ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST
MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT
PICKETT RANCH & SHEEP
2013

These are your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions which are a part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) on the Third Fork, Little Fork, Trapper Creek, Trout Creek and Badger Mtn. S&G allotments as well as the Fall-Swanty C&H allotment. You will be responsible for the proper management of livestock in accordance with these Annual Operating Instructions. It is also your responsibility to ensure your herders have a clear understanding of the operating instructions. We recommend that you provide a copy in Spanish if needed. The grazing fees will be $0.27 per head month for sheep and $1.35 for cattle. These fee's must be paid and received prior to your on-date to validate your grazing permit. These operating instructions reflect the management we jointly agreed at your annual meeting. Your 2013 billing and permitted animals will be as follows:

Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Season of Use	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
Third Fork S&G	1000 e/l	6/1 – 10/30	716 e/l & 1011 yearlings	6/1 – 11/14
Little Fork S&G	500 e/l	6/1 – 10/30		
Trapper Creek S&G	800 e/l	6/1 – 8/5	700 e/l	6/1 – 11/14
Trout Creek S&G	(400) e/l	8/6 – 11/14		
Trout Creek S&G	1200 e/l	6/10 – 11/14		
Badger S&G	1500 ewes	6/10 – 8/5	982 e/l	6/10 – 11/14
Badger S&G	(260) ewes	8/6 – 11/14		
Badger S&G	(1340) ewes	8/6 – 11/14		
Fall-Swanty C&H	140 c/c	7/10 – 10/30	140 c/c	7/10 – 10/30

Note: Parts of the Little Fork S&G allotment are used in rotation with the Third Fork S&G allotment as well as parts of the Trout Creek S&G. Parts of the Trout Creek S&G are used in rotation with the Badger S&G.

COMPLIANCE:
These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of your Term Grazing Permit, consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Clause 8(a), and you have agreed to their conditions upon signing the Term Grazing Permit. Failure to follow the instructions in the AOI is a violation of your grazing permit. The contents of this years plan reflect the alternative we jointly agreed to at your Annual meeting. Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from these instructions.

Notification: The permittee will provide the Minidoka District Ranger with written notification of any changes or deviation he or she wishes to make in these Annual Operating Instructions. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. The Minidoka District Ranger or his staff will verify the response in writing to the permittee. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.

Travel Management Authorization: This direction serves as guidance for grazing permittees authorization as it relates to the implementation of Travel Management on the Minidoka R.D.:

Motor vehicle use off existing roads and trails (cross-country travel) is not authorized for any reason. This means livestock may not be gathered and herded cross-country with motorized vehicles. However, cross country travel may be authorized case-by-case on a project specific basis. Only the District Ranger can authorize these activities.

Authorization must be obtained in writing in advance of the specific project activity. Motorized access behind seasonally locked gates is not authorized; permission to access these areas needs to be obtained from the District Ranger prior to entry. Roads and trails that have been physically closed through ripping, barricading, etc. that restrict motor vehicle use are not authorized for your use. In the limited instances where there maybe structural improvements on these roads you will need to obtain permission from the District ranger to access your improvements.

Motor vehicle use is authorized on roads and trails signed closed to the public only for purposes of improvements maintenance. All actives need to be planned in advance during high use periods, such as hunting seasons, to reduce the exposure of these permitted actions to the general public.

You are authorized to enter the Telephone Canyon Trail #920 (formerly the Telephone Canyon road No. 500) to manage your livestock operation in this area during the 2013 grazing season.

Noxious Weed Management- Only hay and straw that has been certified as Noxious Weed Free will be allowed on National Forest System Lands in Idaho. Contact your County Weed Supervisor at (208) 878-4043 for a list of sources if you need to acquire certified forage.

BILLING INFORMATION

Grazing fees for this season will be $0.27 per head month for sheep and $1.35 for cattle. Payments are to be made by the DUE DATE shown on your grazing bill. The process takes approximately 10 days from the time you submit your bill until it is processed through the lockbox and notification is received by the district; notice of payments must be received by the district office prior to your on date. If notice has not been received by the district office you may not turn out your livestock onto National Forest Service administered lands. Payments validate your Term Grazing Permit and authorize you to graze permitted livestock.

