

# ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2014 HOBACK ALLOTMENT #2017

## I. INTRODUCTION

The authorized use for the Hoback Allotment is as follows:

150 cattle, yearling	06/11 - 10/15	CAMPBELL CATTLE CO.
150 cattle, cow/calf	06/11 - 10/15	CAMPBELL CATTLE CO.
145 cattle, cow/calf	06/11 - 10/15	LAZY S RANCH LLC
50 cattle, yearling	06/11 - 10/15	LAZY S RANCH LLC
5 cattle, Bulls	06/11 - 10/15	LAZY S RANCH LLC
315 cattle, yearlings	06/11 - 10/15	STEVE & DALLAS ROBERTSON
200 cattle, yearlings	06/11 - 10/15	PAPE RANCHES, INC.
??? cattle, yearling	06/11 - 10/15	PFISTERER FLP.
150 cattle, yearling	06/11 - 10/15	BILL SAUNDERS
320 cattle, cow/calf	06/11 - 10/15	FOURTH QUARTER PROPERTIES 86,LLC 507 hd NU-PC
554 cattle, yearling	06/11 - 10/15	ROBERT A. SAUNDERS

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. 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. Kevin Campbell will be the Forest Service's primary contact with the Hoback Association. If Kevin cannot be reached then Gerry Endecott will be contacted.

## **II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

The AMP for the Hoback Allotment emphasizes that the below pasture move dates are approximate and that movement of livestock will be based on allowable use standards. The below dates are to be used for planning purposes. Actual move dates will be coordinated between the permittees and the District Rangeland Management Specialist as vegetation growing conditions dictate and will require high levels of communication. Also notable is that many of the pastures are either unfenced or managed using drift fences which do not prohibit livestock movement. Once an area is grazed to allowable use, livestock will not be allowed to congregate in those areas and use in those areas should be limited and managed through active herding.

### **MUDDY-COYOTE HERD (1200 Head Limit)**

*Noble Basin Pasture 2	06/11-07/15
Coyote Gulch Pasture 1	07/15-08/05
Kilgore/Jamb Pasture 3	08/06-10/15
Muddy Pasture 4	09/11-10/15
Horse Pasture 5	Roundup & Horses

\*Approximately 200 head of livestock will be placed in Upper Muddy concurrently with Noble Basin. If the range is not ready on June 11<sup>th</sup> cattle will be held off of National Forest until range readiness is achieved. The above dates are tentative and will be adjusted accordingly.

### **MONUMENT RIDGE RESEED HERD**

Reseed Pasture-A (A portion to be rested. * See below for details and discription of project.)	06/11-07/10
Nutting/Horse Pasture-B	07/11-07/31
Cliff Creek	08/01-08/24
Shoal Creek	08/01-08/24
North of Miller Draw Pature-C	08/25-10/15
Clarks Butte Pasture	Roundup (Pape)

**\*\*Reseed Pasture-A Roundup-** At the end of the grazing season and if sufficient forage remains this pasture has historically and will continue to be used to help with roundup of livestock from the Hoback C&H. Ensure sufficient forage remains for this purpose.

**BATTLE MOUNTAIN HERD (75 Head Limit)**

West side of Highway Pasture	06/11-06/30
Battle Mountain pasture	07/01-07/31
Shoal Creek Basin Pasture	08/01-10/15

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.

Movement of livestock will be based on the proper vegetative utilization criteria of **50%** utilization on key forage species for riparian range sites meeting objectives and **40%** utilization on uplands meeting objectives. A lower utilization limit will be used if areas are not meeting objectives.

Regular herding and riding practices are 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from water, and not within 300 feet or insight of roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

The following locations have been problem areas in the past and a close eye needs to be kept on them to continue to insure they don't exceed proper vegetative use limits: Corner of the Hoback Guard Station Fence in Reseed pasture, Cliff Creek fence adjacent to HW 189/191, Miller Draw Pasture near Elkhorn, Clarks Draw above and below Eight mile drift fence primarily in riparian, Lower portion of Kilgore Creek and fence corner along Upper Hoback road. The permittees and riders need to continue to monitor these areas to insure the vegetative utilization limits are being met.

Livestock that have died on the forest must be moved 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.

### IV. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The livestock management on Hoback 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 Hoback 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 streams. Based on the current allotment conditions 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	94/N	Est. meeting	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
2	80/D	Est. meeting	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
3	97/AS	6.4 Upper Hoback R 7.3 Kilgore Ck	58% meeting* 62% meeting*	40% Uplands 40% Riparian
4	97/N	9.3 Muddy Cr. 9.3 S. Fork Muddy	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
5	100/S 91/S	9.6 Muddy Cr.	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
6	97/U	8.6 Clarks Draw Cr	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
7	90/S	8.9 Clarks Draw Cr	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
8	88/U	7.2 Cliff Ck 8.2 Sandy Marshall Ck	83% meeting	40% Uplands 40% Riparian
9	91/U	9.3 Shoal Ck	100% meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
10	90/S	Est. meeting	Est. meeting	40% Uplands

				50% Riparian
11	85/U	Est. meeting	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian

Trend Equals: U-upward, S-stable, D-down, A-Apparent Trend Rating from Form R4-2200-25 (1/93) FSH 2209.21 (93), N-one reading no trend yet.

\* Stream bank rating and ecological status in pasture 3 maybe due to natural conditions.

**V. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON**

The association did well moving the cattle and keeping them in the proper pastures. Your efforts to properly manage the Hoback Allotment are appreciated.

**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 on to 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

