*BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST*
*KEMMERER RANGER DISTRICT*

**PORCUPINE CREEK and LAKE ALICE ALLOTMENTS**
**2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

These Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a).

Authorized sheep on the Porcupine Creek and Lake Alice Allotments the 2012 grazing season are as follows:

| **Permittee** | **Authorized Number** | **Season of Use** |
|---|---|---|
| Child Ranch LLC | 1060 ewe/lamb | 7/15 - 9/15* |

The following is the planned sequence of use for this year:

| Order | Unit | No. of Days | Planned Dates |
|---|---|---|---|
| Trailing on | | 4 | 7/5 - 7/8 |
| 1st | Porcupine 1 East ½ | 11 | 7/20 - 7/30 |
| 2nd | Lake Alice 2 | 17 | 7/31- 8/16 |
| 3rd | Lake Alice 3 | 17 | 8/17 - 9/2 |
| 4th | Porcupine 4 | 9 | 9/3 - 9/11 |
| Trailing off | | 4 | 9/12-9/15 |

**Sheep are authorized to trail through the Forest from 7/5 to 7/8 on their way to your adjacent BLM allotment (Inchauspe). On July 20th or anytime thereafter your sheep may return to the Forest and graze the Porcupine Creek and Lake Alice Allotments.*

Any changes in the sequence of use must be approved first. Please contact Aimee Cameron, the Rangeland Management Specialist at (307) 877-4415 work or (307) 200-1931 cell.

If a need arises to vary from the number of days by more than 3 days, prior approval must be given first.

Please notify me 3-5 days in advance as to when you plan to put your sheep on the allotment.

Bed your sheep one night in one area only. Multiple days use of the same bed ground is prohibited.

All camps are to be kept clean at all times. Pack out all garbage off of the National Forest; this includes any garbage that may have been left from previous years.

All camps are to be located away from trails, lakes, and other high use recreational areas.

An allotment map is enclosed; this map shows the allotment boundary and unit boundaries. Please review it.

Proper utilization is 50% in upland forage areas in all units. A 4” to 6” stubble height of riparian species (i.e. sedges) shall be left along the greenline (i.e. stream corridors and wet meadows).

Any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next scheduled unit or to come home.

You are responsible for proper utilization of the forage by your sheep. If inspections reveal areas of over utilization or riparian damage, corrective action will be expected (which may mean taking your sheep home early) and action may be taken against your permit.

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires herding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Sheep are to be open herded once over with light to moderate utilization. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where the sheep do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows.

Every effort must be taken to completely remove sheep off the National Forest by the scheduled off date.

**Adaptive Management**

1) Sensitive Soil Areas: You are instructed to graze your sheep in a manner to minimize soil disturbance. Pass lightly through sensitive soil areas. <u>If you choose to avoid some sensitive soil areas do not do so if it will cause new trailing and additional resource impacts.</u> No determination has been made if current livestock grazing is the limiting factor for current condition for the majority of these sites. However, for some sites it is readily apparent that unsatisfactory conditions exist 1) along part of established sheep trails and 2) along selected streambanks where herder horses graze. It is reasonably expected past and current sheep management practices may have contributed to current conditions at these sites. However, for the majority of sites where it is unclear what the limiting factor is, monitoring will be conducted to determine trend and livestock impacts if any. If it is determined a site is not stable or not improving and livestock are the limiting factor, then adaptive management strategies will be applied to reduce use which will move the resource towards desired conditions.

2) Avoid the natural funnel above the West Fork Hams Fork while trailing livestock. Direct sheep above the natural funnel thru the trees.

3) The following management practices are designed to limit livestock losses and interactions between domestic and bighorn sheep:

    a) Do not turn out sick or diseased domestic sheep onto the grazing allotment/trailing route(s). If a domestic sheep becomes ill while grazing on the allotment, it should be promptly treated to ensure that it does infect other animals.
    b) Do not allow contact between domestic and bighorn sheep. If bighorn sheep are sighted in a particular area do not enter that area with domestic sheep. Move the domestic sheep to an area that will ensure they will not come in contact with bighorn sheep and contact Aimee to adjust the grazing rotation.
    c) Promptly report all sighting of bighorn sheep. You are required to report any sightings of bighorn sheep during the grazing season to the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and Aimee. Sighting should be reported that day and/or as soon as possible and include: numbers of bighorns observed, sex of animals (*if it can be determined*), exact location, and distance from domestic sheep.

d) All livestock losses are to be reported each year. Each year, you are responsible for reporting the number of livestock lost and the reason(s) (*cause of death*) for the loss(s). If the cause of death is unknown or the carcass(s) is not found, this information should be included in the report.
e) All domestic sheep are to be counted upon exiting the National Forest. This is to assure all domestic sheep are accounted for when exiting the allotment and trailing routes. The number of sheep that entered the National Forest should equal the recorded livestock losses, plus the number that exits.
f) Upon exiting the National Forest if it is determined domestic sheep are missing from the band you will then re-ride the trailing routes to locate and remove those animals.
g) Any domestic sheep found on the National Forest past October 15th may be disposed of by personnel authorized by the Forest Service.

