United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Soda Springs Ranger District | 410 East Hooper Avenue
Soda Springs, ID 83276
208-547-4356

File Code: 2210
Date: March 20, 2012

Jeff Roche
19205 N. 6000 W.
Garland, UT 84312

Dear Jeff;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Lanes and Lander Creek Sheep Allotments. These operating instructions are a guide for management on these allotments during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form**, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by **November 30, 2012.**

As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

Grazing Schedule

The 2012 order of rotation is outlined in this section. The grazing system is a deferred rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted dependant on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. **Please contact us 5 days prior to when your sheep will enter the Forest.**

Table 1. Permitted Numbers

Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Season	Rotation
Lanes Creek	800	500*	7/1-9/15	Counter-Clockwise
Lander Creek	800	500*	7/1-9/15	Counter-Clockwise

*Sheep will be run as one 1,000 head band this year. Each allotment will be used for approximately half of the allotted time.

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. If riparian or upland monitoring shows that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will need to be moved. The Forest Service officer in charge of your allotment must approve any extension to the grazing season. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

Special Instructions

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.

- Numerous timber plantations are located on the Lander Creek Allotment. The plantations will be monitored for grazing impacts. There are no closed plantations within this allotment; however, no salting or bedding is allowed and only once-over grazing is permitted.

- **No sheep grazing is allowed along the Lander Trail and the "Crow's Nest" (end of the Lanes Creek Road).**

Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP) and The Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for your allotments 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

Site Specific Riparian Forage Utilization Standards

If it is determined that bank disturbance/alteration, greenline stubble height or woody/shrubby species utilization should replace the utilization triggers listed above it will be addressed in the site specific standards below. Riparian site specific standards will be established when a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the Grazing Implementation Guide dated 12/28/2005. If a site specific PFC rating has not been conducted on a riparian area standards for the area will be established by the Range Specialist on the allotment.

Table 2. Riparian Grazing Standards (From GIG)

Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	AIZ Stubble Height at end of grazing period	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Lander Creek	Functioning	4	65/55/45
Lanes Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	5	55/45/35
Stump Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	5	55/45/35
Flat Valley Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	5	55/45/35
Brown's Canyon Creek	Functioning	4	65/55/45

Upland Utilization Guidelines

Utilization of upland vegetation is based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Use should be measured on key grass species such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.).

Table 3 Upland Forage Utilization Standards

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

There is Winter Range on the Lander Creek allotment from Stump Peak south to Stump Creek.

Wolf Recovery Management:

Wolves in Idaho are no longer under the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act. On May 5, 2011, wolf management in all of Idaho reverted to state management under state code 36-1107 and Idaho's 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Simply put, the law says wolves molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals may be disposed of by livestock or domestic animal owners, their employees, agents and animal damage control personnel. No permit from Fish and Game is necessary. The incident must be reported to the Fish and Game director within 72 hours, with additional reasonable time allowed if access to the site where taken is limited. Wolves so taken shall remain the property of the state. Livestock and domestic animal owners may take all nonlethal steps they deem necessary to protect their property. A permit must be obtained from the director to control wolves not molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals. Control is also permitted by owners, their employees and agents pursuant to the Idaho department of fish and game harvest rules. "Molesting" means the actions of a wolf that are annoying, disturbing or persecuting, especially with hostile intent or

injurious effect, or chasing, driving, flushing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, or stalking or lying in wait for, livestock or domestic animals.

District Trailing Guidelines

- When trailing, sheep must use Forest Service system roads where feasible.
- Trailing while on National Forest System land will be counted as part of a permittees permitted days.
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the permitted allotment.
- Do not overnight sheep in the same location where an earlier band of sheep bedded.

For the Henry Cut-off Driveway:

a. You must notify the District office that you are trailing across the Henry Cut-off driveway at least 24 hours in advance.

b. Before sheep can be bedded overnight on the Henry Cut-off and/or Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, Forest Service approval is needed.

c. Avoid bedding the sheep in the vicinity of the troughs, the switch-back cut-off, the summit, or north of the summit.

d. While trailing across the Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, stay south of Tincup Highway. Near the substation, the trail will return to the highway.

Permittee Responsibilities

1. "Once-over" grazing and open herding is to be practiced on all allotments.
2. Sheep are to bed in new locations each night. Sheep should be encouraged to bed in places other than ridges.
3. Sheep should not be allowed to bed near streams, ponds, or springs. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Sheep should be encouraged to water early in the day and then move away from water.
4. Ensure the herder leaves a sanitary and clean campsite.
5. Salt should be placed in areas away from water, riparian areas, forest plantations, ridges, shade-up areas, roads, and bed grounds. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.

