

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2010

BIG GOOSE C&H ALLOTMENT

LITTLE GOOSE C&H ALLOTMENT

RAPID CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT

TONGUE DISTRICT

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

Clarke M. McClung
District Ranger

Date

Permittee

Date

**BIG GOOSE, LITTLE GOOSE AND RAPID CREEK C&H ALLOTMENTS
2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

A. Before Entering the Allotment

1. Review all clauses of your term grazing permit and the information contained within these Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). Be sure to contact David, Zach or Tyler if any portion of your grazing permit or these operating instructions is not clearly understood.
2. The current year's grazing fees must be paid before placing livestock on the National Forest.
3. Review Section G. - Maintenance of Improvements, and complete the necessary maintenance of assigned range improvements as described in that section.

B. Entering and Leaving the Allotment

The on-date for the allotments has been tentatively set for July 6th. Like the past two seasons, the month of June has been dominated by cold, wet weather patterns so it will be very important for you to watch the plant growth in your allotment to determine when there will be adequate forage available for livestock to enter. You remain the responsible party to meet the allowable use/herbage left guidelines described in Section D below. If forage development is not adequate when you place livestock on the allotment you may find that the time spent in the first and possibly the second pastures may be considerably shorter than past years to be able to meet guidelines.

C. Authorized Numbers and Pasture Rotation

Permittee	Authorized Livestock Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
Box Cross Ranch	Non-Use	
Sarah Forbes	176 Mature/Yearlings	8/01-9/14
	2 Horses	8/01-9/14
Garber Agri-Business	169 Mature	7/12-9/10
J C Ranch, Inc.	325 Mature	7/06-9/14
	160 Yearlings	7/06-9/14
	2 Horses	7/06-9/14

Pasture Sequence	Permittee	Pasture Name
1	Garber & JC Ranch	Face (<i>Rapid Creek C&H</i>)
2	Garber & JC Ranch	Rapid Creek (<i>Rapid Creek C&H</i>)
3	Garber & JC Ranch	Big Goose C&H
4	Garber & JC Ranch	Kenny Wood Park (<i>Little Goose C&H</i>)
5	Garber, JC Ranch & Forbes*	Little Goose Park (<i>Little Goose C&H</i>)
6	Garber, JC Ranch & Forbes	Little Goose CG (<i>Little Goose C&H</i>)
7	Garber, JC Ranch & Forbes	Poverty Flat (<i>Rapid Creek C&H</i>)

* Forbes tentative on date is August 1st. Their cattle will join Garber's and JC Ranch cattle when placed on the Forest and rotate through the remaining pastures in one large herd.

This planned pasture rotation outlines the pasture sequence we have discussed for the 2010 grazing season. You are encouraged to use adaptive management practices (e.g. use of temporary electric fence, use of riders and low stress handling techniques, combination of allotments, etc.) to help meet the allowable use requirements described in Sections D and E below. We encourage you to consider management adjustments for your allotment that would make meeting these guidelines easier for your operation. To assure your management does not negatively affect other resources, all proposed changes to these instructions must be discussed with and approved by David, Zach or Tyler prior to implementation on the ground.

D. Allowable Use/Herbage Left Guidelines

The allowable use/herbage left guidelines are designed to ensure that short-term effects of livestock grazing activities are within established parameters intended to provide for the long-health and sustainability of rangeland resources. The two general approaches used to measure actual use to determine if the guidelines were met are: residual herbage left and utilization.

Residual herbage left methods: This is expressed as the amount of herbage left after livestock grazing and includes methods such as stubble height and visual obstruction methods (Robel pole).

Utilization methods: This is expressed as the amount of forage removed by grazing or trampling and includes methods such as paired plots and ocular estimates.

The following allowable use/herbage left guidelines will apply to all areas of your allotment. Total use by livestock and wildlife combined must not exceed any of these guidelines at the time livestock leave a pasture.

1. Upland Range Sites

Sites on sedimentary soils below 9,200 feet elevation (Excludes sites dominated by timothy and smooth brome)	A. Visual Obstruction Reading (VOR) of 5 or more bands in each pasture.
All Other Sites (such as sites dominated by timothy and smooth brome, are located on granitic soils, or above 9200 feet elevation)	A. Maximum of 40% by weight in all pastures used prior to August 1 st . B. Maximum of 50% by weight in pastures used after August 1 st .

2. Riparian Range Sites

Herbaceous vegetation on all sites except areas suitable for water vole habitat.	A. A residual 5" stubble height on wide leaved carex species if livestock leave pasture prior to August 1st.* B. A residual 7" stubble height on wide leaved carex species if livestock leave pasture after August 1st.*
Willows	Maximum of 35% use of current years leaders by livestock.

