

Sage Valley C&H
Annual Operating Instructions
2016

I. Number and class of livestock, permittee, and season

Permittee	Permitted	Authorized for 2014	Season of use	Class
	124 8 private land	124 8 Private Land	6/1-9/9	Cow/Calf

*If you wish to take any non-use it must be requested and approved prior to the grazing season.

II. Grazing Management:

Livestock Distribution:

Because of the extensive mining activities on your allotment, a change to your Allotment Management Plan has occurred. Cattle will start in the south unit until proper use standards have been met and then they will be moved into the north unit. ON dates and OFF dates will depend on forage and soil conditions, and livestock will need to be moved from the units when proper use is achieved. It will be necessary to herd cattle so that utilization on the uplands occurs without exceeding the riparian standards.

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest and Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and two below. 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. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

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

This table is from the Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide 2005 (GIG).

Riparian Grazing protocol recommends the following:

S.F. Sage Creek is Functioning-at-Risk and is a moderate similarity stream; it requires a 5 inch stubble height at the end of the grazing period.

Table 2 Upland Forage Utilization Standards

Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non winter range
Grass and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	10	20	35

This table is from the Revised Forest Plan 2003

Upland utilization standards

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

III. Range Improvement Maintenance Responsibilities:

The permittee is responsible for maintaining improvements to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Officer in charge. Improvements are listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Improvements are to be maintained in the first unit of the allotment by the on-date as specified in Part I of the Term Grazing Permit. Improvements on subsequent units need to be completed before livestock move into the unit.

IV. Range Improvement Projects:

There are no range improvement projects planned for your allotment this year.

V. Trailing and/or Trucking:

Livestock may be trailed or trucked to the Forest; however, permission may have to be obtained from adjacent private landowners and other public land managing agencies.

VI. Special Instructions:

- Knapweed, dyer's woad, yellow toad flax, and thistle are located on your allotment. Because of budget constraints, the Forest will not be spraying thistle but concentrate efforts on Priority 1 weeds such as knapweed. When an opportunity exists, dyer's woad can be mechanically treated. Please help us decrease the amount of dyer's woad on your allotment by pulling or digging the plant.
- Please become familiar with the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- **Actual Use Forms will be mailed out following the grazing season. Please fill out these forms and mail them back in a timely manner.**
- This year 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 accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.
- Livestock counts will be made on an unscheduled basis. We will make arrangements for a time and place.

VII. Wolf Status:

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. 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. Salt should be placed at least ¼ mile away from water sources to help with the distribution of livestock. 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 and up to standards prior to cattle entering the allotment.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-8935
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-1108
Dell Transtrum Range Specialist	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939