4) Sawmill Creek is currently not meeting Forest Plan desired conditions. In an effort to move towards meeting Forest Plan desired conditions:

- all horses will be picketed off the riparian area if camping;
- livestock trailing thru will cross Sawmill Creek in the same location every year to reduce potential impacts along the creek;
- the Forest Service will continue to treat noxious weeds;
- and the Forest Service will continue to work cooperatively with the BLM to address unauthorized BLM cattle use in this area by maintaining boundary fences.

Maintenance of all your improvements listed in Part 3 of your term grazing permit must be done one week before your sheep enter the allotment and maintained to the standard they were constructed. Completing your maintenance responsibilities one week before your on date will allow Aimee time to inspect your improvements and address any concerns before your sheep enter the allotment. All labor and materials needed for maintenance are your responsibility.

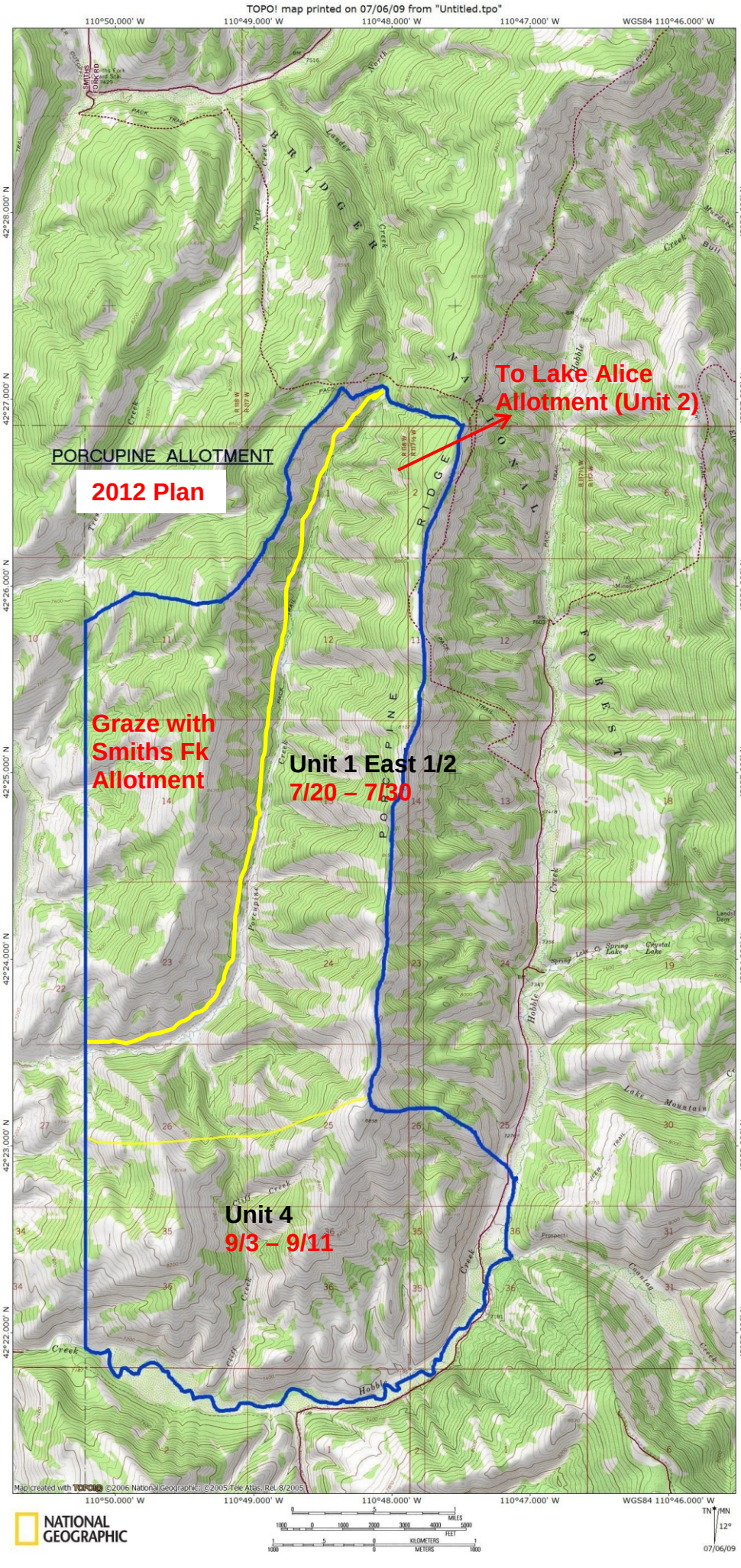
Please let Aimee know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. As a reminder certified weed-free hay, cubes, and straw are required on the Forest.

