

**Lago Cattle Allotment**  
Annual Operating Instructions  
2013

**1. Permittee and Permitted Livestock**

Listed below are the permittees on the allotment, permitted numbers, and livestock class.

Permittee	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Permitted Season	Season of Use	Class
<b>Paul Mendenhall</b>	159	Non-use	6/11-8/25	6/5-8/25	Cow/calf
<b>Robert Harris</b>	20*	Non-use*			Cow/calf
<b>Tod Jensen</b>	153	153	6/11-8/25	6/11-8/25	Cow/calf
<b>Sherman Wright</b>	70	70	6/11-8/25	6/11-8/25	Cow/calf
<b>Totals</b>	382	223			

\*Robert Harris will be granted non-use for his 20 head on the Lago Allotment and they will be allowed to graze on the Water Canyon Allotment, on a trial basis for three years (2013 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year). If inspections determine that feed is adequate in Water Canyon to support the additional numbers his permit will be changed to reflect the addition in Water Canyon and he will be removed as a permittee on the Lago Allotment.

If you intend to take 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 the terms of your grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

**2. Grazing Rotation**

The Lago Allotment is separated into three units. The allotment is grazed using a deferred rest rotation system that includes the adaptive management strategy. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted depending on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. The season of use dates are tentative; if proper use levels are reached you may have to leave the unit or the allotment prior to your permitted off dates.

**2013 Grazing Rotation**

	South Ant Unit	North Ant Unit	Rocky Knoll Unit
Tod Jensen	1 <sup>st</sup>	Deferred use	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sherman Wright	1 <sup>st</sup>	Deferred use	2 <sup>nd</sup>

Tod and Sherman will graze the South Ant and Rocky Knoll Units for most of the season. Cattle may drift into the North Ant Unit throughout the season. The North Ant Unit will be grazed with fewer numbers in 2013. Utilization standards will be followed in all units.

Time allowed in each unit will be based on distribution of livestock and utilization of key areas. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule can occur.**

### 3. Grazing Standards and Guidelines:

Grazing Standards and Guides covering the allotment are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest*, and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards for this allotment are listed in the table below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached the uplands. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three

#### Riparian Utilization Standards for the Lago C&H Allotment

There are no live streams within the Lago Allotment, therefore only the upland utilization standards listed below are applicable.

#### Upland Utilization Standards for the Lago C&H Allotment

Allowed Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and Herbaceous Species(% Dry Weight)	45	55
Shrubs (Annual Leader Growth)	20	35

There is no Critical Winter Range on the Allotment.

Upland standards on the allotment are shown in the table above. Use in the uplands is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. Winter range is allowed utilization up to 45% on grasses, and non winter range is allowed utilization up to 55% on grasses. **The major part of the allotment, where cattle graze, is considered to be winter range. Since we are trying to control the Poa bulbosa with heavier grazing use, the use standards for winter range (45%) will only be applicable in the second unit (mid to late season)used. The first part of the grazing season from June to mid July will have an allowance of 55% regardless of winter range designation to put grazing pressure on Poa bulbosa and Wyethia. In wet years this will provide time for re-growth before plants become dormant. From mid July to the end of the grazing season allowable use will be 45% resulting in more residual forage. See the attached Winter Range Map.**

As the season progresses Forest personnel will routinely check the range conditions within your allotment. If their monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage, or that other resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts early removal of the livestock from the allotment may be necessary. If the Forest Service requires you to remove your livestock from the allotment before the end of your permitted grazing season you may be eligible for a credit toward next years grazing fees. This credit must be requested in writing when you turn in your Actual Use Form in the fall.

#### **4. Special Instructions:**

Moonlight Meadows needs to be checked regularly to make sure cattle from the allotment are not there.

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.

Riding and proper placement of salt are key practices that can help with distribution. The cattle will be required to leave when proper use is reached.

The spread of noxious weeds on your allotment continues to be a concern. Please report any noxious weeds you find to the Forest Service.

#### **5. Wolf Recovery Management:**

Current Legal Status as taken from the Idaho Fish and Game Web page, 3/22/2012, (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/science/>

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. [PDF, 662 KB]

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.

#### **6. Permittee Responsibilities**

**A. *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.

**B. 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.

**C. Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".

**D. Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your 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:

#### **a. 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.

## **b. 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 stock water ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

## **E. Completion of Forms**

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2013.** 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>Dennis Duehren District Ranger</b>	208) 847-0735	
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-4356	
<b>Jane Rushane Range Specialist</b>	208) 847-0375 208) 847-8939	208) 313- 5683

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2013**



**Accepted By:** /s/ Paul and Angie Mendenhall 3-25-2013  
Date  
**Accepted By:** /s/Tod Jensen  
**Accepted By:** /s/Sherm Wright

**Approved By:** /s/Dennis Duehren 3-25-2013  
District Ranger Date