



File Code: 2210

Date: March 8, 2011

Fred Nate

537 Washington St.
Montpelier, ID 83254

Dear Permittee;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Sage Valley Cattle Allotment**. These Instructions are guidelines for managing your allotment during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Montpelier Ranger District by November 30, 2011.**

I. Number and class of livestock, permittee, and season

Permittee	Permitted	Season of use	Class
Fred Nate	124 8 private land	6/1-9/30	Cow/Calf

*If you wish to take any non-use it must be requested and approved prior to the grazing season.

II. Grazing Management:

Livestock Distribution:

Because of the extensive mining activities on your allotment, a change to your Allotment Management Plan has occurred. Cattle will start in the south unit until proper use standards have been met and then they will be moved into the north unit. ON dates and OFF dates will depend on forage and soil conditions, and livestock will need to be moved from the units when proper use is achieved. It will be necessary to herd cattle so that utilization on the uplands occurs without exceeding the riparian standards.

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and two below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.



Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

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

Riparian Grazing protocol recommends the following:

S.F. Sage Creek and Crow Creek, Functioning at risk and moderate similarity streams, require a 5 inch stubble height at the end of the grazing period.

Table 2 Upland Forage Utilization Standards

Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non winter range
Grass and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	10	20	35

Upland utilization standards: The South pasture has wildlife winter range prescription identified in the Revised Forest Plan. We will be measuring the upland use at the end of season within the sagebrush type on the east half of Section 30, T. 9S. R. 46E. (REA S474/85). Monitoring will include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these. Use on key grass species such Idaho Fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass and mountain brome will be measured.

As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage production, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of the livestock from the allotment will occur. If requested by Forest Officer, and livestock are removed from the Forest early, your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year's fee. You must request a credit.

III. Range Improvement Maintenance Responsibilities:

The permittee is responsible for maintaining improvements to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Officer in charge. Improvements are listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Improvements are to be maintained in the first unit of the allotment by the on-date as specified in Part I of the Term Grazing Permit. Improvements on subsequent units need to be completed before livestock move into the unit.

IV. Range Improvement Projects:

We will be continuing to work with Simplot to mitigate for water developments displaced by mining activities. There are no range improvement projects planned for your allotment this year.

V. Trailing and/or Trucking:

Livestock may be trailed or trucked to the Forest; however, permission may have to be obtained from adjacent private landowners and other public land managing agencies.

VI. Special Instructions

- Work will continue on the Crow Creek restoration project through this summer. You will be contacted if cattle enter the enclosure.
- Knapweed, dyer's woad, yellow toad flax, and thistle are located on your allotment. Because of budget constraints, the Forest will not be spraying thistle but concentrate efforts on Priority 1 weeds such as knapweed. When an opportunity exists, dyer's woad can be mechanically treated. Please help us decrease the amount of dyer's woad on your allotment by pulling or digging the plant.
- Please become familiar with the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- **Actual Use Forms must be returned by November 30th following the grazing season. Failure to do so may result in Permit Action.**
- 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 accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.
- Livestock counts will be made on an unscheduled basis. We will make arrangements for a time and place.
- Care should be taken in proper placement of salting locations. **Salt is not to be placed within 300 feet of water, roads or trails.** Ridge tops and other hardened areas should be used. Salt should not be placed in the same location each year. Salting in under-used areas will help distribute cattle to these areas.

VII. Multiple-Use Coordination Requirements:

Livestock should be carefully managed to avoid and reduce conflicts with other resources in the area.

VIII. Wolf Management:

As read on the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

Current Legal Status

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

IX. Weed free hay:

Certified weed free hay is required on the Forest. Those needing a source of this feed may contact the Forest Service Office or their county extension agent for a list of suppliers.

