objectives. Key forage species identified for the allotment in the AMP are *Festuca idahoensis* (Idaho fescue), *Poa secunda* (Sandberg bluegrass), *Agropyron trachycaulum* (Slender wheatgrass), and *Stipa lettermanii* (Letterman needlegrass).

Riparian range sites - not to exceed 50% utilization on key forage species for riparian areas meeting objectives and 25% utilization for riparian areas not meeting objectives . Key forage species identified for the allotment in the AMP are *Deschampsia caespitosa* (Tufted hair-grass), *Carex aquatilis* (Water sedge), *Carex rostrata* (Beaked sedge), *Carex nebraskensis* (Nebraska sedge) and *Poa pratensis* (Kentucky bluegrass). Once the percent allowable vegetative utilization is achieved, livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment.

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 ¼ mile from water, and not within 300 feet or insight of roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

In an attempt to reduce grizzly bear/ human conflicts the Forest Service is requesting all grazing permittees to take the following action:

- All livestock predation will be reported to Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), BTNF, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD).
- All depredation control work will be conducted by WGFD or its authorized agent following Interagency Nuisance Bear Guidelines (pages 51-70 of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines, USD1 Fish and Wildlife Service 1986)
- Food Storage Guidelines will be followed for all camps associated with livestock operations (See Food Storage Order 04-00-104).*
- Riders are required to watch all livestock closely for sick, injured or stray animals
- Permanent FS employees will monitor allotments on a regular basis.
- All dead stock posing a health or safety hazard will be moved when within 1/4 mile of live streams, springs, lakes, water, riparian areas, system roads and trails, developed recreation areas, dispersed camping and picnic sites.

- Sick or injured animals will be removed when possible.
- No cattle carcass will be removed if human safety is of concern.

*Food Storage Guidelines for all camps associated with livestock operations (Food storage Order 04-00-104 (USDA Forest Service 2004)):

1. All food and refuse must be acceptably stored or acceptably possessed during daytime hours.
2. All food and refuse must be acceptably stored during nighttime hours, unless it is being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, or being prepared for acceptable storage.
3. Any harvested animal carcass must be acceptably stored, unless the carcass is being field dressed, transported, being prepared for eating, or being prepared for acceptable storage.
4. Camping or sleeping areas must be established at least 1/2 mile from a known animal carcass or at least 100 yards from an acceptably stored animal carcass.

Permittees must familiarize themselves with the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) and comply with the travel restrictions. MVUM's are available free of charge at the District Office. Under certain circumstances a permittee may request use of a closed route by contacting Forest Personnel.

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 Sherman allotment will follow the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved in 1991. 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. Non-compliance guidelines are located in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.13.

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 benchmark areas for the Sherman allotment are, ground cover of 70%, stream bank stability rating of 7 and riparian ecological status of late seral or higher on 85% of the streams. 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 25% to provide for improvement.

Current condition and allowable vegetative utilization on the Sherman allotment by pasture is as follows:

PASTURE	GROUND COVER/TREND	STREAM BANK STABILITY RATING	RIPARIAN ECOLOGICAL STATUS	CURRENT ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION LIMIT
1-South	97/S	8.4 North Horse Creek T1 8.6 Pass Creek T1 9.25 Pass Creek T3 7.26 Pass Creek T4 8.8 Pass Creek T5	100% Meeting	50%
2-North	97/S	6.6 North Horse Creek T2 7 North Horse Creek T3	100% Meeting	50% Uplands

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

V. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON

Coordinated monitoring efforts with the Sublette County Conservation District will continue this season. Remember that salt needs to be placed in upland locations away from water.

VI. OTHER

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

You are required to pay your grazing bill 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: *Louis Roberts*
Permittee

Approved by: *[Signature]*
District Ranger