



File Code: 2210

Date: April 23, 2013

Dear Permittee;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Rasmussen Valley 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

Table 1-1

Permittee	Permitted Livestock	Season of Use	Class
Jorgensen Cattle	173	6/11-9/30	Cow/Calf
Sagwich L&L Co.	207*	6/11-9/30	Cow/Calf
Totals	378		

*This permit is for 205 head. He is billed for two extra head for Forest land that is fenced in with Wanlass' private land.

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.

2. Grazing Rotation

The grazing rotation sequence is outlined in this section. 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.

Unit 1A, Sheep Creek, is no longer suitable for grazing due to the phosphate mining that is taking place there. This unit will not be grazed again until the mining activity decreases.

Jorgensen's cattle will start in the unit 2B, Little Long Valley, and Wanlass' cattle will start in Unit 2A, the west side of Rasmussen Valley. Next, all the cattle will move to Unit 1B north of the haul road. When proper use is reached in that unit Wanlass' cattle will move to Unit 3A east of the corral and Jorgensen's cattle will go to Unit 3B along the Blackfoot River Road. Since the Sheep Creek unit is not available livestock use must be monitored closely to make certain proper use levels are not exceeded. If the riparian or upland monitoring shows that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate forage in surrounding areas, livestock will be moved to the next unit or taken home.



Unit 1A Sheep Creek	Unit #2A West Side Rasmussen Valley	Unit #2B Little Long Valley	Unit 1B West of Mine	Unit #3A East of Corral	Unit #3B Blackfoot River Road
Not available due to mining activity	65 Days	65 days	25 Days	17 Days	17 Days
	3st Wanlass	3st Jorgensen	2nd Both	1rd Wanlass	1rd Jorgensen

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.**

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 were developed after the *Rasmussen Valley Allotment Management Plan* dated 5/19/97 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 all the pastures have been used prior to your off date you will have to move off the allotment early.

Table 3-1.

Site Specific Greenline Riparian Standards

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	4	5	6	5
Summer	6	6	8	6
Fall	6	8	8	8

Greenline stubble will be monitored along Angus Creek and used as a trigger for determining when livestock should move. There are selenium issues within the headwaters of Angus Creek, which is associated with the settling pond and upper mine dumps. Angus Creek is also currently listed under the 303-D listing for bacteria. Angus Creek is currently in Stream Group 11 (SG-11). Standards from the GIG for SG-11 stream types are displayed in Table 3-1 above. In units 2B and 3A Angus Creek is in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC), however with the stream

being listed as 303-D standards drop down one level to Functioning at risk High column in table 3-1.

Those streams outside of Angus Creek will be monitored within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ). Table 3-2 will be used for establishes AIZ standards on the allotment. 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 3-2. AIZ Utilization Standards

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	35/5	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 on Non-natives: the second number is the stubble height that should be remaining if Native species are monitored.

Upland standards on the allotment are shown in Table 3-3 and Map 1. Within the allotment there are several areas designated as Winter Range these areas will have upland standards of 45%. Upland areas not designated as Winter Range will have use standards established at 55%.

Table 3-3. Upland Utilization Standards

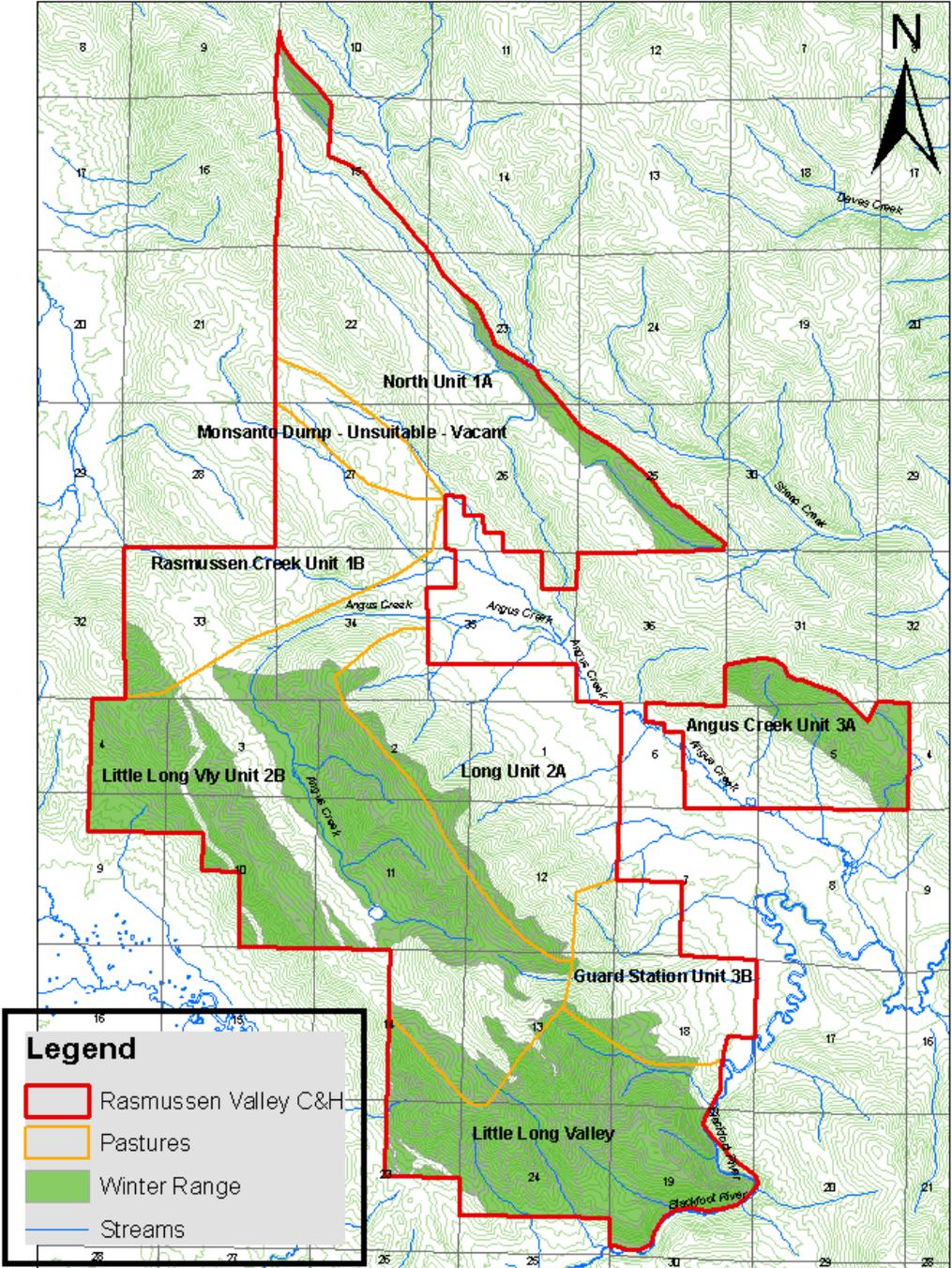
Allowed Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and Herbaceous Species(% Dry Weight)	45	55
Shrubs (Annual Leader Growth)	20	35

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.

Rasmussen Valley C&H

Map 1

Map 1



G. Nelson 4/2013

4. Special Instructions.

No salting should be done below the road in Little Long Valley (Unit 2B); this will help to keep the use light in the riparian area.

The cattle will be required to leave when proper use is reached (riparian and upland utilization standards listed below).

The spread of noxious weeds on the Rasmussen Valley Allotment continues to be a major concern. We are planning another weed day on the allotment this year; you will be notified when it is scheduled. Please plan to participate.

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.**

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
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328