Badger Mountain S&G

From the counting corral, this band will move to point springs and then south around Cold Springs through Water Canyon to Dads Hump and then across the east side of Trout Creek S&G allotment. (2013-2014)

Third Fork S&G

Due to the Cave Canyon Wildfire of 2012 which burned most of the Coal Pit C&H Allotment your sheep will be confined to the roadway only along FS Road 527 (Dry Creek) as they are moved toward the Third Fork S&G allotment. Sheep will not be allowed to access this location if the roadbed is wet, soft or will be damaged by sheep trailing. This band will be allowed to overnight once south of the Indian Springs/West Dry Creek Units Division Fence as well as once in the flats south of Coal Pit. Following the second night of bedding the sheep will leave the Coal Pit C&H allotment and move to Cotton Ridge and then on to the rough side of Martindale Canyon and then on to the Trail Canyon area and finish up on the Little Fork area. As a reminder Forest wide grazing standard #7 states "Only annual once over sheep grazing will be allowed..."

Trapper Creek S&G

This Band will be in the **A** rotation (2012-2013) beginning in Unit 4, Unit 3, Unit 1, Unit 5 and finish in the Tool Point Area. This is the first year of this rotaion and will reverse in 2014. *Note: In order to increase separation from the Big Horn sheep core area affected by the Cave Canyon fire the tentative route off the forest in the fall will be along the Trapper Creek road. The trailing route "off" the allotment will be determined in late summer/early fall based on any known observations of Big Horn sheep and available assistance from IDFG to minimize the potential of sheep interaction.*

Fall-Swanty C&H

This will be the first year of a two year rotation on the Swanty Creek side. In 2015 it will reverse. If the Fall Creek side is kept clean of cattle we will consider using it after September 1.

Pasture rotations listed above are tentative as to days and dates and is our best estimate of equalizing the grazing on the unit. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather, and ability to use suitable range, herding, and other permittee practices.

It will be your responsibility to see that livestock are moved throughout the unit before maximum allowed use is reached. Rotation/removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation/removal date. You are encouraged to have the livestock moved within 5 days at the end of any rotation time frame. The permittee is responsible to manage his/her livestock not to exceed the allowable use levels.

2013 Management Guides

1) The permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District prior to trailing onto the National Forest.
2) The permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District of all Bighorn sheep sightings as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours.
3) The permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District of all stray domestic sheep within 24 hours of discovery. When strays are found they will be removed from the allotment or returned to the band. The District will be notified of location where strays are found and action taken by the permittee.
4) Herders will count marker sheep daily to assure that no small groups of sheep have separated from the main band.
5) If herders observe bighorn sheep in close proximity (less than 1 mile) they will haze the bighorn out of the area and if necessary adjust the trailing or grazing route to minimize the possibility of direct contact with domestic sheep.
6) The permittee will provide binoculars to the herders to improve their ability to spot bighorn sheep.

Trapper Creek Allotment only

1) To avoid any potential for contact with big horn sheep during trailing on and off the allotment, the Forest Service would prefer that the Sheep be trucked on/off the Trapper Creek Allotment. However, the choice of using trucking to access the Forest Service allotments will remain with the permittee. The Forest Service acknowledges that road conditions may make trucking difficult.

2) If the permittee chooses not to truck, the following guidelines will apply:
   a. Permittee will count marker sheep at the end of trailing to assure no small groups of sheep have separated from the main band and have been left behind during trailing. Within 24 hours of the completion of trailing the permittee will travel back over the trailing route from the Forest Boundary to Four mile springs to assure that no strays are present. If strays are found, they will be immediately

placed with the band or removed from the Forest. This action and results will be reported to the Minidoka Ranger District within 48 hours.

