

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2015 FORTRESS HILL ALLOTMENT #2035

I. INTRODUCTION

The permitted use for the Fortress Hill Allotment is as follows:

6 horses, mature	06/11 - 10/15	CAMPBELL CATTLE CO.
6 horses, mature	06/16 - 10/15	VICTOR & LUCY MACK

The authorized numbers and season of use for the 2015 grazing season is as follows:

6 horses, mature	06/11 - 10/15	CAMPBELL CATTLE CO.
6 horses, mature	06/16 - 10/15	VICTOR & LUCY MACK

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. 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

Some flexibility in livestock turn-on 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 seasons identified above unless the vegetative proper utilization criteria of **50%** on riparian key species or **40%** use on upland key species is reached sooner. A lower utilization limit will be used if areas are not meeting objectives.

Regular herding and riding practices is the 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 away from water, roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

If you encounter any bear or wolf depredation problems on the allotment, please contact forest personnel. Take no lethal control action.

Livestock that have died on the forest must be removed 300 feet from roads 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 Fortress Hill allotment will follow the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved in 1987. 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 Fortress Hill allotment are, ground cover of 70%, stream bank stability rating of 7 and riparian ecological status of late seral or higher on 85% of the steams. Based on the current condition of the Fortress Hill 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	96/AS	n/a	n/a	40% Uplands
2	97/AS	Est. meeting	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian
3	96.8/S	8.6	Est. meeting	40% Uplands 50% Riparian

Trend Equals: U-upward, S-stable, D-down, AS-apparent trend rating form R4-2200-25 (1/93)
FSH 2209.21 (93), N-one reading no trend yet.

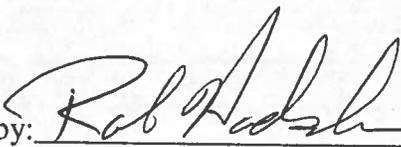
VI. OTHER

The grazing fees for the 2015 grazing season are \$1.69 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

Permittee

Approved by:  _____
District Ranger

The following information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

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