Complete the actual use report and return it by November 30. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Aimee. Thanks for your cooperation in managing this allotment.

_____ _____

Martha Williamson
Acting District Ranger

Permittee or Authorized Agent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42°22.000' N
To Lake Alice
Allotment (Unit 2)
PORCUPINE ALLOTMENT
2012 Plan
Graze with
Smiths Fk
Allotment
Unit 1 East 1/2
7/20 – 7/30
Unit 4
9/3 – 9/11
BRIDGER
PORCUPINE RIDGE
NATIONAL FOREST
Map created with TOPO! © 2006 National Geographic, ©2005 Tele Atlas, Rel. 8/2005
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
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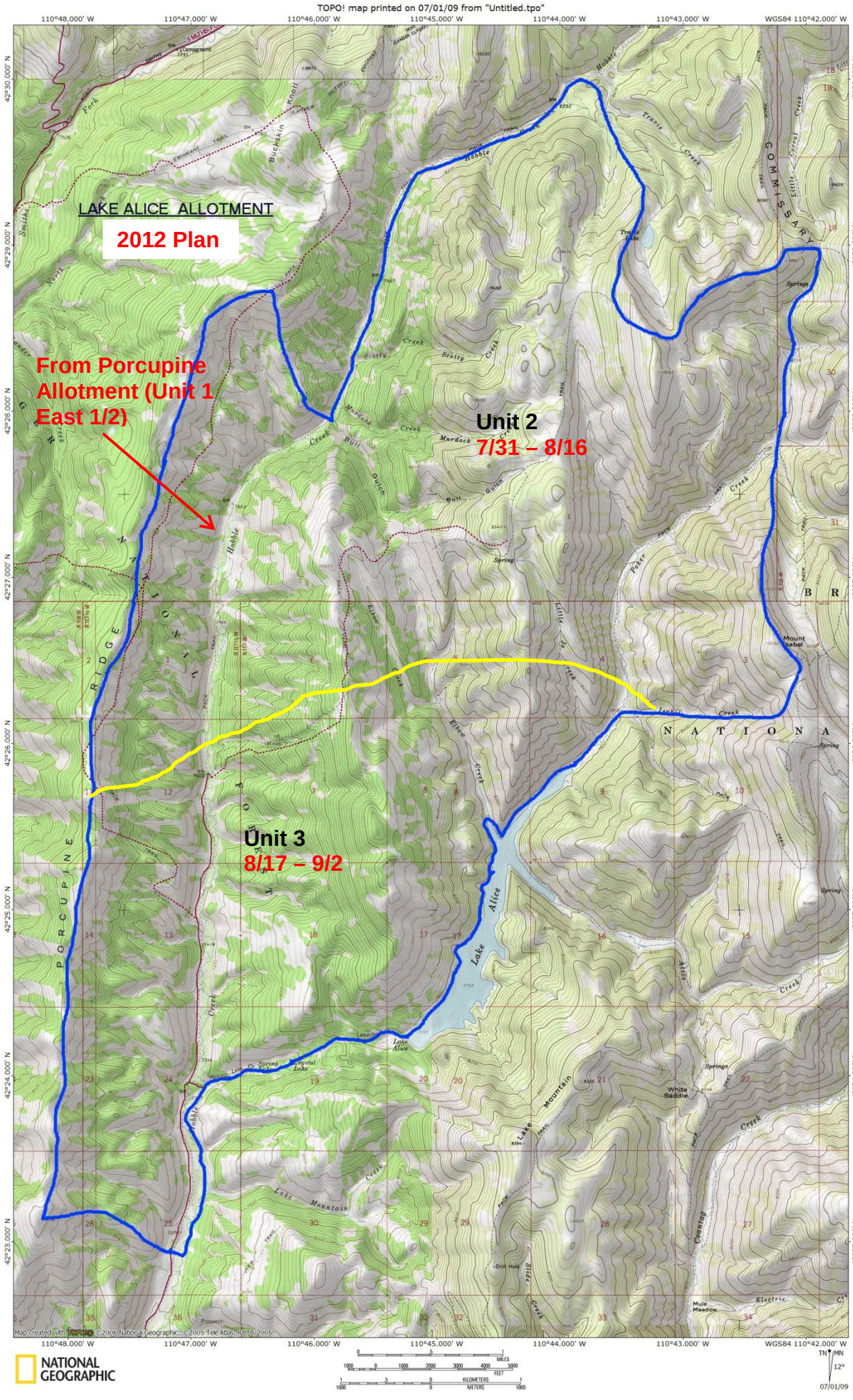
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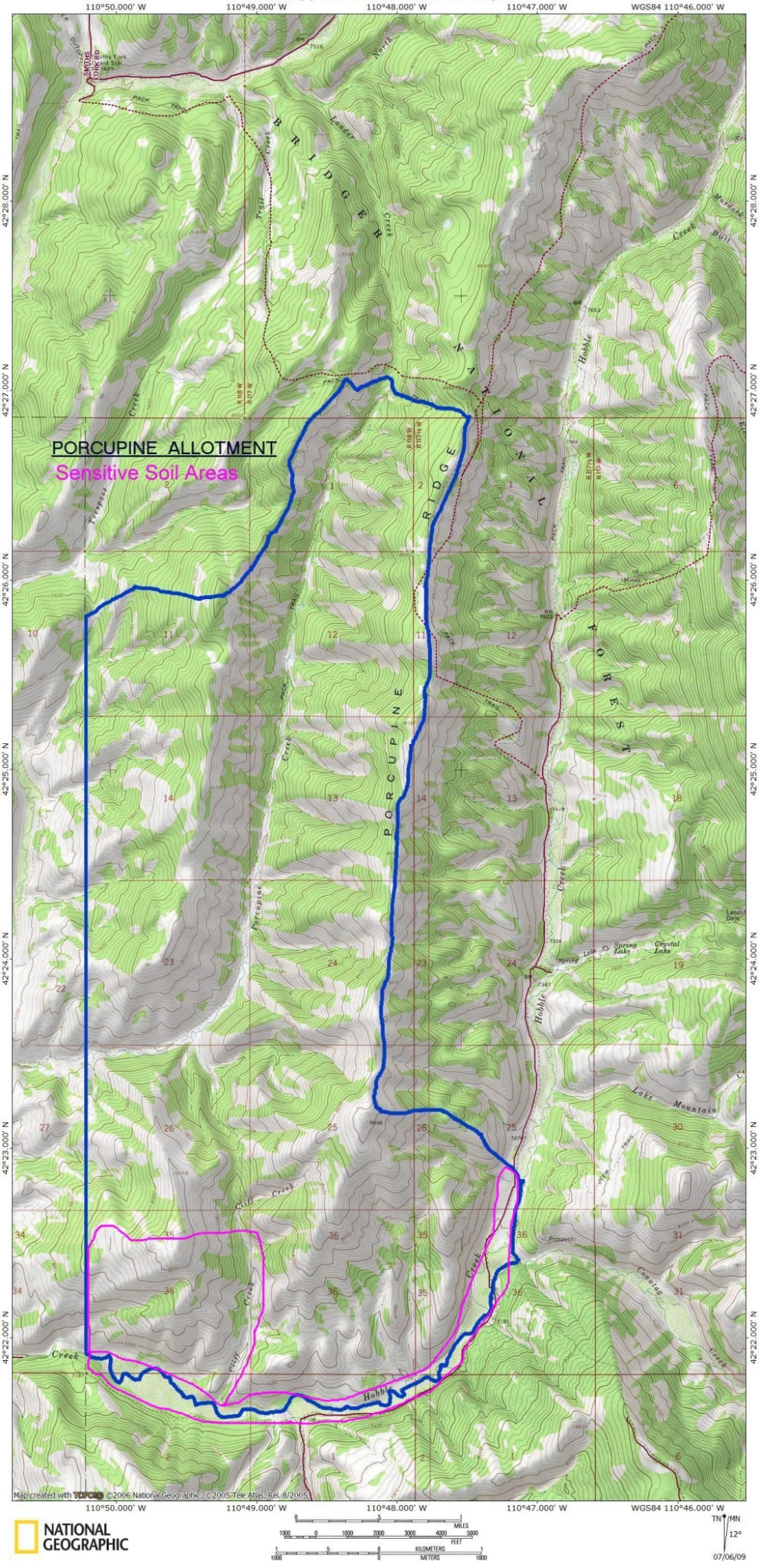