Trapper Creek Allotment only (cont.)

b. The identified trailing route for the Trapper Creek S&G allotment in 2013 will be as follows: Beginning at the gate in T14S, R21E, Sec. 15 SW on the Forest Boundary then proceeding in a westerly direction towards the Fourmile Spring in Section 16. From this point the sheep will move up out of the bottom in a westerly direction onto the benches that cross Sections 17 and 18 in T14S, R21E following somewhat the old jeep trail towards North Water Spring. The sheep will move through the gate in the SE corner of Section 13, T14S, R20E and proceed to the North Water Spring to water.

c. Sheep will not be bedded within the potential interaction area.

d. Two herders and several guard dogs will be in place while trailing between the Forest Boundary and Fourmile Spring.

ALLOWABLE USE - Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). The use level stated below is the maximum utilization allowed on desirable grass and sedges for the planned season of use for cattle unless modified for adaptive management. These use levels are the same ones contained in part three of the Term Grazing Permit associated with this AOI.

Sawtooth National Forest Utilization Standards

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

A) Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures -- 40% Use.
Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures -- 50% use. (Cattle)

B) Riparian Areas: Maximum 45% use or retain a minimum 4 – inch stubble height of hydric (water-loving) greenline species, which ever occurs first. If allowable use is achieved in all areas prior to the end of the grazing season, notify the Minidoka office before removing the livestock. (Cattle)

MONITORING - Utilization will be monitored by the permittee and by forest personnel. We welcome your participation in these monitoring activities. Monitoring of key areas will be used to determine the maximum allowable livestock use on the Fall/Swanty Creek Allotment. Key areas are defined as relatively small areas that serve as monitoring and evaluation sites. These areas guide the general management of the entire area of which it is a part, and will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the range. For the most part, key areas on the Fall/Swanty Creek Allotment are the riparian areas and non-riparian drainage bottoms on all other units. You must be aware when these key areas have been used to the allowable intensity level, or if high impact or concentration areas exceed an acceptable size, you will need to move the cattle to the next unit or off the allotment.

Monitoring on the Allotments during the 2012 grazing season indicates that there were observations of or interactions with Bighorn Sheep, either during trailing on/off the forest or during the grazing season.

SHEEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. All sheep over six months of age will be considered as a permitted animal.

2. Dates for rotation are to be considered approximate, actual dates will be determined by utilization levels. When utilization levels are reached for a particular unit, or the allotment as a whole, the sheep will be removed.

3. Utilization by livestock of key browse species will not exceed 20% on deer winter range.

CATTLE INSTRUCTIONS

1. All cattle over six months of age at turnout will be considered as a permitted animal.

2. Dates for rotation are to be considered approximate, actual dates will be determined by utilization levels. When utilization levels are reached for a particular unit, the cattle will be removed from that unit and placed in the next unit, or removed from the allotment as a whole if no units remain.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - These lands are owned by the United States Government and managed by the USDA Forest Service for the benefit of all the citizens. Grazing of livestock is an important use of the lands, but campers, hunters, fisherman, woodcutters and others are equally important. Some people do not like the conflict of livestock grazing on the government lands at all and want them removed. As the person responsible for the day to day management of the sheep, your actions are very important in keeping good relations with the public and following those instructions so sheep may continue to graze here as they have for many years. You will encounter other Forest users. Please treat them with courtesy and friendliness. Remember that many people are afraid of dogs. They are particularly uncomfortable with people who carry firearms, and may not understand that your rifle serves the purpose of protecting the sheep from predators.

Your conduct with these people will have a direct impact upon how they view sheep grazing on the Forest. At the same time, you should be aware that many people have never seen bands of sheep or their herders and are delighted to see them. They often want to take pictures or learn more about the sheep and the herders.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS - Improvements will be inspected and maintained to Forest Service standards before livestock enter the allotment. Livestock may be held off the allotment if assigned maintenance is not completed. Allotment management fences and water developments must be maintained prior to your livestock entering the grazing unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained prior to the entry dates of adjoining allotments. Permittee's in non-use status are still responsible for their proportionate share of maintenance.

