



File Code: 2210
Date: 3/25/2013

Randall Luthi
Secretary
Jackknife Cattleman's Assn.
3006 Stateline Road
Freedom, WY 83120

Dear Randall;

Enclosed is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Jackknife 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

Allotment	Season of Use	Shareholders	Permitted Numbers
Jackknife	6/6-10/10	6	585

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.

Livestock Numbers for 2013

Number	Permittees	Season of Use
585	Jackknife Association	June 6 to October 10

Grazing Rotation

The 2013 order of unit rotation is outlined in this section. The Jackknife Allotment will be grazed as one division with 6 units. The grazing system is a modified high intensity-short duration 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 when your cattle will enter the Forest.**



2013 Rotation

Pasture	*Luthi	*Reseed	Haderlie	Cabin Creek	Squaw Creek	Homestead
	6/6 – 7/17	6/6 – 7/17	7/17-8/1	8/2 – 8/20	8/20 –9/5	9/6 – 10/10
	1 Cow/calf	1 Cow/calf	2 Cow/calf	3 Cow/calf	4 Cow/calf	

*Start By splitting the herd in Luthis and Reseed. Once the proper number of days or utilization level has been reached combine the two herds and follow the rest of the rotation as stated above.

The association should back ride units to make sure livestock have not moved into previously used pastures. The dates shown above area tentative and standards will determine how long a unit can be used. If standards are met in a pasture prior to the date shown cattle will have to be moved to the next unit. If standards are met on all pastures prior to the off date cattle will have to leave the allotment early. The schedule outlined 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.

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 accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it

Control of cattle is especially important in units that adjoin the sheep allotments. **Use in riparian areas will determine how long cattle stay in a particular unit.** A full time herder (one that stays with the cattle) is highly recommended again this year.

You can request 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.**

Wolf Recovery Management:

Current Legal Status

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.

Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Direction for Standards and Guides covering the allotments are spelled out in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan (RFP) for the Caribou National Forest*, the *2005 Caribou National Forest Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)*, or the 2004 Eastbridge Cattle (AMP) revision. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one, two, and three below and consist of a mixture of all three of these documents. If a Proper Functioning Conditioning rating (PFC) is not established and the stream was not addressed in the AMP use levels will fall back on the RFP. If a stream has a PFC rating and was not specifically addressed in the AMP the GIG will be used to establish standards shown in Table 1 & 2. If a stream was addressed in the AMP use standards will be spelled out in the AMP (Table 2).

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

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 PFC rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the latest GIG. 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. The Range Specialist will follow the standards listed in Table 1 above until a PFC rating has been completed.

Site-specific riparian standards for the Jackknife Allotment: (Table 2)

Stream	(PFC)Rating	Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ) forage stubble height at the end of the grazing season
Haderlie	Functioning at Risk (High)	3/4/5
Luthi	Functioning at Risk (High)	3/4/5
Jackknife	Functioning at Risk (Moderate)	6/8/8 Green Line ¹
Squaw	Functioning at Risk (High)	3/4/5
Yellowjacket	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4
Cabin	Functioning at Risk (High)	3/4/5
Deep	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4
Raymond	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4

¹ During the writing of the 2004 Eastbridge AMP it was decided that even though Jackknife Creek was given a PFC of Functioning at risk, the standards would be set at 6/8/8 along the Green Line. When measuring utilization along Jackknife Creek the green line stubble height will be the measurement used, and not the (AIZ) utilization.

The three AIZ values shown in table 2 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. These dates are a guide to the season of use. Climate, elevation and temperature may result in adjustments to the season of use. It should also be noted that these values could change based on the presence of sensitive fish species or 303d listing by the State of Idaho.

Upland Utilization Guidelines

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring will include using utilization cages or gauges, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of them all. **Upland utilization will be monitored on key grass species** such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or **key shrub species** such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*).

(Table 3)

Forage Type	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non-Winter Range
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	35%	45%	55%
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	10%	20%	35%

Much of the Jackknife Allotment falls within 'Critical Winter Range Habitat'. Refer to attached map of winter range. Use on those areas designated as Critical Winter Range will be set at 35%.

Table 4 below, outlines the utilizations measurements that were taken throughout the 2011 grazing season on the Jackknife Allotment. For further detail on inspections, refer to the 2011 season allotment inspection notes.

Table 4

2011 Monitoring Results Jackknife Cattle and Horse Allotment			
Unit/ Monitoring site	Species	Monitored Use	Allowable Use
Reseed Unit Near Hd of Raymond CR	Poa Pratensis	35%	35%
Haderlie Cr Unit	Mountain Brome	35%	35%
Cabin Cr Unit	Poa Pratensis	35%	35%
Reseed Unit	Intermediate Wheatgrass	30%	35%
Above Areas All Lie within the Critical Winter Range Prescription and have a 35% Utilization Standard. Below are the utilizations as recorded on the areas of the Allotment not within the Critical Winter Range Prescription.			
Squaw Cr Unit	Mountain Brome	17%	55%

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 AOP for your convenience. A delay in livestock turnout on the Jackknife 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.

