



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: February 20, 2013

Keith Bitton
President
Dry Valley Cattlemen's Assn.
397 Fish Hatchery Road
Grace, ID 83241

Dear Keith;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Dry Valley 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, 2013.**

Permittee and Permitted Livestock

Listed below are the permittees on the allotment, permitted numbers, head months, and private land numbers.

Permittee	Season of use	Permitted Numbers	Class	Head Months	Private Land No.	Total
Bitton, Keith	6/6-9/20	556	Cow/Calf	1956	31	587
Blotter, Tom or Jill	6/6-9/20	496	Cow/Calf	1745	28	524
Hulme Ranch LLC	6/6-9/20	85	Cow/Calf	299	5	90
Jensen, Matt or Mary	6/6-9/20	26	Cow/Calf	92	1	27
J.R. Ream Ranch	6/6-9/20	151	Cow/Calf	531	8	159
Stucki, John R.	6/6-9/20	190	Cow/Calf	668	11	201
Total		1504		5291	84	1588

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 below. The Dry Valley Allotment is separated into three divisions with three units in two of the divisions and six units in the other division. The grazing system is



a deferred-rotation system. The on date may be adjusted depending on range readiness and if a change is necessary you will be notified.

2013 Johnson / Slug Divison

Permittee	Number	Johnson Flat #1	Petterson Canyon #2	Huckleberry Basin#3	Green Basin #5	N. Slug Creek #4	S. Slug Creek #6
Blotter	464	6/6-6/16	6/17-6/25	6/26-7/10	7/11-7/24	7/25-8/19	8/20-9/20
Total	464	11 days	9 days	15 days	14 days	26 days	32 days

2013 South Dry Valley

Permittee	Number	Unit 7 East of RR and South Windmill	Reseeding	Unit 9- Dry Basin West of RR
Blotter	60	7/11-8/20	6/6-7/11	8/20-9/20
Hulme	90	“	“	“
Ream Ranch	159	“	“	“
Stucki	201	“	“	“
Total	510	37 days	38	32

2013 North Dry Valley

Permittee	Number	Unit 10 Lone-tree	Unit 12-East of RR	Unit 11 West of RR and Mine Dumps
Bitton	587	6/6-7/5	7/6-8/7	8/8-9/20
Jensen	27	“	“	“
Total	614	30 days	33 days	44 days

*** Currently there is no new information on the future mining activities. As you know reductions in grazing could accrue due to the mining. J.R. Simplot has purchased the state land in section 16. Section 16 will be grazed until Simplot says otherwise.**

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 manage the cattle and use levels on the allotment. Once use standards are met livestock need to be moved to the next pasture or taken home. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

Grazing Standards and Guides

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest*, the *Dry Valley Allotment Management Plan*, or the *Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Guide, Version 1-2*, 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 will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Site-specific riparian standards for the Dry Valley Allotment- early, mid, and late Season grazing*: Table 1

Stream	Rating	Forage Utilization Standard*	Bank Disturbance One year percent
Johnson Creek	Functioning- At Risk (Moderate)	3"/4"/5" AIZ- Stubble Height 55%, 45%, 35% total use	20%
Slug Creek	Functioning -At Risk/High	3"/4"/5" AIZ- Stubble Height 55%, 45%, 35% total use	20%
Goodheart Creek	Functioning- At Risk (Moderate)	3"/4"/5" AIZ- Stubble Height 55%, 45%, 35% total use	20%
Lonetree Creek	Functioning- At Risk (Moderate)	3"/4"/5" AIZ- Stubble Height 55%, 45%, 35% total use	20%

*Early season is up to July 15, Mid-season is from July 16 through August 15, and late season is after August 15.

The standards in the table above are the riparian forage utilization standards that will be applied.

Upland Utilization Guidelines

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 idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*).

There is no critical winter range on the allotment, but Slug Creek, Lone Tree, Dry Basin and both units west of the railroad tracks have considerable winter range. The winter range is displayed in blue on the attached Winter Range Map.

Use on lands designated as winter range is 45%; on all other upland sites use will be allowed up to 55% (Table 2).

Upland Grazing Standards Table 2

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Non Winter Range	Winter Range	Critical Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	55	45	35
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	35	20	10

Special Instructions

The reconstruction of the Lonetree Spring Pipeline is completed. Old pipe, troughs, and other trash left after last years pipeline construction needs to be cleaned up and hauled off. The pipe reels need to be removed off of the forest.

Elevated selenium levels have been identified in vegetation and water associated with mining. Sampling of these areas may be conducted again this season. Mined areas that have been released for grazing may be used this year if you desire. However, you need to be aware of the risks involved and should be familiar with the symptoms of selenium poisoning for your animals protection. If you have additional concerns please contact me or Kevin Parker.

You have been 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.**

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 the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Grazing Fees must be paid and notice received in this office of payment before livestock can enter the Forest.

Wolf Recovery Management:

The following statement came from the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11.
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

Current Legal Status

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, forest system roads and trails, 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 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 completely "cleaned" out of past units within a week of 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 Dry Valley 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, and read the instructions in Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit. **The Actual Use Forms must be returned by November 30 following the grazing season; failure to do so may result in Permit Action.**

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.

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) 547-1107 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7910 208) 220-2814

Sincerely,

JACK L. ISAACS
District Ranger

Enclosures