Beginning in the 2008 grazing season, grazing permittees will be responsible for maintaining exclosures across their allotments in addition to their regular scheduled maintenance. The initial annual maintemance will be preformed by the Forest Service to bring the exclosure to standard and will then be maintained by the premittee for the remainder of the grazing season. It will be your responsibility to keep livestock out of the exclosures and maintain the fences in good condition until the end of your season. The exclosures are as follows:

<u>Third Fork Allotment (See Allotment map for reference)</u>
Pike Mountain Over look

PREDATOR CONTROL - Use of guard dogs is recommended. Predator losses are reduced with the use of guard animals.

LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION - It is agreed that proper salting techniques be used such as placing salt in areas of low natural concentration by the livestock, at least ¼ mile away from water and should not be placed within 100 feet of roads and trails and on ridges accessible to livestock. Salt must not be placed in shaded areas, in meadows or in areas of heavy utilization. Riding will be done to scatter cattle to avoid livestock concentration.

HERDING - The key to proper management of this sheep range is annual once-over grazing, with the exception of designated sheep driveways, travel routes, or where specifically authorized. We realize that sheep will cross certain areas twice as they move to and from corrals, between certain units as well as entering and exiting the allotment. In an effort to minimize soil disturbance and erosion, keep concentrated bands of sheep off steep slopes. If steep hill slopes cannot be avoided, contour across the slope in a loose manner, rather than moving the animals in a tight group directly downhill. Make an effort to graze, rather than trail to water.

HORSES- Care should be used around camping areas so that the herder's horses don't over graze these areas. This may require supplemental feed if you plan to stay in one camp location for any length of time. It is preferred that the herder not have more than two horses at any one time.

CAMPING- The herder is to see that the camp areas are kept clean. All garbage is to be hauled off the Forest. Forest policy is "Pack it in/Pack it out".

FIRE- At no time is a campfire to be left unattended. Campfires must be dead out before leaving camp. If the grazing season turns out to be hot and dry, campfires may be disallowed. Each camp should have a water bucket, a good shovel, and an axe at all times.

RECORDS AND REPORTS- The permittee is required to keep good records concerning movement of livestock to accurately furnish such information to the Forest Service. Actual use reports will be supplied to the Forest Service at the end of the grazing season. All livestock must be counted before they enter the allotment unless the count is waived by the Forest Officer in charge. The Permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District at least five (5) days before the sheep are turned onto the allotment. This will allow district personnel the opportunity to count the livestock if we so desire. Failure to provide these dates will negate the possibility of any future adjustments in season, any credits or refunds and could be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.

OWNERSHIP - Livestock grazed under term permit must be owned by the term permit holder with brand(s) authorized by the permit. Ownership requirements are important and could result in permit action if they are violated. The permittee should review ownership requirements in part II of the Term Grazing Permit or discuss any questions with the Forest Officer.

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS – All permitted livestock found outside the permitted season or permitted area are considered excess use livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action may be taken. Dead livestock on National Forest Lands within 300 feet of a live spring, stream, recreation trail or roadway will be promptly disposed of.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS - Observance, documentation, and reporting of additional uses on the allotment provides valuable information with regard to overall allotment management. These uses could include: unauthorized livestock use, excess use by other permittees, , wildlife, mining related activities, recreation, etc.

OTHER - Observance, documentation, and reporting of additional uses on the allotment provides valuable information with regard to overall allotment management. These uses could include: unauthorized livestock use, excess use by other permittees, wild horses, wildlife, mining related activities, recreation, etc.

If you have any questions or suggestions to improve the management of the allotment, please feel free to contact us. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sid J. Lopez at (208) 737-3273 or stop by the Minidoka District Office at 2306 Hiland Ave. in Burley.