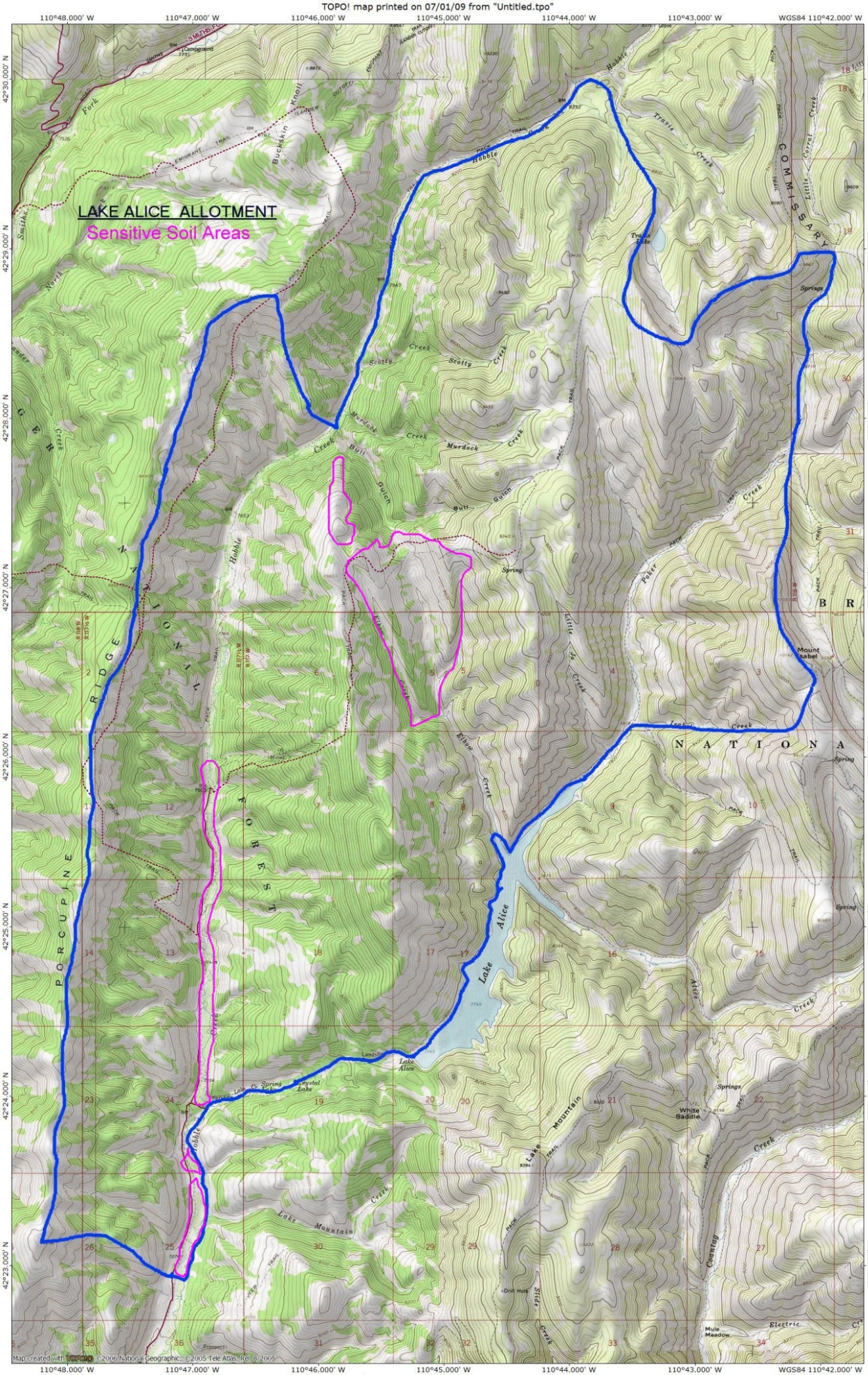
LAKE ALICE ALLOTMENT
2012 Plan
From Porcupine Allotment (Unit 1 East 1/2)
Unit 2
7/31 – 8/16
Unit 3
8/17 – 9/2
Lake Alice
Mount Isabel
White Saddle
Mule Meadow
Lake Mountain
Map created with TOPO! ©2006 National Geographic; ©2005 Tele Atlas, Rel. 8/2005
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
07/01/09

