

**UPPER GROS VENTRE
CATTLE & HORSE ALLOTMENT**

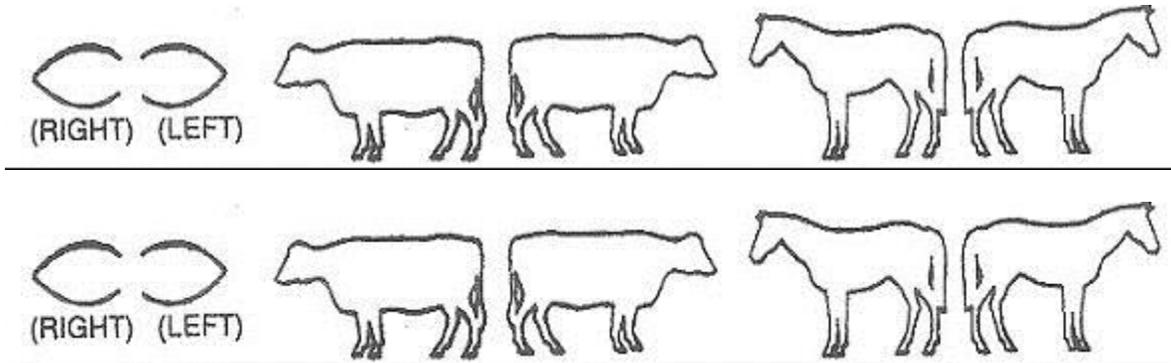
2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)

I. INTRODUCTION

PERMITTEE		SHANE CHRISTIAN	JACK & AMY ROBINSON
ALLOTMENT		UPPER GROS VENTRE	UPPER GROS VENTRE
KIND		Cattle	Cattle
PERMITTED	CLASS	Cow/calf	Cow/calf
	NUMBERS	*275	*275
	SEASON OF USE	June 18 – Oct 8	June 18 – Oct 8
AUTHORIZED	CLASS	Cattle	Cattle
	NUMBERS	275	200
	SEASON OF USE	June 18 – Oct 8	June 18 – Oct 8
NON – USE		275	200
PACK & SADDLE STOCK			

*Variable between Cow/calf and Yearlings, NOT TO EXCEED 275 HEAD.

- Permitted Livestock Brands



II. ROTATION SCHEDULE*

ALLOTMENT	PASTURE	KIND/CLASS	NUMBERS	SEASON OF USE
UPPER GROS VENTRE	Lake Creek	Cow/Calf	200	6/18 – 7/25
	Soda Creek	Cow/Calf	200	7/26 – 8/31
	Bear Cabin	Cow/Calf	200	9/1 – 10/8
	Jagg Creek			Rest
	Goosewing Creek			Rest
	Tepee Creek			As needed
	Black Peak			Rest

* Livestock numbers and season of use may be modified based on range readiness and forage conditions during the grazing year.

III. COMPLIANCE

- a. This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a).
- b. Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.
- c. Any hay, straw, or feed used in association with this permit must be certified and tagged as noxious weed free, or noxious weed seed free as directed by USDA-FS R4 Weed Free Hay Order #04-00-097 dated 02/01/2003 available at the Jackson Ranger District Office.

IV. 2014 GRAZING RESULTS

DATE	METHOD	PASTURE	SITE	AVERAGE USE (%)	STUBBLE HEIGHT (in.)

V. BILLING

- a. Due Date – The Bill for Collection is preferably due 5 days prior to turn-on date. Not paying by the turn-on date may result in administrative and interest charges. Placing livestock on the allotment prior to payment is non-compliance with Part 2, Item 3 of the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may include suspension or cancellation of the grazing permit.

VI. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- a. Authorized use dates (turn-on & turn-off) are tentative and depend on range readiness, forage utilization, and resource conditions during the entire grazing season. Livestock remaining on the allotment past the authorized use date will be billed at the unauthorized use rate.
- b. Permittees are responsible for monitoring forage utilization within the allotment. When allowable forage use rates are met in identified key use areas, livestock will be herded to another area or removed from the allotment.
- c. Owners of permitted livestock must comply with State of Wyoming livestock laws and regulations.

VII. BRIDGER-TETON LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

- a. Vegetation Range Prescription: Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
- b. Forage Improvement Standard: Range in less-than-satisfactory condition will be improved. Disturbed areas will be stabilized or regenerated prior to resuming grazing use.
- c. Forage Utilization Standards: The following utilization standards will be the maximum utilization levels allowed for all herbivores on key vegetative species.

