United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Soda Springs Ranger District | 410 East Hooper Avenue
Soda Springs, ID 83276
(208) 547-4356

File Code: 2210
Date: 2013

Dear Permittee;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Caribou Basin Cattle Allotment. 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.**

Permittee and Permitted Livestock

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

PERMITTEE	PERMITTED NUMBER	AUTHORIZED USE	SEASON OF USE
Shanon Christensen	136 cow/calf	136	6/11-9/30
Brad Christensen	100 cow/calf	100	6/11-9/30
Vic Hill	106 cow/calf	106	6/11-9/30

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 rotation is outlined in this section. The Caribou Basin Allotment is separated into 4 units. The grazing system is a deferred-rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted depending on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. Please contact us 5 days prior to turn out.

Rotation Schedule 2013 (112 days)

Order	Unit #1	Unit #2	Unit #3	Unit #4
Unit	7/11-8/1	6/11-7/11	9/6-9/30	8/1-9/6
Days	21 Days	30 days	25 Days	36 Days

2014 rotation (1234), 2013 Rotation (2143), rotate every other year between these two rotations.

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 show 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 is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.

Documented Use for the 2012 Grazing Season

Monitoring Site	Percent Use	Allowable use
Unit 1	17% Upland	55%
Unit 2	10% Upland	55%
Unit 3	25% Upland	55%

Utilization Standards

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* and the 2005 *Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and three 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	35/5	20/6+	35/5

Utilization standards drop down one level when a stream is listed as 303-D or when sensitive species are present. Miners Delight and Camp Creek do have Yellowstone Cutthroat which is a sensitive species. The site specific utilization standards due to the presence of these fish are listed in Table 2 below.

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 standards for the area will be established by the Range Specialist on the allotment.

Table 2 PFC Ratings by Stream and Allowable Utilization in AIZ*

Unit	Key Area	Stream Condition Rating	Rating due to sensitive species presence	Use allowed due to sensitive species (%/Stubble Height)
Unit # 1 And Unit #4	Miners Delight Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk-High	Functioning-at-Risk-Moderate	55/3 early season 45/4 mid season 35/5 late season
Unit # 2 and Unit #3	Camp Creek	Functioning-at-Risk-Moderate	Functioning-at-Risk-Low	45/4 early season 35/5 mid season 20/6 late season

*AIZ, Aquatic Influence Zone

Upland Utilization Standards

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. **Key grass species** include Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoenis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia* (Agropyron) *spicata*), tufted hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa) and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*).

Table 3 Upland Utilization Standards

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area
	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	55
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	35

There are no areas listed as winter range within the Caribou Basin Allotment

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.

Horses are not allowed within the Caribou Basin Administrative site.

You will be issued a 2013 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.**

If cattle begin to congregate at gates, and riding does not effectively redistribute them; the entire herd will be moved to the next unit or off the Forest.

If sheep are spending too much time on your allotment or not staying near the

road while trailing, contact us.

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.

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, main roads (i.e. McCoy Creek road #087, Caribou City road #165), or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse or hiring a packhorse is recommended to get salt into non-motorized areas and areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving heavy use. Specifically, do not salt near the McCoy Creek road. You may distribute salt using Forest Roads #215, #164, #056, and #058. The McCoy Creek road receives heavy traffic from the public and for concerns for public safety and cattle congregating near high traffic areas we would recommend not salting along main roads.

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 **Caribou Basin** 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.

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.

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.