3. Aspen Range Sites

Herbaceous vegetation within all aspen stands	5" stubble height for all grasses and sedges when livestock leave a pasture*
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* All stubble height guidelines stated for riparian and aspen range sites are the minimum required when transect measurements record the longest leaf length of all leaves readily available for livestock grazing for each plant measured. Leaves or portions of leaves trampled in the mud, lying on the ground or in water, protected by willows or otherwise unavailable to livestock are not to be included in the measurements. Transect measurements may also record the average length of all leaves available for grazing from each selected plant. If the average leaf method is used, all minimum guidelines shown in tables above will be adjusted downward 1”.

Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the National Forest if in the last pasture when further use will exceed one or more of the allowable use/herbage left guidelines shown above. It is your responsibility to manage your livestock within each pasture to assure use does not exceed any of the above guidelines. This will require constant monitoring of the vegetation by you and/or your allotment rider and not just simply waiting for estimated calendar dates to determine the proper use period for each pasture. It is imperative you take whatever steps are necessary (use of riders, move salt weekly, reduction in total numbers, shorten length of grazing periods in pastures, etc.) to manage your livestock to assure all guidelines are met throughout each pasture.

It is also important to note the allowable use/herbage left guidelines shown above apply to all suitable range (riparian and uplands) within the allotment. To assist you with your responsibilities of monitoring the actual use, all monitoring measurements will be done using a key area concept. The key areas are generally those areas livestock have the tendency to graze first when placed in a pasture. Livestock also tend to graze these areas repeatedly. As a result, these areas will typically reach the allowable use/herbage left guidelines before any other area of the pasture. If actual use in these key areas does not exceed the allowable use/herbage left guidelines, then use in the rest of the pasture will most likely not exceed guidelines either (unless livestock are constantly pushed off the key areas to other portions of the pasture). The important thing to remember is actual use should not exceed any of the guidelines throughout the pasture and if our management causes a change in use patterns we may need to discuss a change in key area boundaries.

E. Monitoring

I strongly encourage you to complete spot checks of all key areas, both upland and riparian portions, on a regular basis while livestock are in the allotment to help you plan for when moves should occur instead of waiting until after you leave and finding use is beyond allowable use guidelines. I have enclosed copies of the stubble height data forms to assist you with your monitoring of sedges in riparian areas. Any forms submitted to our office will be placed in the allotment monitoring folder.

If you decide to submit stubble height data, I recommend you read enough stubble height transects to obtain a representative sample of the residual leaf length of the dominant sedges. The number of transects you need to read will depend on the size of the area and the variances of use levels within the area. One transect may be sufficient in narrow riparian areas where use does not vary across the entire area. Two or more may be necessary in larger riparian areas of if you detect utilization varies

significantly within 3 feet of the water's edge compared to the remainder of the area. Photos of the transect, and its general location, are helpful to substantiate your documentation. The Forest Service will also be conducting spot checks and transect measurements of key areas throughout the grazing season to verify guidelines are being met.

F. Key Areas:

Properly selected key areas give an indication of the overall acceptability of current grazing management to meet all resource objectives. These areas may be moved or redefined in future years if monitoring results indicate a change is necessary. The following is a list of the key areas:

Big Goose C&H Allotment

1. An area within 300 yards either side of that portion of Babione Creek lying west of the Big Goose Park/Babione Pasture division fence.
2. The open park commonly known as Big Goose Park (Sections 3 & 4).
3. An area within 300 yards either side of that portion of the East Fork of Big Goose Creek lying east of Big Goose Park.
4. That area along Red Grade Road commonly known as Long Park (Section 32).

Little Goose C&H Allotment

Campground Pasture

1. Riparian areas along West Fork of Little Goose Creek.

Little Goose Pasture

1. An area extending in a 300 yard radius around enclosure in Little Goose Park (T53N, R85W, Sec. 8 SE1/4).
2. The area of suitable range in NW1/4 of Sec.17, T53N, R85W.
3. An area extending 300 yards either side of intermittent drainage in SE1/4 Section 5 and NE1/4 Section 8.

Kenny Wood Pasture

1. All riparian areas within NW1/4 Section 10, T53N, R85W.

High Country Pasture

1. The area adjacent to Vale Creek above (south) Forest Service Road #309.
2. All riparian areas along upper portions of the West Fork of Little Goose Creek.

Rapid Creek C&H Allotment

Poverty Flats Pasture

1. Area between stock tank #287 and pasture drift fence #228.
2. Area within that portion of Poverty Flats extending 1/4 mile north of Red Grade Road, Section 28, T54N, R85W.

Rapid Creek Pasture

1. Area within 300 yards either side of Rapid Creek where it flows alongside Red Grade (Big Goose) Road.
2. Riparian zones along Rapid Creek from the Big Goose Road to where FS Road #238 crosses Rapid Creek and extending up tributary 0.5 miles northwest of cabin (NE1/4 Sec. 23).

Bottom of Rapid Creek/Face Pasture

1. Open slopes and aspen stands northwest of Rapid Creek, Sec. 11.
2. Open meadows along the tributary west of Rapid Creek in Sec. 14.