TOPO! map printed on 07/06/09 from "Untitled.tpo"




NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC


TOPO! map printed on 07/01/09 from "Untitled.tpo"
LAKE ALICE ALLOTMENT
Sensitive Soil Areas
110°48.000' W
110°47.000' W
110°46.000' W
110°45.000' W
110°44.000' W
110°43.000' W
WGS84 110°42.000' W
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42°29.000' N
42°28.000' N
42°27.000' N
42°26.000' N
42°25.000' N
42°24.000' N
42°23.000' N
Lake Alice
Lake Mountain
Mount Isabel
White Saddle
Mule Meadow
PORCUPINE RIDGE NATIONAL FOREST
COMMISSARY RIDGE
Map created with TOPO! © 2006 National Geographic, © 2005 Tele Atlas, Rel. 8/2005
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
MILES
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# 2012 ACTUAL USE REPORT

*BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST*
*KEMMERER RANGER DISTRICT*

| **Porcupine Creek and Lake Alice Allotments** | |
|---|---|
| Permittee: Child Ranch LLC | |
| Season of Use: 7/15-9/15 | Authorized Numbers: 1060 ewe/lamb |

| **Planned Use*** | | | | **Actual Use** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Unit* | *Enter Date* | *Leave Date* | *Days Planned* | *Unit* | *Numbers* | *Enter Date* | *Leave Date* | *Days Use* |
| Trailing on | 7/5 | 7/8 | 4 | Trailing on | | | | |
| Porcupine 1 East ½ | 7/20 | 7/30 | 11 | | | | | |
| Lake Alice 2 | 7/31 | 8/16 | 17 | | | | | |
| Lake Alice 3 | 8/17 | 9/2 | 17 | | | | | |
| Porcupine 4 | 9/3 | 9/11 | 9 | | | | | |
| Trailing off | 9/12 | 9/15 | 4 | Trailing off | | | | |

Signature: _____ Date: _____
*(Permittee: Child Ranch LLC)*

Comments: *(Included needed range improvements; improvements maintained or visited; new noxious weeds locations; and ect.)*

# UPDATED GRAZING MANAGEMENT STRAGETY

The updated grazing management strategy includes: 1) long-term benchmarks to aid in determining if an area is meeting or moving toward desired conditions as defined in the Forest Plan (USDA, 1990); 2) continued and/or increased monitoring to determine if long-term benchmarks are being met; 3) a long-term adaptive management strategy which will help ensure sites currently meeting long-term benchmarks continue to meet those benchmarks and will help ensure sites currently not meeting long-term benchmarks trend to these benchmarks where it determined livestock grazing is the primary impediment for not meeting those benchmarks. This in turn will aid in ensuring sites meeting Forest Plan desired conditions continue to meet these conditions while sites not meeting Forest Plan desired conditions and is determined to be livestock caused, will have an upward trend; and 4) an annual adaptive management strategy to ensure annual benchmarks are met and to respond to changed conditions. Data from monitoring will be considered part of the best available science and will be used to make long-term and annual adjustments to livestock grazing as needed to ensure Forest Plan direction is met. As such it will be an integral part the long term and annual adaptive management strategy. For example and among other things, monitoring will continue to determine the need and frequency for administrative adjustments in the timing, intensity, frequency, and/or management of grazing.

**Updated Grazing Management - Long Term Monitoring Benchmarks**

Long-term benchmarks will ensure desired conditions, as defined by the Forest Plan, are maintained and/or achieved (USDA, 1990).

1.) Allow management activities that will result in no less than 85% of potential ground cover for each vegetation cover type. Table 1 lists ground cover potentials by vegetation types. These will be used as a guideline unless more site specific ground cover potentials are obtained.

2.) Native and selected non-native species of moderate to high value for watershed protection (1993 Region 4 Range Management Resource Value Rating Guide, FSH 2209.21.27.4, Ex. 02, ) will be equal to or greater than 60% of the relative cover in all vegetation types grazed by livestock. Selected non-native species are those including in plantings in the past based on their erosion control and other desired values. Includes both woody and herbaceous species.

3.) Grazing in aspen stands will be managed to ensure sprouting and sprout survival sufficient to perpetuate the long-term viability of aspen clones.

