



File Code: 2210

Date: March 21, 2012

Clyde Lancaster  
President  
Star Valley Cattlemen's Assn.  
323 Hwy 241  
Afton, WY 83110

Dear Clyde;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Stump Creek Cattle Allotment**. These instructions are a guide for management on this allotment during the 2012 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.**

**Permitted Livestock**

Division	Permitted Numbers	Season of Use
<b>West Herd</b>	<b>269 Cow/Calf</b>	<b>6/6-9/30</b>
<b>East Herd</b>	<b>317 Cow/Calf</b>	<b>6/6-9/30</b>

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. 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 unit rotation for the 2012 grazing season is outlined in this section. The Stump Creek Allotment is separated into 2 divisions with 3 units in each division. The grazing system is a deferred rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted depending on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. **Please contact us 5 days prior to when your cattle will enter the Forest.**

**West Herd 2012**

<b>Unit #1 (Hyde Can.) 1st</b>	<b>Unit #2 (Bechler) 2nd</b>	<b>Unit #3 (Horse Cr.) 3rd</b>
<b>6/6-7/28 (53 days)</b>	<b>7/28-8/30 (34 days)</b>	<b>8/30-9/30 (30 days)</b>

**East Herd 2012\***

<b>Unit #3 (Mill Creek) 2nd</b>	<b>Unit #1 (Tom's Can.) 1st</b>	<b>Unit #2 (Jensen Can.) 3<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>7/11-8/19 (40 days)</b>	<b>6/6-7/11 (36 days)</b>	<b>8/19-9/30 (41 days)</b>

\*Rotation differs from AMP after consulting with permittees and to take advantage of early forage



The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. Time allowed in each unit will be based on distribution of livestock and utilization of key areas. If riparian or upland monitoring show that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will be moved to the next unit. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

#### **Documented Use for the 2011 Grazing Season**

<b>Monitoring Site</b>	<b>Percent Use</b>	<b>Allowable use</b>
Hyde Creek	23 % AIZ	35%
Cow Canyon	25% AIZ	65%
Bechler Creek	23% AIZ	45%
Jensen Creek	23% AIZ	45%
Water Canyon	40% AIZ	45%
Mill Pond	30% AIZ	35%

#### **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 accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

The spread of leafy spurge on the Stump Creek Allotment continues to be a major concern. Past treatments have been successful, but we still have a long way to go before the problem is solved. Please notify the Forest service when you locate any new patches of noxious weeds.

You have been issued a 2012 Caribou-Targhee National Forest permit for travel off designated routes. When you carry this permit it authorizes you to travel off of designated routes with an ATV for the purpose of **maintaining improvements and spraying weeds. It does not authorize you to travel off designated routes to salt or check animals.** The tentative date for a cooperative weed day in Jensen Creek and Stump Creek is Aug. 1

#### **Wolf Recovery Management:**

##### Current Legal Status

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.

### **Riparian Guidelines for Grazing**

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP), The Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG), and EastBridge Cattle AMP Revision and are now made part of your permit. Three measurements are commonly used to monitor livestock grazing impacts in riparian areas. They include stubble height, woody utilization, and key species utilization. Allowable disturbance levels will be tailored to each stream. Measurements will be performed in key areas along the riparian habitat. The following list describes the parameters, where the measurements occur, and how they will be analyzed:

1. Stubble height is the height of standing herbaceous vegetation at the time of measurement. Some species may not naturally grow to the allowed stubble height. Natural conditions such as drought may also reduce some plants growth. If these situations are extreme, the stubble height measurement may not be used. The measurement is the average height of the plant and is measured at the green line (adjacent to the water) and on the floodplain.
2. Woody species utilization is the use of the annual growth of woody species within the riparian area (willows, aspen, dogwood, etc.) by livestock and wildlife. Emphasis will be placed on measuring the individual plants closest to the stream bank. Utilization is measured by counting the number of leaders browsed (new shoots) as compared to the number of the leaders not browsed.
3. Key species utilization is the percent of key species grazed in the affected riparian area (AIZ – Aquatic Influence Zone). Key species that will be monitored include beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), smallwing sedge (*Carex microptera*), and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*). If Red top or Kentucky Bluegrass are the only species present in the AIZ or Greenline they will be monitored. However, the stubble height will be adjusted to meet percent use standards. Sampling methods will include utilization cages, Photographic Guide for Key Riparian Graminoids (INT-GTR-308), and ocular estimates using Region 4 Key Forage Plant Method (FSH 2209.21).

## **Riparian Grazing Standards**

These six streams were specified in the Allotment Management plan to be monitored for standards (table 1). Standards were derived from using the Grazing Implementation guide or standards found in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Eastbridge Cattle Range AMP Revision. Other streams may also be monitored at the discretion of the range specialist over your allotment.

**Table 1. Riparian Utilization Standards**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Stream Condition Rating</b>	<b>AIZ Stubble Height</b>	<b>% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ</b>
Cow Canyon	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4	65/55/45
Bechler Creek	Functioning-at-risk (moderate)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Toms Canyon	No PFC *	3/4/5	55/45/35
Hyde Canyon	Functioning-at-risk (low)	4/5/6+	45/35/20
Jensen Creek	Functioning-at-risk (low)	4/5/6+	45/35/20
Water Canyon	Functioning-at-risk (moderate)	3/4/5	55/45/35

\*These streams have not been analyzed for PFC thus the standards are from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the EastBridge Cattle Range AMP revision table 4-1.