6. Report all fires to the District Office as soon as possible (208) 547-4356.

7. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free". If you are found to be using uncertified hay or straw, a violation notice and/or permit action may be taken.

Forms to be Completed

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2012.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Compliance

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with part 1, Item 3, and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office	**Cell**
Jack Isaacs **District Ranger**	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker **Supervisory Range Specialist**	208) 547-1108	208) 313-7328
Garth Nelson **Range Specialist**	208) 547-1113	208) 313-7910

Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Lanes Cr. & Lander Cr. S&G Allotments
2012

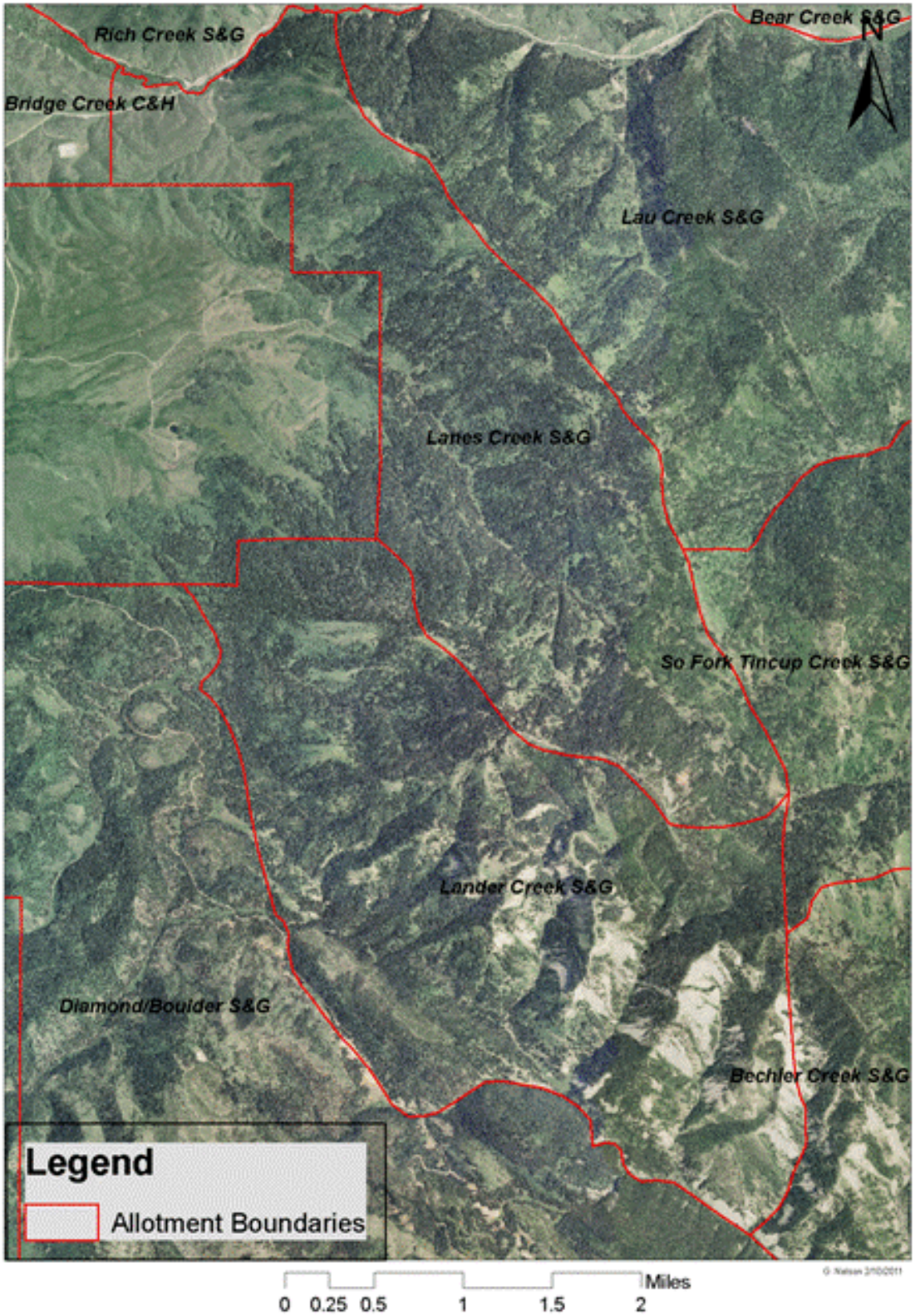
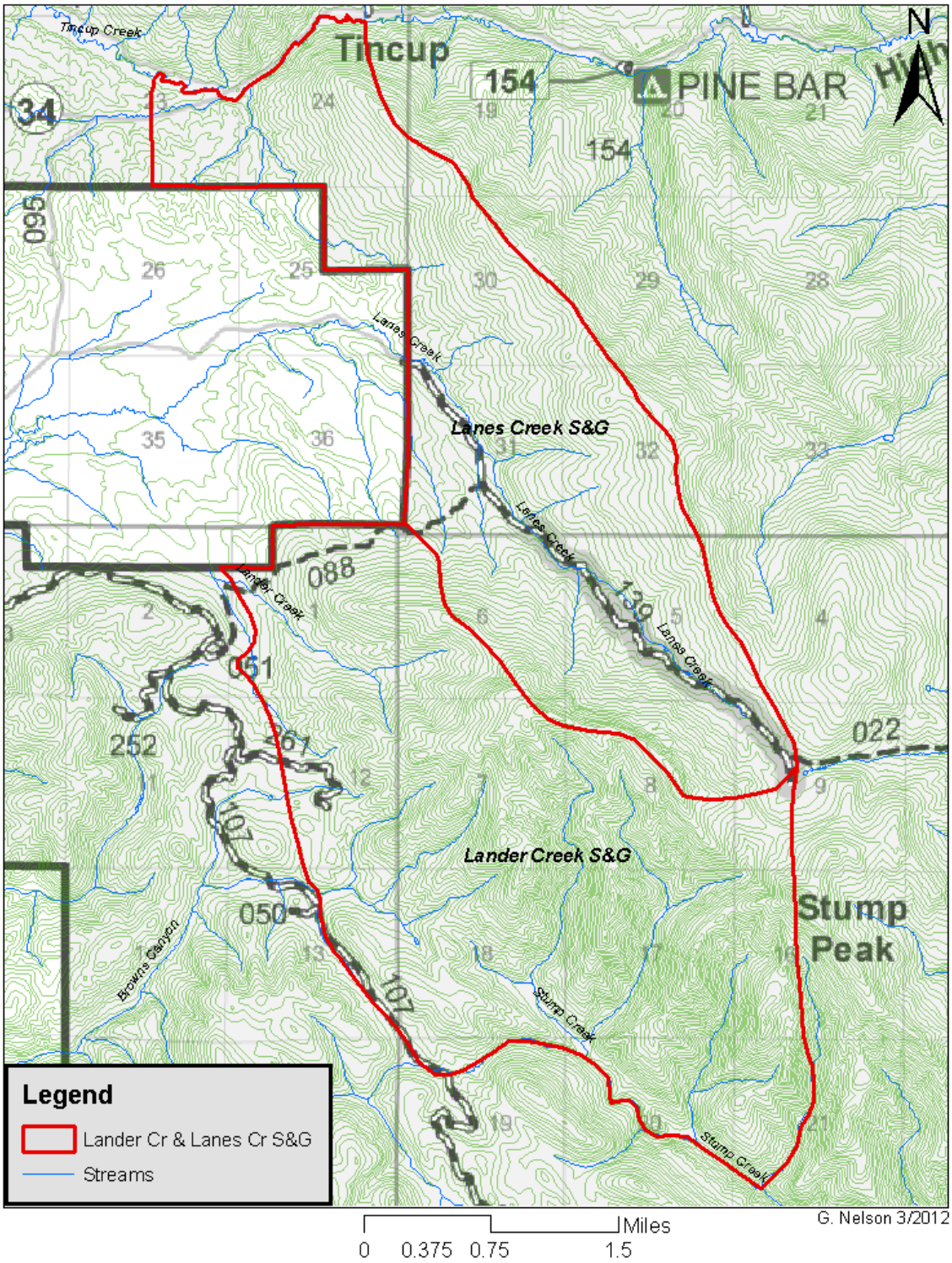
Accepted By: _____ _____

Jeff Roche **Date**

Approved By: _____ _____

Jack L Isaacs **Date**
District Ranger

Lanes and Lander Creek S&G



Lander Creek S&G and Lanes Creek S&G