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

Lynn Rasmussen
168 Lago Liberty Road
Grace, ID 83241

Dear Lynn;
These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Diamond 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.**

1. Permittee and Permitted Livestock

Permittee	Permitted Livestock	Season f Use	Class
Lynn Rasmussen	280	6/11-10/10	Cow/Calf

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 the terms of your grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit**.**

2. Grazing Rotation

The order of unit rotation is outlined in this section. 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 five days prior to when your cattle will enter the Forest.

2013 Grazing Rotation

Unit	4	3	2	1b	1a
Season	6/11-6/28	6/28-7/30	7/30-8/29	8/29-9/10	9/10-10/10
#days	18	32	30	12	30

These dates and days are tentative and will depend on utilization of key areas.

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. **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 2 Bear Flat	23.5% Upland	55%
Unit 4	25.5% Upland	55%

3. Grazing Standards and Guidelines

The riparian grazing standards and guides for the allotment are found in the *Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide Version 1-2, 2005(GIG),* these standards and are now made a part of your permit. Once these standards are met you must keep cattle out of the area or move to the next pasture. If you have used all the pastures then you will have to take livestock home.

Diamond Creek is one of the main riparian areas on the allotment and it will be monitored as a trigger for use. This stream is also currently listed under the 303-D listing for bacteria. To improve the overall water quality it is important to maintain the functionality of the riparian area. Diamond Creek is currently in Stream Group 11 (SG-11). Standards from the GIG for SG-11 stream types are displayed in Table 3-1. These standards are specific to the pastures that Diamond Creek flows through.

Utilization standards become more restrictive by one level when a stream is listed 303-D; this is the case with Diamond Creek. Diamond Creek was Functioning at Risk high in 2010 on the lower reach (Units 1,2,3) and at Proper Functioning Condition in the upper reach (Unit 4).

Stubble heights allowed in all units of the allotment on Diamond Creek are: early season- 5 inches, mid season-6 inches, late season-8 inches

Bank disturbance is not allowed to exceed 15%, in any unit.

Table 3-1. Site Specific Riparian Utilization Standards for Diamond Creek

PFC Ratings for Diamond Creek and Allowable Utilization

Unit	Key Area	Stream Condition Rating	Rating used due to 303-d listing	Use allowed due to 303-d listing (%/Stubble Height)
Units 1, 2, 3	Below Stewart.	Functioning-at-Risk-High	Functioning-at-Risk-Moderate	5 early season 6 mid season 8 late season
Unit# 4,	Above Stewart	Proper Functioning Condition	Functioning-at-Risk-High	5 early season 6 mid season 8 late season

Vegetation sampling will be conducted along the Greenline

The three Greenline values shown in table 3-1 are relevant to early season, mid season and late season of use. Early season use would begin at the start of the growing season until July 15th, mid season July 16th to August 15th and late August 16th to end of growing season.

Table 3-2. Riparian Utilization Standards for streams other than Diamond Creek

Vegetation sampling will be conducted within the (AIZ)

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**

For table 3-2 the first number in the box is the percentage of the key vegetation that is allowed to be used: the second number is the stubble height of key species.

Table 3-3. Upland Utilization Standards for the Diamond Creek Allotment

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

Upland standards for the uplands are shown in Table 3-3 above; use is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. **The Diamond Creek C&H Allotment has no areas that are considered to be winter range or critical winter range.**

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.

It is very important to make certain that the cattle do not use the riparian areas too heavily. Riparian areas will be monitored during grazing use and after the cattle leave each unit. If riparian areas show heavier use than the allowable standards at the end of the units grazing season you will not be allowed to continue with full numbers in the future. Riding and proper placement of salt are key practices that can help with distribution.