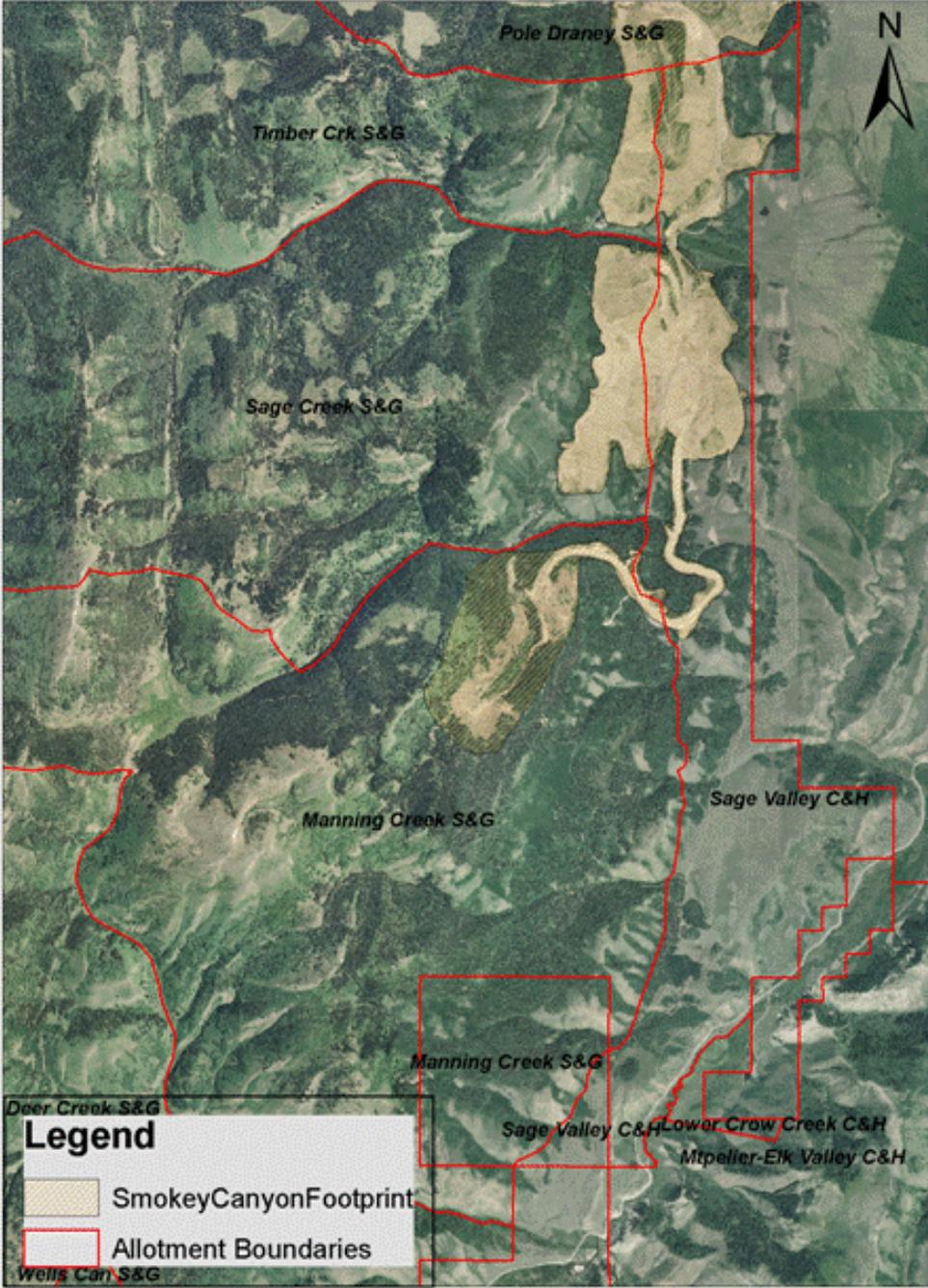
If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office	Cell
Dennis Duerhen District Ranger	(208) 847-8935	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-1108	(208) 313-7328
Jane Rushane Range Specialist	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939	(208) 313- 5683
Garth Nelson Range Specialist	(208)547-1113	(208) 313-7910

Sincerely,

Dennis Duerhen
District Ranger

Sage Valley C&H



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

© Nelson 2/10/2011