4.) Class 1, 2 and 3 Riparian Areas will be managed as follows:

   a. Class 1 Riparian Area Greenlines for 80% or more late-seral vegetation communities as described in Winward, A.H. 2000. Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas, RMRS-GTR-47. Ogden, UT: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain research Station or other best available science. .

   b. Class 2 Riparian Area Greenlines will have 70% or more late-seral vegetation communities

   c. Class 3 Riparian Area Greenlines will have 60% or more late-seral vegetation communities.

**Table 1. Potential Ground Cover Values**

| Vegetation Type | Ground Cover Range at Potential[1] | Information Source(s) |
|---|---|---|
| Silver Sagebrush (*Artemisia cana)* | 89 – 96 (85%=76-82) | Ashley N.F. |
| Mountain/Subalpine Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) | 81 – 96 (85%=69-82) | Ashley N.F. |
| Low Sagebrush *( Artemisia arbuscula*) | 62 – 77 (85%=53-65) | (Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest) U-W-C N.F.-Guardsman Pass, Bear Lake Summit, and Grand Teton National Park |
| Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus)* | 92 (85%=78) | U-W-C N.F.-Salt Lake Ranger District-Big Cottonwood Canyon |
| Birchleaf Mt Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) | 82 – 95 (85%=70-81) | Ashley N.F. U-W-C N.F.-Bear Lake Summit |
| Curlleaf Mt Mahogany *(Cercocarpus ledifolius)* | 70 – 82 (85%=60-70) | U-W-C N.F.-Mollens Hollow Research Natural Area and Big Cottonwood Canyon – with Oak |
| Aspen, *Populus tremuloides* | 90 – 98 (85%=77-83) | Ashley N.F.-Brush Creek Allotment |
| Uinta Alpine Grassland | 97 – 100 (85% = 82-85) | U-W-C N.F-Mt View Ranger District - Bald Mt |
| Uinta Alpine upland turf and meadow communities[2] | 80 – 100 (85% = 68-85) | U-W-C N.F.-Uinta Mountains |
| Uinta Alpine snowbed communities[2] | 48 – 98 (85% =41-83) | U-W-C N.F.-Uinta Mountains |
| Uinta Alpine erosional surface (including talus) communities[2] | 33 – 85 (85% =28-72) | U-W-C N.F.-Uinta Mountains |
| Subalpine Tall Forb – Mesic-no gopher activity (*Aster, Delphinium*, *Artemisia ludoviciana*, *Geranium viscosissimum*, *Polemonium foliosissimum*) | 75 – 80 (85% = 64-68) | U-W-C N.F. Hoyt Peak, Albion basin |
| Subalpine Tall Forb – Wetter-no gopher activity (*Veratrum californicum*, *Heracleum lanatum*, *Mertensia ciliata*, *Geranium richardsonii*) | 88 (85% = 75) | U-W-C N.F.-Albion basin and Grand Teton National Park |
| Subalpine Tall Forb – with gopher activity | 79 –94 (85% = 67-80) | John D. Rockerfeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway |

[1] Ground cover potential based on percent vegetation, litter, moss, and rock cover as measured using a minimum of 200 sample points per sample site.

## Updated Grazing Management - Annual Monitoring Benchmarks

The following annual benchmarks will be implemented as a tool to meet and/or move towards long-term benchmarks. This in turn will ensure desired conditions, as defined by the Forest Plan, are maintained and/or achieved (USDA, 1990). These benchmarks are part of the adaptive management strategy. Adaptive management will be used as needed to ensure benchmarks are met. It is expected other annual benchmarks will be added in time if needed to help ensure long-term benchmarks are met and/or moved towards.

1.) As a tool to meet and/or move towards long-term benchmarks for riparian areas, maximum forage utilization standards (stubble height) for low to mid elevation *greenline* species in Class I, II, and III riparian areas in satisfactory condition will be as presented in table 2. Key species measured along the greenline will typically include a variety of species of sedges and rushes including but not limited to water sedge, beaked sedge, Nebraska sedge, woolly sedge, wool-fruit sedge, and Baltic rush.

**Table 0 Residual Greenline Stubble Height by Stream Class for Rangelands in Satisfactory Condition**

| Riparian Class | Condition | Greenline Stubble Height at End of Growing Season |
|---|---|---|
| Stream Class I | Satisfactory | No Less Than 5” |
| Stream Class II | Satisfactory | No Less Than 4” |
| Stream Class III | Satisfactory | No Less Than 3” |

2.) As a tool to maintain satisfactory vegetative and soil conditions (i.e. meeting long-term benchmarks such as 60% plant composition of moderate to high value for watershed protection and 85% of potential protective surface cover), maximum forage utilization will be 50% of key species on uplands, aspen, and riparian areas away from the greenline. Use will be limited to 50% of the total forage cover for perennial forb plant communities (tall forb) in satisfactory condition (i.e. meeting long-term benchmarks).

