

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2014 FISHERMAN CREEK ALLOTMENT #2012

I. INTRODUCTION

The authorized use for the Fisherman Creek Allotment is as follows:

535 cattle, cow/calf	06/11 - 10/15	KM CATTLE, INC.	
0 cattle, cow/calf	06/11- 10/15	JAMES F. AND KARLA EATON	
0 cattle, yearlings	06/11 - 10/15	PFISTERER FLP.	691 head Non-Use PC
0 horses, mature	06/11 - 10/15	PFISTERER FLP.	
0 horse, pack & saddle	06/11 - 10/15	PFISTERER FLP.	

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 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

PASTURE	SEASON
1	06/11 - 07/05
2	07/06 - 08/09
3	08/10 - 09/13
4	09/14 - 10/15

There will be 2 days to use Pasture 2 during round-up to gather the livestock if sufficient vegetation is left. Movement of livestock will be based on the seasons identified above unless the vegetative utilization limits of **50%** on riparian key species and **40%** on upland key species are reached sooner. A lower utilization limit will be used if areas are not meeting objectives.

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.

Regular herding and riding practices is the key to achieving proper livestock distribution on the allotment 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.

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

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. Improvements must be maintained to original specification to ensure the longevity of their functionality. Any alterations to these original specifications must be approved by Forest Personnel. 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.

Work on the Raspberry Ridge Allotment Boundary Fence (#2077) was initiated by the permittee(s) in the summer of 2008 with materials supplied by the Forest Service. Per the agreement between permittee(s) and the Forest Service half of the fence was to be constructed in

2008 and the rest of the fence completed in 2009. For understandable reasons, this fence was not completed in 2009 or 2010 and expectations are for it to be completed in 2013. Materials can be found at Hoback Guard Station. Permittees taking non-use for resource protection or personal convenience are still responsible for their portion of the maintenance responsibilities.

IV. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The livestock management on Fisherman Creek Allotment will follow the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved in 2008. 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 Fisherman Creek Allotment are, ground cover of 70%, stream bank stability rating of 7 or higher and riparian ecological status of late seral or higher on 85% of the steams. Based on the current condition of the Fisherman Creek Allotment the following allowable utilization limits for uplands and riparian areas will be applied:

PASTURE	GROUND COVER/TREND	STREAM BANK STABILITY RATING	RIPARIAN ECOLOGICAL STATUS	CURRENT ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION LIMIT
1	89/U	9.1 Fisherman Ck 8.3 N. Fisherman Ck	100% meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
2	98/U	8.3 N. Fisherman Ck 9.1 Rim Draw Ck	100% meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
3	84/N	7.1 Dell Ck 6.8 Jack Ck	95% meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
4	90/N	8.3 N. Fisherman Ck	100% meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian

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

V. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON

Extreme drought had an affect on vegetation production last year. Utilization levels were low across the allotment because of the low cattle numbers.

No trailing of stock will be allowed through the east side of the Rim on the Pinedale Ranger District without prior Forest Service approval. This is the area behind the old Rim Station. Approval for trailing stock through this area will be granted but the area will not be used as a gathering area nor any over-night holding for stock.

You will need to check to ensure riders are maintaining fences to standard. This included stapling wire to posts, post replacement, and top rail replacement.

As we have discussed in the past, pushing cattle in the upper portions of pastures 3 and 4 and allowing them to filter down on their own will lessen pressure on the lower country and will provide for better distribution of stock and better utilization of the forage in these pastures.

VI. OTHER

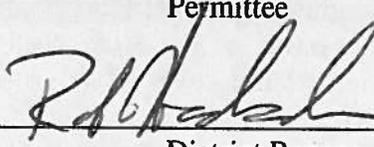
The grazing fees for the 2014 grazing season are \$1.35 per head month.

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: _____

Permittee

Approved by:  _____

District Ranger