**Example and explanation of table 1:** If you were grazing in Cow Canyon, and it was the first pasture used, you would have to move the cattle when there was an average stubble height of two inches remaining on the riparian grasses and grass like species in the AIZ. If this was the second unit used you would have to move when there was a stubble height of three inches.

If there were only a few riparian species in the AIZ you would use the % Utilization column. In this instance you could utilize 65% of the forage when grazed first, 55% when grazed second, and 45% when grazed third.

### **Upland Utilization Guidelines**

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring will include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. **Upland utilization will be monitored on key grass species** such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch

wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or **key shrub species** such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)

Forage Type	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%

On this allotment Hyde Canyon and Tom’s Canyon drainages are considered ‘Winter Range.’ The rest of the allotment falls in the ‘Non-Winter Range’ utilization standards.

### Permittee Responsibilities

1. **Salting** - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use.
  
2. **Herding** - Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas. The longer cattle can be kept out of these key areas, the longer they can remain in the unit. **Cattle should be "cleaned" out of units within a week after the move date.** Units should be checked regularly to ensure cattle have not drifted back into previously grazed areas.
  
3. **Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".
  
4. **Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on the Allotment will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to cattle entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

### Fence Maintenance Standards

#### Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be re-stretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

#### Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by

snow or wire tension need to be reset.

- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

#### Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

#### Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

### **Water Development Maintenance Standards**

#### Spring boxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

#### Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

#### Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

### **Forms to be Completed**

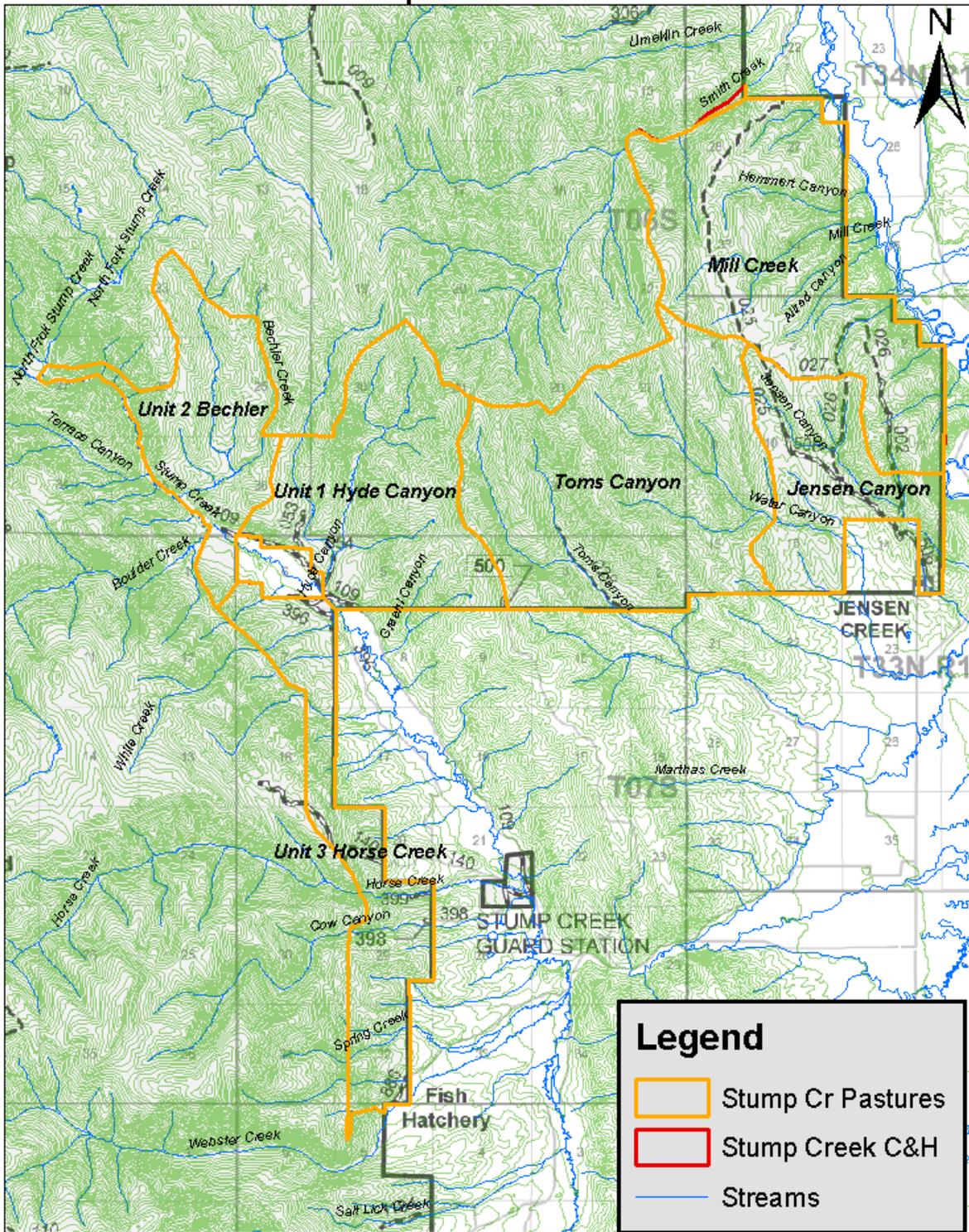
Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2012.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

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.

	<b>Office</b>	<b>Cell</b>
<b>Jack Isaacs District Ranger</b>	208) 547-4356	
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
<b>Garth Nelson Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1113	208) 313-7910
<b>Vic Bradfield Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1107 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7904 208) 220-2814



# Stump Creek C&H



G. Nelson 3/2012