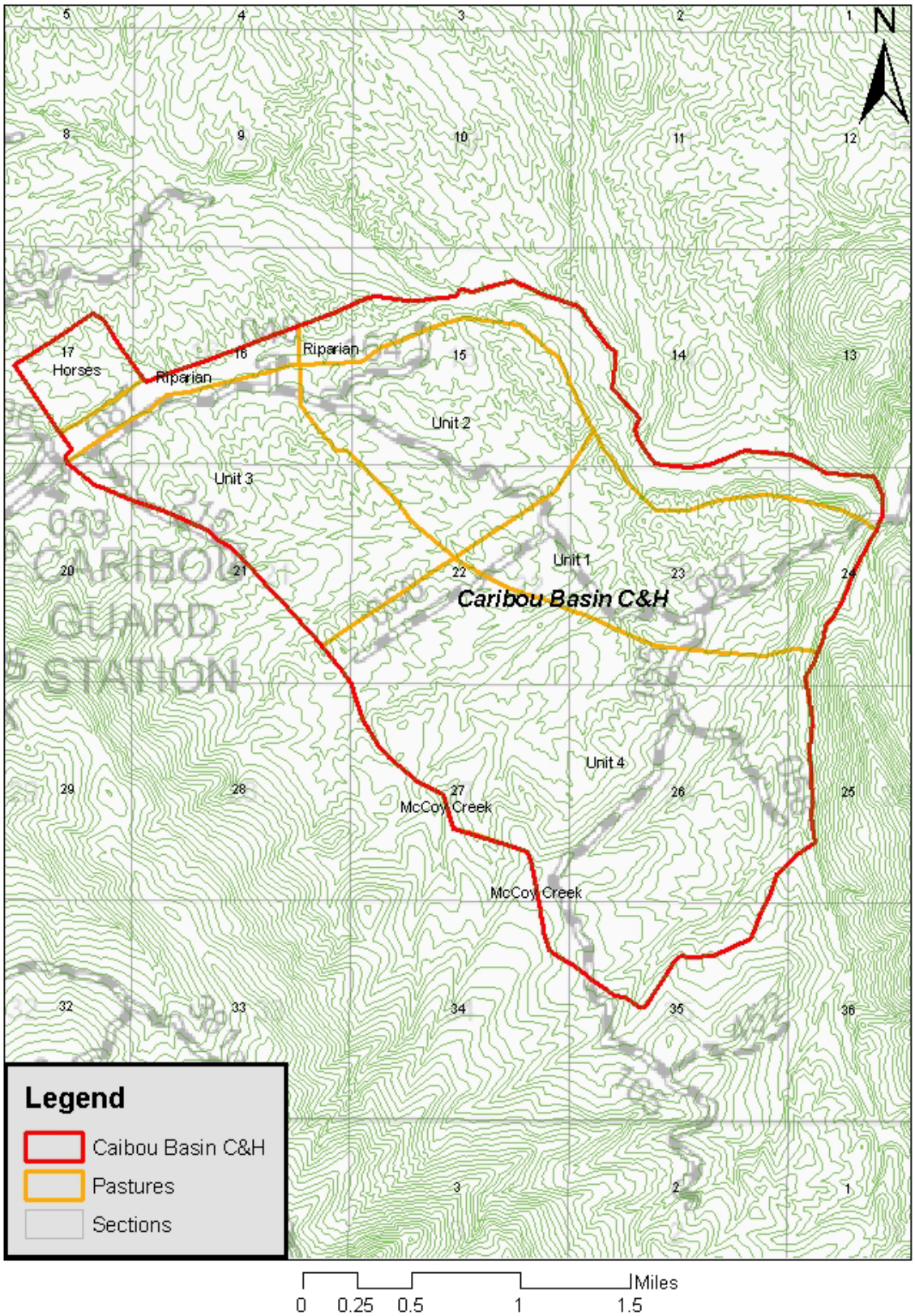
	Office	**Cell**
Jack Isaacs **District Ranger**	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker **Supervisory Range Specialist**	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
Garth Nelson **Range Specialist**	208) 547-1113	208) 313-7910

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

Accepted By: _____*/S/ Vic Hill*_____ 6/3/2013 _____
Vic Hill **Date**

Accepted By: ____*/S/ Brad Christensen*_____ 6/3/2013____
Brad Christensen **Date**

Accepted By: __*/S/ Shanon Christensen* 6/3/2013_____
Shanon Christensen **Date**

Approved By: __ /s/ Dennis Duehren 6/3/2013 __
Dennis Duehren **Date**
District Ranger

Caribou Basin C&H Boundary & Pastures