

**Water Canyon C&H  
Annual Operating Instructions  
2013**

**1. Permittee and Permitted Livestock**

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

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Livestock</b>	<b>Season f Use</b>	<b>Class</b>
<b>Robert Harris</b>	77 *	6/11-8/25	Cow/Calf
<b>Jarom Hubbard</b>	22	6/11-8/25	Cow/Calf
<b>Totals</b>	99		

\*Robert Harris will be grazing 20 head of his cattle from the Lago Allotment on the Water Canyon Allotment for the 2011, 2012, and 2013. If inspections show that the allotment can support the addition then his permit will be changed to show 77 head permitted on Water Canyon.

Harris cattle will begin the grazing season in Pole thief and move to the upper range and Hubbard cattle will start in Water Canyon.

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.

**2. Grazing Rotation**

One of the main problems with keeping the cattle properly distributed on this allotment is the condition of the fences between private land and the Forest. Many of the fences along the boundary are poorly maintained. Exceeding the proper use levels has not been a problem on this allotment and should not be a problem even if all the cattle were to spend the whole season on the allotment.

There are no units within this allotment. The cattle enter the allotment from the west side and are distributed through the allotment at the beginning of the season. Salt will be placed to draw the livestock to the lightly used areas. Place the salt in different locations from year to year. After the salt is placed in a new area it may be necessary to drive the cattle to the salt the first time.

The time allowed on the allotment is based on the distribution of livestock and the utilization of key areas. If monitoring shows that either riparian or upland areas are being over utilized, even if there is adequate feed in surrounding areas, livestock could be required to leave the Forest early.

**3. Grazing Standards and Guidelines**

Standards and Guides covering the allotment are found in the *2005 Caribou National Forest Grazing Implementation Guide* and the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National*

*Forest* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in the tables below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use could include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these.

**Riparian Utilization Standards for the Water Canyon Allotment**

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition	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	35/3	20/6+	35/5

The above standards are guidelines to be followed until site specific standards can be determined.

**Upland Utilization Standards for the Water Canyon Allotment**

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

\*Most of the western 1/2 of the allotment is considered to be Critical Winter Range.

Upland standards on the allotment are shown in the table above. Use in the uplands is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. If an area is considered critical winter range, use levels for the uplands is 35%. Non critical winter range is allowed to be used up to 45%, and non winter range is allowed to be used up to 55%. **Much of the western half of the allotment is considered to be critical winter range. The critical winter range standards, listed above will be applicable for this portion of the allotment. 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.**

This year all AOI's will again 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.

Riparian areas will be monitored during grazing use and after the cattle leave each unit. 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 (riparian and upland utilization standards listed above).

The spread of noxious weeds on the Water Canyon Allotment continues to be a concern. If noxious weeds are located please notify the Forest Service as soon as possible of their location and plan on helping with the treatment.

#### **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**

Springboxes

- 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.** 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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Montpelier Ranger District  
2013**



**Accepted By:** /s/Jarom Hubbard

3-25-2013  
Date

**Accepted By:** /s/Alex Hubbard

**Accepted By:** /s/Ross Harris

**Approved By:**

/s/Dennis Duehren  
District Ranger

3-25-2013  
Date