Letdown Fences

- Letdown 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 letdown spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

Water Development Maintenance Standards

Spring boxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from head boxes.
- Damaged head box 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 head box. 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. Plugged pipelines should be cleaned.
- 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.

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.

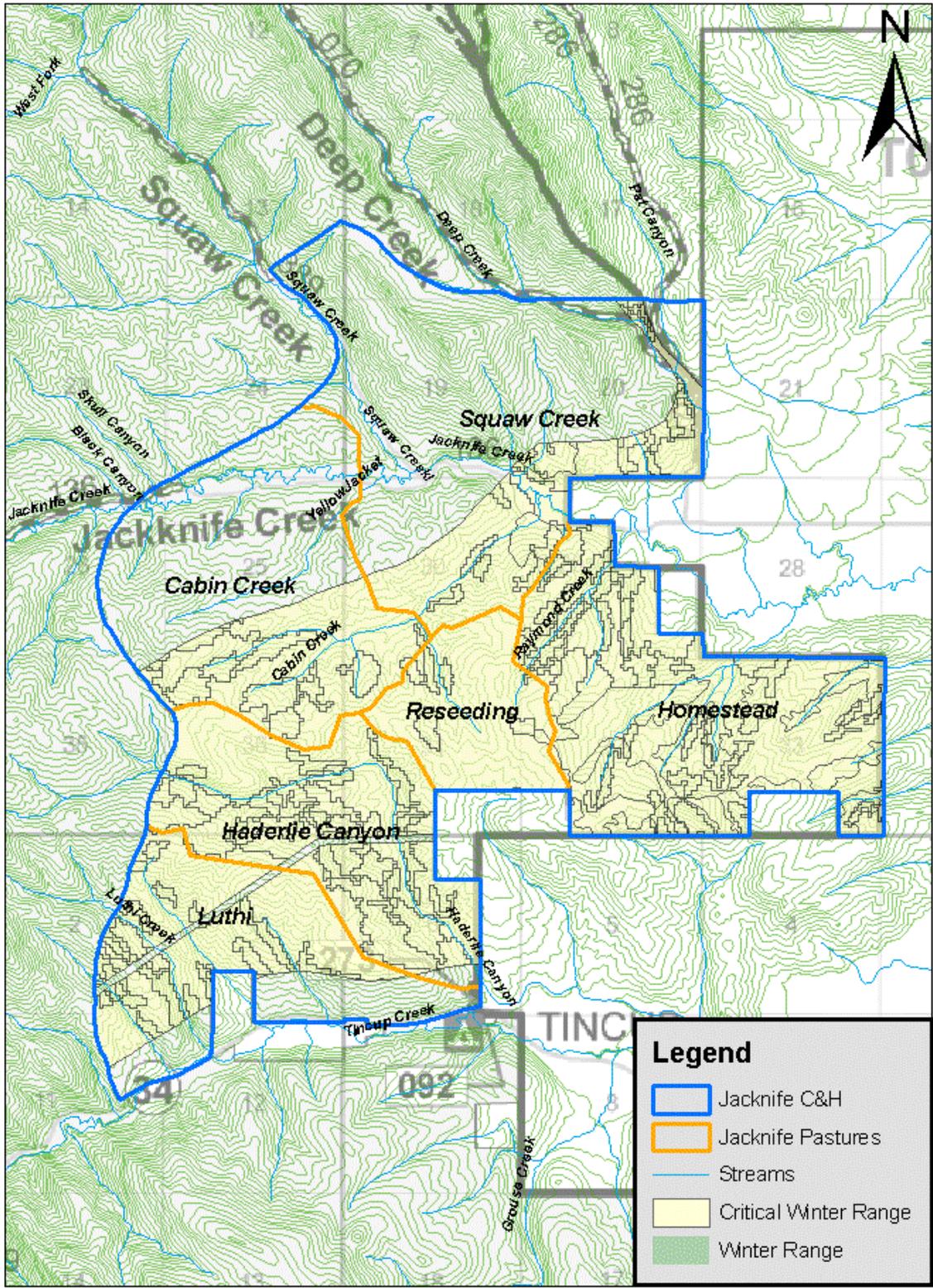
If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office	Cell
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
Garth Nelson (208) 547-4356 (208) 313-7910		

SINCERELY,

JACK L. ISAACS
District Ranger

Jackknife C&H



0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

G. Nelson 3/2012