Upland Range Sites			
Season Long Grazing		Rotation Grazing	
Unsatisfactory Condition	Satisfactory Condition	Unsatisfactory Condition	Satisfactory Condition
40%	50%	40%	50%

Riparian Range Sites

Season Long Grazing		Rotation Grazing	
Unsatisfactory Condition	Satisfactory Condition	Unsatisfactory Condition	Satisfactory Condition
40%	50%	40%	50%

- d. During Allotment Management Plan revision, and Interdisciplinary (ID) Team and livestock permittees will prescribe site-specific use levels needed to meet plan objectives. Maximum forage use guidelines apply cumulatively to all types of grazing use including wildlife, livestock, and recreational stock. During monitoring and evaluation a utilization guideline may be changed if the prescribed level is not accomplishing planned objectives. An ID team will establish site-specific utilization levels on key wildlife ranges. ID teams will prescribe other proper-use standards to achieve site-specific objectives for the range resource being managed. The standards will be a combination of forage utilization, ground cover, plant vigor, soil disturbance, or stream bank stability.

VIII. IMPROVEMENTS

- a. Range improvements will be maintained so as to function for its intended purpose and to extend the functional life of the improvement. Improvements will be maintained while taking non-use. All improvements will be maintained prior to placing livestock in the allotment. Improvements will be maintained the entire grazing season. Replacement of improvements that are no longer maintainable to function, will usually involve a 50:50 cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the permittee. When using an electric fence, the permittee will provide labor and maintenance as needed to keep it functioning with livestock and big game.

Improvement Name	Improvement # (INFRA #)	Improvement Type	Location	Length/Units
Tepee Creek	004318	Fence, Drift		1.5 miles
Soda Creek		Fence, Drift		2.1 miles
West Fork Goosewing Creek		Fence, Drift		0.08 miles
Cow Creek	004238	Fence, Allotment Boundary		0.2 miles
Ouzel Falls	004295	Fence, Allotment		0.13 miles

		Boundary		
Upper Gros Ventre River	004327	Fence, Drift		0.08 miles
Jagg Creek – Bear Creek Division		Fence, Drift		0.2 miles
North Fork Bear Cabin Creek		Fence, Drift		0.2 miles (2 Sections)
Upper Jagg Creek	004328A	Fence, Drift		0.3 miles
Lower Jagg Creek	004284	Fence, Drift		0.5 miles
Red Rock	004302	Fence, Allotment Boundary		0.25 miles
Goosewing Creek Cabin		Cowboy Cabin		1
Goosewing Creek Corral		Corral		1
Bear Cabin Creek Cabin		Cowboy Cabin		1
Bear Cabin Creek Tack Shed		Tack Shed		1
Bear Cabin Creek Corral		Corral		1
Bear Cabin Creek Horse Pasture	004223	Fence, Pasture		1 mile
Jagg Creek Cabin		Cowboy Cabin		1
Jagg Creek Corral		Corral		1
Goosewing – Soda Creek	004257	Fence, Pasture Division		
West Goosewing	004257A	Fence, Drift		

b. 2014 Projects: Listed below are agreed to maintenance and improvement projects that will be completed in the current grazing season.

Improvement Name	Improvement # (INFRA #)	Improvement Type	Location	Length /Units	FS Contribution	Permitee Contribution

IX. PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Salt can be used to improve livestock distribution. No more than 50 pounds of salt will be placed at any one location at any time. Salt will be placed on rock or hardened areas to prevent salt leaching into the ground and permanent site damage. Salt will not be placed outside the allotment boundary. All salting will be done away from key forage use areas and traditional livestock congregating areas. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile of streams, wetlands, riparian areas, roads, FS trails, developed recreation areas, dispersed camp and recreation sites except as agreed to by the Forest Service. Prior to an area reaching the forage use guideline, all salt will be removed.
- b. The permittee will ensure that all personnel performing on the ground livestock management are thoroughly familiar with the terms and conditions of the grazing permit, Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs), and Allotment Management Plan (AMP).
- c. All camp sites used in conjunction with livestock operations must be maintained to present a clean, neat and orderly appearance. Flammable trash will be burned in a safe and reasonable way. All unburned material will be removed to a disposal site. **Burying of trash is not allowed.** Temporary holding pens, corrals, mangers, hitching racks will be removed when the camp is moved or relocated. Facilities authorized on a permanent basis must be kept clean at all times and cleaned up after use. All camps must have a serviceable axe and shovel for fire control.
- d. There will be enough riders to achieve proper distribution of livestock within the allotment for uniform proper forage utilization. Livestock will not be turned onto the allotment or allowed to congregate within any portion of the allotment for an extended period of time that creates areas of non-uniform proper forage utilization.
- e. Horses and mules used in conjunction with this permit will not be picketed or tied to trees in a manner that creates trampled vegetation and compacted soils.

