



File Code: 2210
Date: 2013

Ken Wixom
260 West 300 North
Blackfoot, ID 83221

Dear Ken;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Pole Creek and Bald Mountain Sheep Allotments. These operating instructions are a guide for management on this allotment during the 2013 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, 2013.**

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.

Grazing Schedule

The 2013 order of rotation is outlined in this section. The grazing system is a deferred rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted dependant on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. **Please contact us five (5) days prior to when your sheep will enter the Forest.**

Permitted Numbers and Season of Use

Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Planned Numbers for 2013	Season of Use	Grazing Rotation
Pole Creek	1000	1000	7/1-8/31	*see table*
Bald Mountain	1000	1000	7/1 – 9/5	Counter-Clockwise

Pole Creek Allotment 2012 Grazing Rotation

1st	6th	5th	4th	2nd	3rd
Unit 1- 13 Days	Unit 2- 12 Days	Unit 3- 11 Days	Unit 4- 8 Days	Unit 5 - 12 Days	Unit 6- 10 Days

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.

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.

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.

A. 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*. When establishing the standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will follow directions set forth in Table 1 below. Since there is no Critical Winter Range or Winter Range on your allotments only the standard for non-winter range must be followed.

Table 1 Upland Forage Utilization Standards and Guides

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

B. Riparian Grazing Standards

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP) and The Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* and are part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for your allotments are listed in tables 2 and 3 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 will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Table 2 describes the Proper Functioning Condition rating of the streams as recorded on your allotments.

Table 2 Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

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

Table 3 Riparian Utilization Site Specific Standards

Stream	Proper Functioning Condition Rating	AIZ Stubble Height Standard
Clear Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Pole Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Spring Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk(High)	3/4/5
Iowa Cr.*	Non-functioning	3/4/5
Lake Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Fish Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (High)	3/4/5
Anderson Cr.*	Functioning-at-Risk(Low)	4/5/6+

*These ratings are due to past mining activities

District Trailing Guidelines

- When trailing, sheep must use Forest Service system roads where feasible.
- Trailing while on National Forest System land will be counted as part of a permittee's permitted days.
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the permitted allotment.
- Do not overnight sheep in the same location where an earlier band of sheep bedded.

Permittee Responsibilities

1. "Once-over" grazing and open herding is to be practiced on all allotments.
2. Sheep are to bed in new locations each night. Sheep should be encouraged to bed in places other than ridges.
3. Sheep should not be allowed to bed near streams, ponds, springs, or on Forest System roads and trails. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Sheep should be encouraged to water early in the day and then moved off water.
4. Ensure the herder leaves a sanitary and clean campsite.
5. Salt should be placed in areas away from water, riparian areas, forest plantations, ridges, shade-up areas, Forest System roads and trails, and bed grounds. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.
6. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free". If you are found to be using uncertified hay or straw, a violation notice and/or permit action may be taken.
7. When trailing on Forest Service Lands, at least two herders will be used to ensure traffic movement. Contact the Soda Springs Office prior to trailing on in the spring, and trailing off in the fall.

While trailing on the Soda Springs district you are required to use the McCoy Creek Road to trail your sheep bands permitted on the Palisades District. Please notify this office prior to trailing to and from your allotment so that we can monitor the conditions of the road prior to and immediately after trailing. Please do not use the road if conditions are extremely wet or during high traffic weekends.

8. Report all fires to the District Office immediately (208) 547-4356.
9. All improvements listed in Part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout 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 in Part 3 of your permit.

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, 2013.** 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.