G. Maintenance of Improvements

Part 2, Clause 8(i) of your term grazing permit states "...the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or Government owned, that are assigned for maintenance to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Service". A complete list of the improvements and designated maintenance responsibility is included in Part 3 of your term grazing permit. The initial maintenance of each improvement must be completed prior to the time livestock enter the pasture in which the improvement is located each year or in the case of allotment boundary fences prior to livestock entering the pasture on either side of the fence. For many improvements, maintenance will be on going and will require additional attention after livestock enter the pasture. The minimum maintenance required will be as follows:

Springs: All tanks are to be level, completely surrounded by dry ground and easily accessible by both cows and calves. The inlet and overflow pipes are to be free of crimps or breaks, completely buried or otherwise protected from livestock and capable of delivering water to and away from tanks without any water spilling in the immediate vicinity (20-30 ft.) of the tank. Livestock barriers over tanks must be sturdy and all poles and planks must be in good condition and nailed/bolted in place.

Wire Fences: Fences are to be in an upright, vertical position with all broken wires repaired, wires tight and properly spaced and all corner posts, braces, line posts, steel posts, stays, loops, staples, etc. replaced as needed. Wire spacing may be adapted to the needs of each fence but the bottom wire should be 16-18" off the ground and the top wire must be no higher than 42" above the ground. Gates are to be tight enough to prevent sagging but must be able to be easily opened and closed by the general public.

Buck and Pole Fences: Fences must be in an upright, serviceable position. Bucks that are spreading and lowering the overall height of the fence must be stabilized with a bottom brace or replaced. All poles must be nailed to bucks and all broken or rotting poles and bucks are to be replaced.

H. Range Improvement Projects

In our recent meeting, the following range improvements were discussed:

1. Approximately one mile of the boundary fence separating the Poverty Flats pasture of Rapid Creek (NFS land) from BLM land to the east may need to be replaced. Condition of the fence and a list of materials will be determined during the 2010 grazing season. If it is determined the fence needs reconstruction, and if funds are available, materials will be furnished by the Forest Service and the permittee will provide the labor to reconstruct the improvement in 2010 or 2011. An off-road permit will be issued for getting new materials to the fence. Please contact David or Zach a few days before you wish to begin working on the fence to get the permit.
2. The new allotment boundary fence between the Big Goose and Rapid Creek allotments (through the recent Swamp timber sale) was constructed last year. A gate was built across FSR #309 for the 2009 season since a cattle guard was unavailable. A cattle guard was acquired at

the end of last season and will be installed by the Forest Service road crew this summer. The permittees will be notified when the installation will occur.

3. Increased ATV use in the Goose Creek watershed has lead to issues with gates being left open, allowing livestock to move between pastures/allotments. The gate across FST #628 in fence #237, between the Cow Camp and Kenny Wood pastures, is one that is being left open. The Forest Service and permittees agreed to look at having the Forest Service road crew replace this gate with an ATV cattle guard.

I. Salting Practices:

The proper use of salt can be used as a good management tool to help you achieve proper utilization. The following are guidelines that should be used when placing salt on your allotment. If you feel your management situation requires changes in these guidelines please contact David or Zach to discuss.

1. Scatter salt in its proper location prior to livestock entering the pasture.
2. Salt should be placed between water developments and at least 1/4 mile from water if at all possible. Salting near water just encourages cattle to stay nearby and should seldom be practiced.
3. Salt away from small parks, trails, roads and areas of concentrated public use. Salt should be placed in areas of rock outcrops, mature timber (other than aspen), or areas of dense sagebrush where the general public will not easily see it.
4. Change your salt location at least every year and preferably every time salt is placed within a pasture. Moving salt blocks 50-100 feet can prevent an area from becoming abused from salt placement year after year. Placing salt in areas of dense sage and changing location every 2-3 weeks or yearly (depending on length of grazing period) is an effective way to use cows to control sagebrush over small areas or create small pockets of grass within large areas dominated by sage.
5. Remove salt from an area when actual use in the nearby vicinity is approaching the allowable use standard. Livestock must be moved to the next pasture when proper use is reached.

ACTUAL USE RECORD - 2010

TONGUE R.D.

BIG GOOSE, LITTLE GOOSE &
RAPID CREEK ALLOTMENTS

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

ACTUAL USE

Pasture	Number of Cattle	Date on Pasture	Date off Pasture

Losses: Numbers by age class and possible cause (Poison, natural or predator).

Allotment Operating Cost:

Labor costs:

Rider _____

Improvement Maintenance _____

 Water _____

 Fence _____

 Other _____

Improvement Construction _____

 Water _____

 Fence _____

 Other _____

Salt _____

Transportation Cost _____

Horse Maintenance _____

Permittee signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR NOTES YOU WISH TO PLACE IN THE PERMANENT ALLOTMENT FILE.