X. REQUIRED REPORTING

- a. An Actual Use form is attached with this AOI and will be returned to the Jackson Ranger District office within 30 days of the end of the grazing season.
- b. The permittee should keep records of turn-on dates, livestock numbers, any losses, locations, dates and movement of livestock within the allotment.

XI. INSPECTIONS & MONITORING

- a. **Range Readiness** – Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until soils are dry enough to prevent damage to vegetation or increase soil erosion, and when key plants are phenologically ready to be grazed. Indicators are listed below.

Plant Type	Visual	Phenology
GRASS		
Wheatgrass spp.	8 inch plant height	Seed stalk showing
Idaho Fescue	5 inch leaf length	Seed head present
Prairie Junegrass	5 inch leaf length	Seed head present
Sandberg bluegrass	Plant mature	Seed head in dough stage
Pinegrass	4 – 6 inch leaf length	
Tufted hairgrass	6 + inch height	Seed head present
Kentucky bluegrass		Seed head present
GRASSLIKE		
Nebraska sedge		Seed in late dough stage
FORBS		
Western Yarrow	Flower stalk showing	
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	$\frac{3}{4}$ leaf development	Blossom beginning
Geranium	4 inch leaf length	Flower in bloom
SHRUBS		
Serviceberry		Blossom present
Antelope Bitterbrush		Flower bud swollen
Snowberry		7-8 bud leaves unfolded

b. Desired Future Condition in Identified Key Use Areas by Cover Type:

COVER TYPE	PERCENT GROUND COVER FOR FUNCTIONALITY*
Alpine	90
Aspen	80
Mt Big Sagebrush	70
Tall Forb	80
Mt Brush	70

*FSH 2209.21 Chapter 20 Section 22.1.2

- c. Proper Use Guidelines:** Forage use within identified key areas should range between 4 and 6 inch stubble height for riparian grass species at the end of the grazing season. Stubble height will be determined as an average of the stubble height within identified key use areas in each pasture at the end of the grazing season. Key use areas may change and will be agreed to by the Forest Service and the permittee.
- d. Permittee Monitoring:** It is the permittees responsibility to ensure that Forest Plan, Allotment Management Plan (AMP), and Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs) utilization standards are met.
- e.** The Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide can be used to determine use within the allotment. The Forest Service encourages the use of photo points, landscape

appearance, and cover by life form transects and will assist in monitoring training and evaluation.

XII. COORDINATION & COOPERATION

- a.** The Bridger-Teton Forest-wide Noxious Integrated Weed Management Plan emphasizes inventory and implementing treatment programs within the District. Noxious weeds of concern in the allotment are: Spotted/Diffuse Knapweed, Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Hound's Tongue, Dalmatian Toadflax, and Leafy Spurge. Permittees are encouraged to report know noxious weed locations to the Forest Service.
- b.** The permittee will adhere to Teton County Weed and Pest Control Districts quarantine of weed infested farm products.
- c.** All predator control will be in accordance with State and Federal Laws. Black and Grizzly bear, wolf, and lion predation should be reported to the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, and coyote predation reported to the USDA-APHIS office. Death of any livestock will be reported to the Forest Service as quickly as possible.
- d.** All permitted livestock carcasses must be removed, only when human safety is not jeopardized. Removal from 1) at least 1/2 mile from sleeping areas, forest system roads or recreation sites, 2) acceptably stored at least 100 yards from sleeping areas, Forest System roads or recreation sites and 3) at least 100 yards from water.

XIII. OTHER

- a.** All human, pet, and livestock food (except baled or cubed hay without additives) beverages, garbage, cooking grease, and other odorous substances must be stored, handled, and disposed of to make it unavailable to bears. Unavailable means stored in a bear-resistant container (approved by Forest Official), in a closed vehicle constructed of solid non-pliable material, or suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points and at all points 4 feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole.
- b.** Burying food, garbage, refuse, or grease is prohibited.
- c.** Burn garbage, and grease so that it is burned completely. All garbage will be stored unavailable to bears and non-burnable garbage will be packed out and not allowed to accumulate.
- d.** Bear resistant containers will be required for food/refuse storage in camps if the camps do not have "acceptable storage" facilities for food and refuse. Bear resistant material capable of withstanding 200 foot-pounds of energy applied by direct impact.

- e. If additional terms and conditions are required in the Biological Opinion prepared by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, it will become part of your AOI upon approval of the Biological Opinion.

XIV. MAPS, FORMS, & ATTACHMENTS

- a. Attachments:
 - i. Allotment Map
 - ii. Actual Use Form
 - iii. Plant Species Photos

XV. SIGNATURE BLOCK

PERMITTEE
DATE: _____

DISTRICT RANGER
DATE: _____