



File Code: 2210

Date: 2013

Dear Permittee;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment. These Instructions are guidelines for managing 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.**

Permittee and Permitted Livestock

Listed below are the permittees on the allotment, permitted livestock numbers, and season of use.

Permittees	Class	Permitted Numbers	Season of Use
Phillip and Judy Geddes	Cow/calf	25	6/11-9/30
O.W. Ranch, Inc.	Cow/calf	439	6/11-9/30

Approximate Grazing Rotation Schedule

Year	Behind Ken's place (Unit 1)	Lincoln Canyon (Unit 3)	Bridge Creek (Unit 2/5)	Muddy Creek (Unit 4)
2013	6/11-7/26**	7/14-8/18	8/19-9/30	6/11-7/13**
2014	6/11-7/26**	7/14-8/18	8/19-9/30	6/11-7/13**
2015	6/11-7/26**	8/31-9/30	7/14-8/30	6/11-7/13**

**Start rotation with 186 head in the unit behind Ken's place and 278 head in the Muddy Creek Unit. Animals in the Muddy Creek Unit will move to the next unit in the rotation before animals in the unit behind Ken's place.

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. Time allowed in each unit will be based on distribution of livestock, and utilization of key areas. 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 be moved to the next unit. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule and/or standards are followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted depending on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. **Contact us 5 days prior to when your cattle will enter the Forest.**



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.

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.

When proper use is reached the cattle must be moved. If unauthorized cattle are found please notify the Soda Springs Office as soon as possible at (208) 547-4356.

You will be issued a 2012 Caribou-Targhee National Forest permit for travel off designated routes. When you carry this permit it authorizes you to travel off of designated routes with an ATV for the purpose of **maintaining improvements and spraying weeds. It does not authorize you to travel off designated routes to salt or check animals.**

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.

Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* and the 2004 EastBridge Cattle EIS, and are now made part of your

permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one through four 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 1. 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	35/3	20/6+	35/5

Site Specific Riparian Forage Utilization Standards

If it is determined that bank disturbance/alteration, greenline stubble height or woody/shrubby species utilization should replace the utilization triggers listed above it will be addressed in the site specific standards below. Riparian site specific standards will be established when a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the Grazing Implementation Guide dated 12/28/2005. If a site specific PFC rating has not been conducted on a riparian area the Range Specialist will follow the standards listed in Table 1 above until a PFC rating has been completed.

Table 2 Site Specific Standards

Stream	Stream Rating	Stream Group	Greenline Stubble Height	% Utilization in AIZ	Annual % Bank disturbance
Harrison Creek	Functioning at Risk (Moderate)	B3	3/4/5	55/45/35	20%
Bridge Creek	Functioning at Risk (Moderate)	E4	3/4/5	55/45/35	20%
Tincup Creek	Functioning at Risk (High)	F3	3/4/5	55/45/35	20%

*Note: If you were grazing Bridge Creek early in the grazing season you must leave a stubble height of three inches remaining at the greenline. If you were grazing Bridge Creek mid season you would be required to leave a stubble height of four inches at the greenline, and late in the season you would have to leave five inches at the greenline.

Upland Utilization Guidelines

Utilization of upland vegetation is based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Use should be measured on key grass species such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.).

Table 3 Upland Forage Utilization Levels

Vegetation Component	Allowable Percent Utilization
Grasses and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	55%
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	35%

Table 4 Upland Forage Utilization Levels in Wildlife Winter Range

Vegetation Component	Allowable Percent Utilization
Grasses and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	45%
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	20%

Parts of Unit 1 are considered to be wildlife winter range habitat. Follow the winter range upland grazing use standards listed above in Table 4 while grazing Unit 1 (Behind Ken's Place).

Permittee Responsibilities

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".
- 4. Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A copy has been attached to this AOI for your convenience. A delay in livestock turnout on the **Bridge Creek** 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:

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.

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

Permittees and consultants are encouraged to accompany us on range inspections that are conducted on the Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment.

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.

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.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

	Office	Cell
Jack Isaacs District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 5471108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
Garth Nelson Range Specialist	208) 547-1113	208) 313- 7910

**Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Caribou Basin C&H Allotment
2013**



Accepted By:

/S/ Ken O'Brien
Ken O'Brian

6/3/2013
Date

Accepted By:

/S/ Phil Geddes
Phil Geddes

6/3/2013
Date

Approved By:

/S/ Dennis Duehren
Dennis Duehren

6/3/2013
Date