You will be issued a 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.**

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***

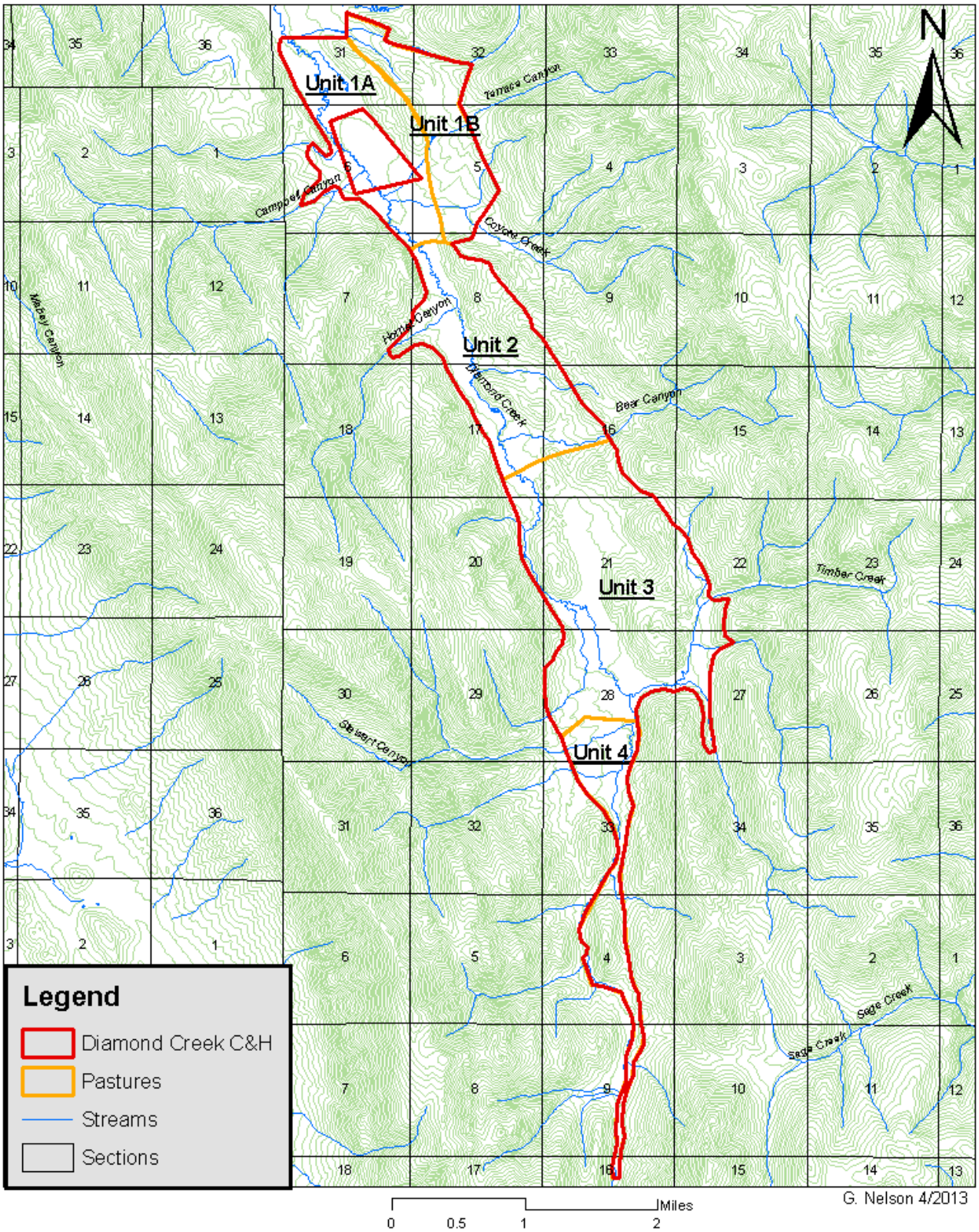
Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

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.

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

Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Diamond Creek C&H Allotment
2013

Accepted By: ___ */s/Lynn Rasmussen* ___ 6/3/2013 _
Lynn Rasmussen **Date**

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

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