



File Code: 2210

Date: 2012

John Phillips
1325 West, 535 North
Paul, ID 83347

Dear John;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Bear Creek, Caribou Mountain, Jacknife Creek, Lau Creek, Marshall Canyon, and Rich Creek Sheep Allotments**. These Instructions are a guide for management on these allotments 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**.

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 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 sheep will enter the Forest.**

Grazing Allotment Information (Table 1)					
Allotment	Permitted Season	Permitted Numbers	Actual Season	Actual Numbrs	Unit Rotation
Bear Creek	7/1-9/20	1000	7/1-9/20		Counter-Clockwise
Caribou Mtn.	7/1-9/20	1000	7/1-9/20		Counter-Clockwise
Jacknife Creek	7/1-9/20	1000	7/1-9/20		Counter-Clockwise
Lau Creek	7/1-9/20	1000	7/1-9/20		Counter-Clockwise
Marshall Can.	7/1-9/20	1000	7/1-9/20		Counter-Clockwise
Rich Creek	7/1-9/20	1000	7/1-9/20		Counter-Clockwise

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.**



Grazing Management Standards and Guides

In 2003 the Revised Forest Plan(RFP) for the Caribou National Forest was signed and in 2004 the Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG) was developed as specified in the RFP. This guide help establish site specific grazing standards for each stream. As a result of the *2003 Caribou RFP* the following grazing management standards for uplands and riparian areas are now in effect. Your livestock must be removed from a pasture (unit) when the grazing management standards and guides are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The grazing management standards and guides will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species.

The following grazing standards and guides will be used as a guide in grazing this allotment. When these standards are followed ecological conditions should progress toward the Desired Future Conditions described in Chapter 3, *2003 Caribou RFP*.

Riparian Grazing Standards and Guidelines

Tables 2 and 3 will be used to establish standards for riparian area grazing.

Table 2 Riparian Grazing Standards from GIG

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

* Residual stubble height are intended for riparian dependent species only such as Nebraska sedge. Percent utilization criteria are intended for use on non-riparian dependent species such as Kentucky bluegrass and red-top.

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 depending on whether the stream is ‘Functioning’, ‘Functioning-at-Risk’, or ‘Non-functioning’. Parameters are measured in key areas along the riparian habitat. The following list (table 3) describes the parameters, where the measurements occur, and how they will be analyzed:

Utilization will be based on stubble height for native species in the AIZ, or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 3 below, lists the streams associated with your allotments. Next to the Stream name you will see the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) designation. This designation is how we derive the site specific standards for each riparian area.

Proper functioning Condition (PFC) of Streams (Table 3)		Example
Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	
Anderson Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	If you were grazing the North Fork of Tincup Creek which is Functioning at risk you could use 45% of the forage in the AIZ in the middle of the grazing season and 35% at the end of the grazing season; or leave a 4 inch stubble height in the middle of the grazing season and a 5 inch stubble height at the end of the season.
Bilk Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Taylor Cr.	Functioning	
Jackknife Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Tincup Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Trail Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Hubler Cr.	Functioning	
N.Fk.Tincup Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Rich Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Whiskey Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Bear Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Corral Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Marshall Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Luthi Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Haderlie Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	
Lau Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	

Site specific monitoring of each stream will be used to determine when proper use has been reached. Once the allowable use standard is met, regardless of numbers of animals or time, livestock will be moved. Timing and intensity of use are the key elements of implementing the riparian grazing standards and guides.

Utilization will be based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Upland Grazing Standards and Guides

Upland grazing standards and guides are based on the community type and whether or not they fall under critical winter range, winter range or non-winter range. Community Types and their relevance to winter range were mapped in the *Caribou RFP*. Site specific standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will be addressed in the AOI and Allotment Management Plan (AMP). When establishing the standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will follow directions in Table 4.

Table 4 Upland Forage Utilization Standards and Guides

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species* (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs* (Annual leader growth)	10	20	35

* Key species that would be monitored are Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)

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.

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.

1. Leave clean herder camps. Pick up all trash, including salt bags and remove them from the National Forest.
2. Follow the season of use listed on your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). You must notify the Forest Service before you deviate from the AOI schedule (both at beginning of season and at the end of the season).
3. Follow grazing standards listed in your Term Grazing Permit and your AOI. If you reach

your grazing standard it is time to move livestock to a new location or off the National Forest. There are no guarantees that you will be able to graze your full permitted days before reaching your use standards, especially during a drought year.

Efforts to reestablish forage in historic bed grounds have been taken on your allotments. Areas have been reseeded in the Jackknife and Rich Creek Allotments, with plans to reseed areas in Lau Creek and possibly elsewhere. The Forest Official in charge of your allotments will work with you on the locations of these areas. These areas should be avoided for a minimum of 2 years, or until the seeding has had a chance to become established. The seeded areas are relatively small, and should not impact your grazing rotation or available forage.

In 2010 there was a small fire on the ridge between the Jackknife and Tincup drainages. The burned area (74 acres) should be avoided to reduce the risk of soil damage, and give vegetation a chance to reestablish until the 2013 grazing season.

Grazing and Trailing Instructions

- Sheep must use Forest system roads for trailing to and from their allotment.
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the allotment while on Forest Service land.
- Trailing while on National Forest System land will be counted as part of the permitted days.
- Sheep are to bed in new locations each night. Sheep are not allowed to bed near streams, springs, or Forest System roads and trails. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Do not overnight sheep in the same location where a previous band of sheep has stayed that year.
- Salt should be placed in areas away from water, riparian areas, forest plantations, ridges, shade-up areas, bed grounds, and Forest System roads and trails. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.
- "Once-over" grazing and open herding is to be practiced on all allotments.
- Avoid trailing to ridges in the evening and night hours.
- Ensure the herder leaves a sanitary and clean campsite
- Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed-free".
- Plantations where the trees are still small should only be grazed lightly.
- Report all fires to the District office as soon as possible (208) 547-4356.
- All improvements listed in Part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your allotments 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 livestock entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

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.
- Level troughs and reset when needed.
- Wildlife escape ramps should be installed on all troughs.

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.

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) 547-4356 208) 547-1108	
Garth Nelson Range Specialist	208) 547-1113 208) 547- 4356	208) 313- 7910

Sincerely,

JACK L. ISAACS
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Bear Creek, Marshall Canyon, Rich Creek, Caribou**

**Mountain, Lau Creek, and Jacknife Creek S&G Allotments
2012**



Accepted By:

John Phillips

Date

Approved By:

**Jack L Isaacs
District Ranger**

Date