

## BLOOMINGTON CATTLE ALLOTMENT

### 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

#### I. Permitted Livestock:

Season of Use: June 26 to September 25. These dates are tentative and may change due to range conditions.

Kind: Cattle – Cow/calf

Permittees and Permitted Livestock

Permittee	Permitted Numbers
	174
	95
	26
	26
	114
<b>Total</b>	435

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season.

#### II. Grazing Rotation

The South Bear River Range Allotment Management Plan Revisions Final Environmental Impact Statement decision stated that we are going to use adaptive management to manage this allotment. This means that adjustments to the rotation, livestock numbers and season of use may be modified to meet standards, based on monitoring results that indicate a need for change to improve efforts in meeting standards and guides set forth by the Forest Plan.

174 head in lower Bloomington Canyon; Harry's Hollow, when proper use is reached, moves to Upper and Middle Bloomington Canyon. The remaining 261 head will be placed in lower Paris Canyon and Grandy Hollow. Upper Paris Canyon and Paris Flat will be used later in the season. Annual monitoring is used on key areas to determine when livestock shall be moved between units or off the forest instead of using a set number of days.

#### III. Grazing Standards and Guides

Standards and Guides covering the allotment are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* or the *South Bear River Range Allotment Management Plan Revisions Final Environmental Impact Statement* and are part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in Tables 1 and 2. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to,

both native and desirable non-native key species. Stubble heights on riparian areas will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored.

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

The first number represents the percent of total weight of key species. The second number represents the height of standing riparian vegetation at the time of measurement.

**A. The standards in Table 1 above are the riparian forage utilization standards that will be applied.**

If it is determined that bank disturbance/alteration, greenline stubble height or woody/shrubby species utilization should replace the utilization triggers listed above it will be addressed in the site specific standards below. Riparian site specific standards will be established when a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the latest Grazing Implementation Guide. If a site specific PFC rating has not been conducted on a riparian area, standards for the area will be established by the Range Specialist on the allotment.

**Site specific standards: These standards will be applied to Bloomington Creek.**

Stream	Rating	Forage Utilization Standard* AIZ
Bloomington Creek Bdry-NF	Functional-At-Risk Moderate	3/4/5" AIZ stubble height
Bloomington Creek – cattle guard - HH	Functioning At Risk - Low	4/5/6" AIZ stubble height
Bloomington Creek – South Fork	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4" AIZ stubble height

Table 2. The upland forage utilization standards that will be applied:

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Critical Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	55
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	10	35

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring will include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Key grass species include Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*). South of lower Bloomington Canyon is a small area designated as critical winter range. There is no designated winter range on the allotment. Generally, the allotment will fall under the non-winter range heading.

Proper use standards will be the determining factor in deciding if livestock are allowed to graze the entire season or must be removed early.

The following are some measures that you can take to reduce the impacts that may affect your operation:

- Make every effort to keep livestock well distributed. An intensive management effort to obtain proper distribution on available forage is essential.
- Monitor your allotment closely to ensure that allowable forage utilization is not exceeded.
- Properly maintain all water troughs and fences. Spring flows may be reduced making properly maintained troughs very important.
- Livestock should be managed to avoid and reduce conflicts with other resources in the area.

As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of the livestock from the allotment will occur. If livestock are removed from the Forest early your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year's fee. This must be requested by you in your actual use form.

#### **IV. Permittee Responsibilities:**

- 1. Salting** - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use.
- 2. Herding** - Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas. Cattle should be checked regularly to ensure they are properly distributed.
- 3. Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free".
- 4. Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. These standards may be set by the Forest Officer over the allotment. A delay in livestock turnout on the allotment will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to cattle entering the allotment and to standards.

5. **Noxious weeds-** Dyer's woad, leafy spurge, and thistles are located on your allotment. Because of budget constraints, the control of noxious weed needs to become a joint effort. If you know of any infestations bring them to the attention of the Forest Officer. There may be spray days coordinated on your allotment and your assistance with them would benefit all.

## V. Special Instructions:

All AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

- Paris Creek riparian area is closed to livestock grazing until desired conditions are met; trailing between pastures is permitted.
- Harry's Hollow Fenced Area in Bloomington Canyon is closed to livestock.
- Permittees may be allowed motorized access to maintain or develop range improvements assigned in their grazing permits, or for other authorized administrative activities. AMP or AOI should include the direction to comply; travel permits should be issued to authorize this use (RFP 3-43)
- The tall forb restoration project area in Paris Flat was planted in 2007. The goal of this project is to establish native tall forbs in sites currently dominated by tarweed. This plot is protected by a fence, which will be maintained by the Forest Service.

## VII. Wolf Management:

Wolves in Idaho are no longer under the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act.

On May 5, 2011, wolf management in all of Idaho reverted to state management under state code 36-1107 and Idaho's 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. [PDF, 662 KB]

Simply put, the law says wolves molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals may be disposed of by livestock or domestic animal owners, their employees, agents and animal damage control personnel. No permit from Fish and Game is necessary. The incident must be reported to the Fish and Game director within 72 hours, with additional reasonable time allowed if access to the site where taken is limited. Wolves so taken shall remain the property of the state.

Livestock and domestic animal owners may take all nonlethal steps they deem necessary to protect their property. A permit must be obtained from the director to control wolves not molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals. Control is also permitted by owners, their employees and agents pursuant to the Idaho department of fish and game harvest rules. "Molesting" means the actions of a wolf that are annoying, disturbing or persecuting, especially with hostile intent or injurious effect, or chasing, driving, flushing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, or stalking or lying in wait for, livestock or domestic animals.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wolves/?getPage=167>

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Idaho State Office - Toll-free at: 877-661-1908**

To report suspected wolf depredations on livestock or pets, contact

**USDA Wildlife Services: Toll-free at: 866-487-3297 or 208-378-5077**

**VIII. Forms to be completed:**

- **Actual Use Forms will be mailed out following the grazing season. These forms should be filled out and returned promptly.**

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	<b>Office</b>
<b>Dennis Duehren District Ranger</b>	(208) 847-0735
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	(208) 547-4356
<b>Dell Transtrum Range Specialist</b>	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939