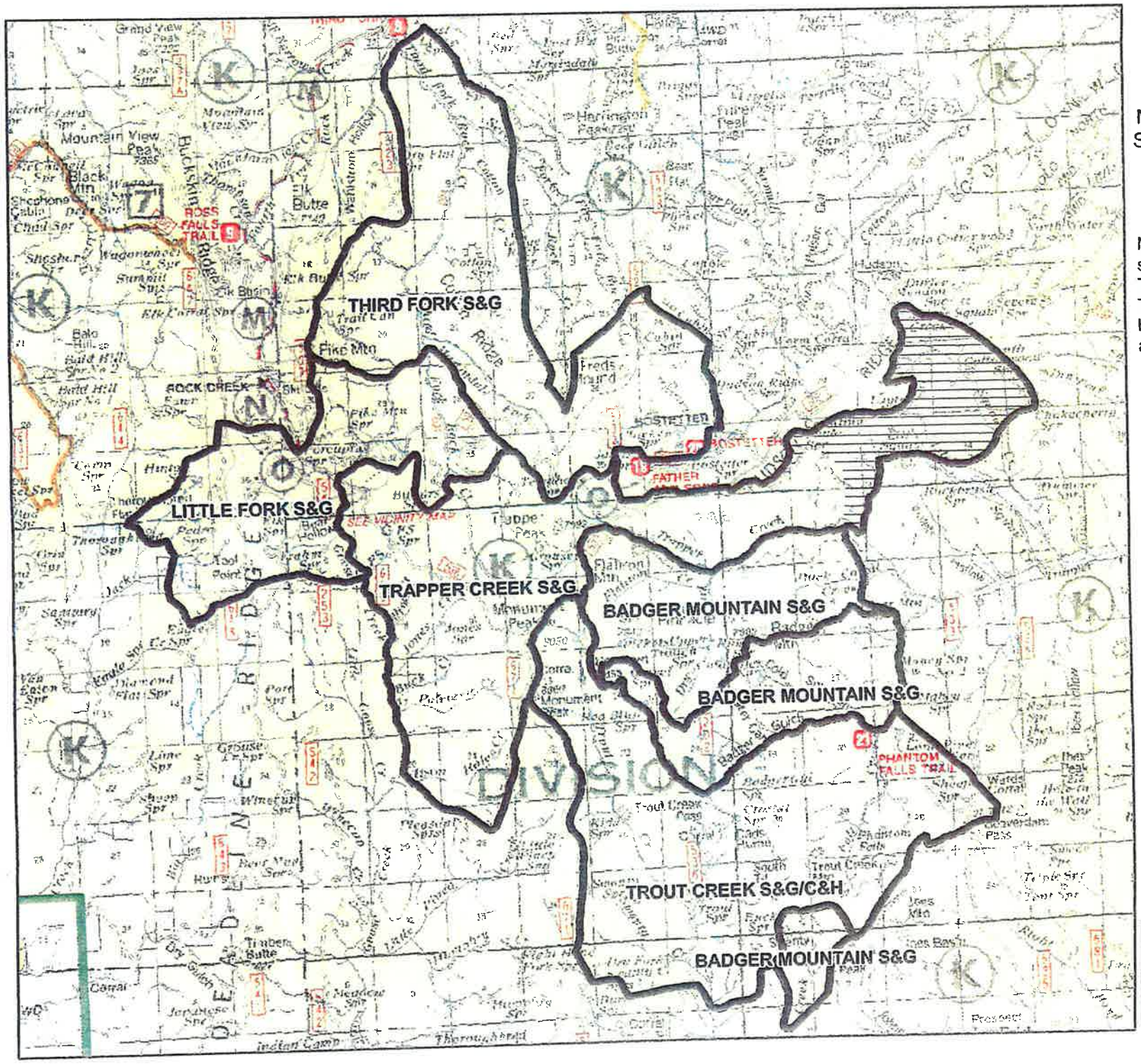
Approved By: Scott Donnegan 5/8/13

District Ranger Date

Pickett Allotments

Cassia Division
Minidoka Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest

4/16/2009

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Note: Common grazing area shown is actually part of Trapper Creek pasture in Trapper Creek Allotment, but is shared by both allotments.