



File Code: 2210

Date: 2016

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Lanes Creek Horse Allotment**. These operating instructions are a guide for management on this allotment during the 2016 grazing season. **Actual Use Forms will be mailed out at the end of the grazing season.**

### **Permitted Livestock: 4 horses for the season of 6/6-10/5**

**If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season.** As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

Time allowed in each unit will be based on distribution of livestock and utilization of key areas. If riparian or upland monitoring show that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will be moved to the next unit. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

### **Special Instructions**

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 accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

### **Riparian Guidelines for Grazing**

Three measurements are commonly used to monitor livestock grazing impacts in riparian areas. They include stubble height, woody utilization, and key species utilization. Allowable disturbance levels will be tailored to each stream. Measurements will be performed in key areas along the riparian habitat. The following list describes the parameters, where the measurements occur, and how they will be analyzed:

Stubble height is the height of standing herbaceous vegetation at the time of measurement. Some species may not naturally grow to the allowed stubble height. Natural conditions such as drought may also reduce some plants growth. If these situations are extreme, the stubble height measurement may not be used. The measurement is the average height of the plant and is measured at the green line (adjacent to the water) and on the floodplain.



Woody species utilization is the use of the annual growth of woody species within the riparian area (willows, aspen, dogwood, etc.) by livestock and wildlife. Emphasis will be placed on measuring the individual plants closest to the stream bank. Utilization is measured by counting the number of leaders browsed (new shoots) as compared to the number of the leaders not browsed.

Key species utilization is the percent of key species grazed in the affected riparian area. Key species that will be monitored include beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), smallwing sedge (*Carex microptera*), and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*). Sampling methods will include utilization cages, Photographic Guide for Key Riparian Graminoids (INT-GTR-308), and ocular estimates using Region 4 Key Forage Plant Method (FSH 2209.21).

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ from Grazing Implementation Guide, (GIG))

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.

### Upland Utilization Guidelines

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. **Use on key grass species** such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or **key shrub species** such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*).

<b>Vegetation Component</b>	<b>Allowable Percent Utilization</b>
Grasses and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	35

### **Wolf Recovery 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.

#### **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 livestock 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. *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. A delay in livestock turnout on the Lanes Creek Horse 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 livestock entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

## Fence Maintenance Standards

### Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be re-stretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

### Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by snow or wire tension need to be reset.
- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

### Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

### Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

## Forms to be Completed

Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

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>Devon Green Acting District Ranger</b>	208) 547-4356
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356
<b>Jake Biar Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1113 208) 547-4356
<b>Colby Jacobson Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1106