3.) As a tool to achieve rehabilitation of upland, aspen, and riparian communities away from the greenline that are not meeting or moving toward long-term benchmarks (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition), maximum allowed forage utilization on key species will be light (10%-30%). Use will be limited to 25% of the total forage cover for perennial forb plant communities without gophers, that are not meeting or moving toward long-term benchmarks (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition).

4.) As a tool to achieve rehabilitation of greenlines that are not meeting or moving toward long-term benchmarks (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition), the average greenline stubble height at the end of the growing season will not be less than six inches.

5.) Many of the perennial forb (tall forb) communities are heavily populated by pocket gophers. Bare soil increases or decreases as their activities increase or decrease respectively. As a tool to maintain or improve vegetative and soil conditions on these perennial forb gopher sites, use will be limited to 25% of the total forage cover where the protective surface cover is less than 60%.

**Updated Grazing Management-Long Term Monitoring & Annual Monitoring Benchmarks**

These benchmarks will continue to be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team based on monitoring to determine if permitted livestock grazing is meeting Forest Plan desired conditions or satisfactorily moving towards desired conditions. Monitoring methods identified in the Forest Plan will continue to be utilized unless other methods are identified by the best available science. Monitoring will generally include determining protective surface cover, plant community composition, forage utilization, riparian and stream bank conditions, water quality, key wildlife and aquatic species habitat conditions, compliance with grazing management practices or other grazing permit and/or annual operating instructions, and any other pertinent parameters as directed by the authorized Forest Officer.

If annual or long term monitoring evaluations determine that livestock grazing is the primary factor not allowing the benchmarks to be met (which ensure the Forest Plan desired conditions are met and/or moved towards), then management actions will be taken accordingly once that determination is made. Additional analysis will also be made to validate this determination and the extent of the affected area. Management actions may include one of or any combination of the following:

1.) Alter the amount of time an area is grazed (i.e., reduced due to over utilization, to accomplish a specific vegetation treatment, or to improve resource conditions and management).

2.) Alter livestock management (i.e., relocate salting areas and trailing routes to improve resource conditions and management).

3.) Alter the time of year an area is grazed (i.e., deferred use due to drought, exclude use to improve resource conditions, or graze an area earlier or later in the year to accomplish a specific vegetation objective).

4.) Implement range improvements projects (i.e., construct trails, stock ponds and/or fences to improve distribution and management). This will require further NEPA analysis.

5.) Alter the numbers of livestock (i.e., reduced to improve management, to accomplish a specific vegetation treatment, or to improve resource conditions).

Management actions are not limited to those listed above and may include additional adaptive management strategies. Permit administration will be conducted in accordance with Forest Service Handbook direction (FSH 2209.13, Chapter 10, section 16).

**Updated Grazing Management Practices**

1. Salting
Salt is a valuable and flexible tool to distribute livestock to suitable range that otherwise might not be grazed. As a rule, salt should be placed where additional forage utilization is desirable.

At a minimum, the following salting practices will be followed:

a.) Salt will be placed at least 200 feet from live water, roads, trails, and other high recreational areas.
b.) Salt will be placed on rocks, harden areas or containers when feasible.
c.) Salt areas will be rotated.
d.) When an area has been grazed to the desired utilization, salt will be removed from the area.

2. Other
Promptly remove any cattle that have died from within 100 yards or in sight of administrative sites, roads or trails, corrals or sources of water.

Certified Weed-Free hay, cubes and straw will be required on National Forest land.

3. Sheep herding
Herding provides better distribution and proper range use. Permittees will be required to provide herders to get obtain distribution and management of sheep on the allotment.

At a minimum, the following sheep herding practices will be followed:

a.) Sheep will be open herded.
b.) Only once-over grazing will be allowed. However, an exception to this will be where the

terrain is restrictive or water is limited and where the sheep have to pass through again.

c.) Sheep will only be allowed to trail through steep hillsides and unsuitable range (no deliberate grazing, no bedding or salting). Use at these areas will be negligible to light.

d.) Sheep will be bedded one night in one area only. Use of the same bed ground for multiple days will be prohibited.

e.) Sheep will not be bedded within 200 feet of live water. However, there may be some exceptions to this due to the topography within the allotment.