	Office	Cell
Jack Isaacs District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-1108	208)313-7328
Garth Nelson Range Specialist	208) 547-1113 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7910

**Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Pole Creek and Bald Mountain
S&G Allotments
2013**



Accepted By:

/s/ Ken Wixom
Ken Wixom

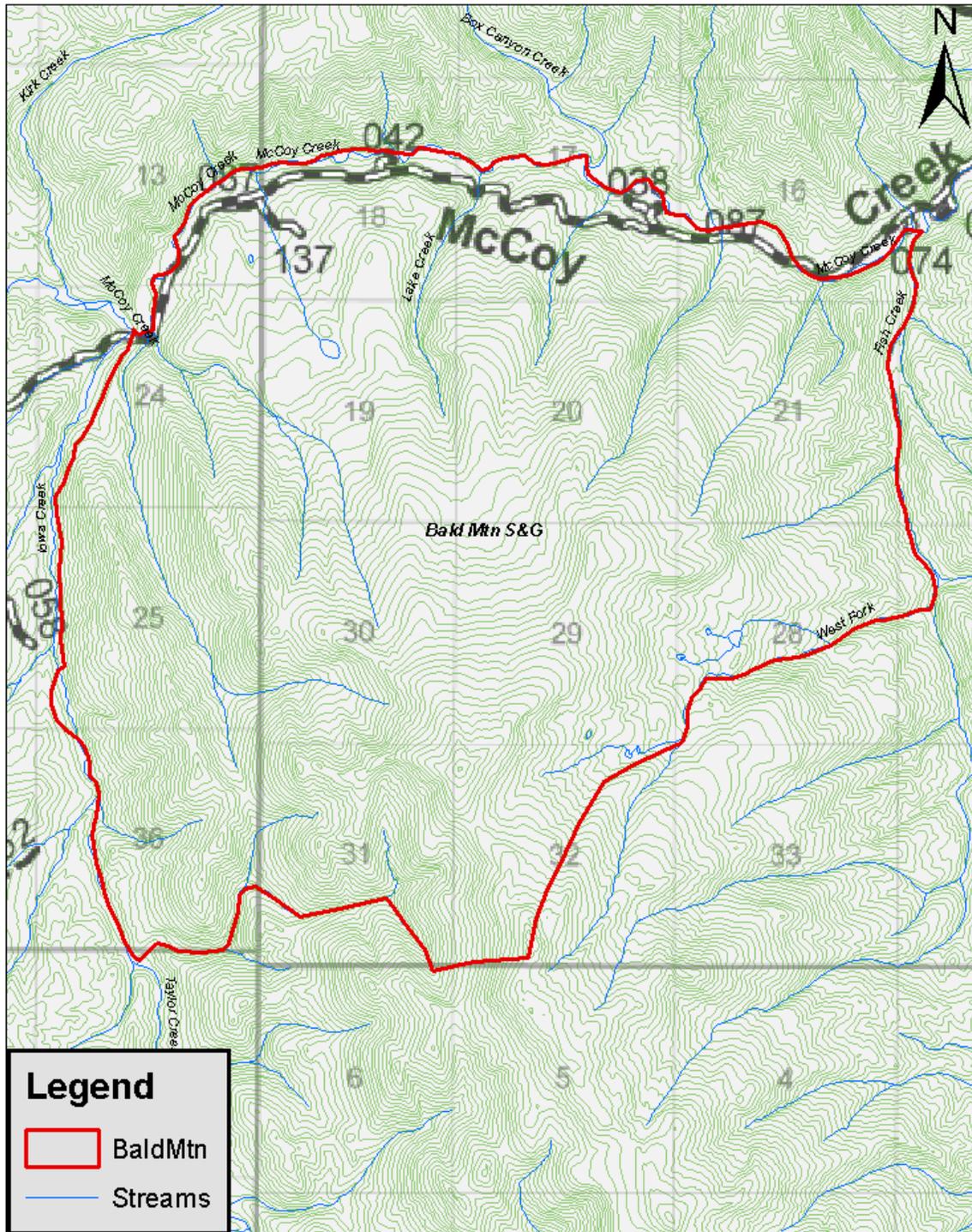
6/4/2013
Date

Approved By:

/s/ Dennis Duehren
Dennis Duehren
District Ranger

6/4/2013
Date

Bald Mountain S&G



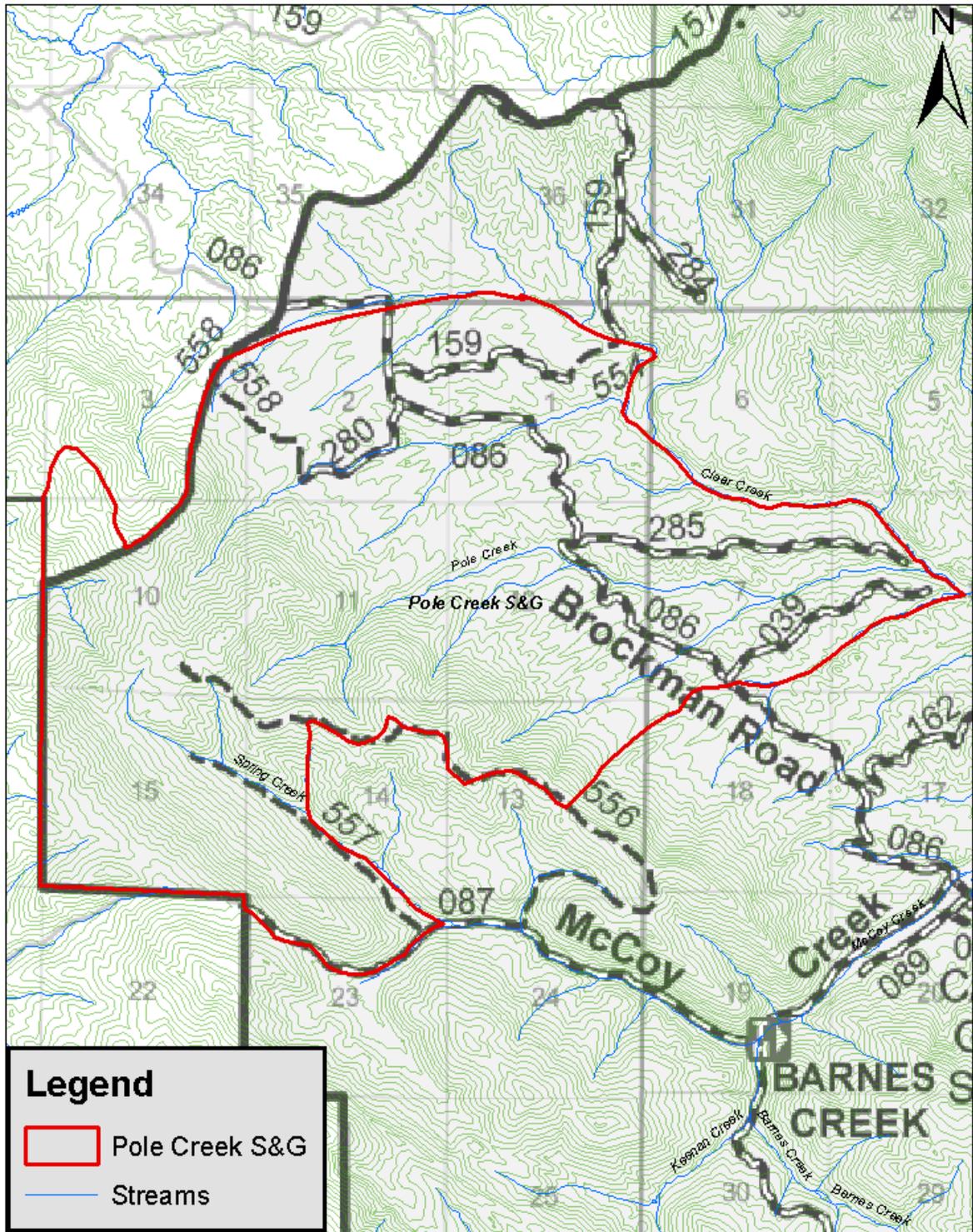
Legend

-  BaldMtn
-  Streams

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

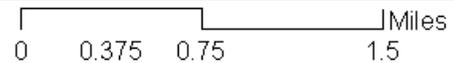
G. Nelson 3/2012

Pole Creek S&G



Legend

- Pole Creek S&G
- Streams



G. Nelson 3/2012