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: March 2013

Robert K. Jenkins
President
Salt River Livestock Assn.
5384 Co Rd 125
Freedom, WY 83120

Dear Robert;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Tincup 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	Actual Numbers
Tincup	6/6-10/10	9	379	

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 order of unit rotation is outlined in this section. The Tincup Allotment is separated into three units. The grazing system is a modified 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**.

Year	Grouse Creek (unit 1)	Deer Creek (unit 2)	Smith Creek (unit 3)
2013	6/6-7/21	7/21-8/28	8/28-10/10
Days	46	38	43
	1	2	3

* Refer to Tincup AMP for future schedule of grazing rotation.

The dates outlined above are only estimates. 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 over used, 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 follow this grazing schedule. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

Documented Use for the 2012 Grazing Season

Monitoring Site	Percent Use	Allowable use
Swab Creek	7.5% AIZ	35% AIZ
Deer Creek	20% AIZ	55% AIZ

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.

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.**

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

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP), The Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG, and EastBridge Cattle AMP Revision and are now made part of your permit. Three measurements commonly used to monitor livestock grazing impacts in riparian areas. They include stubble height, woody utilization, and key species utilization. Allowable disturbance levels will be

tailored to each stream. Measurements will be performed in key areas along the riparian habitat. The following list describes the parameters, where the measurements occur, and how they will be analyzed:

1. Stubble height is the height of standing herbaceous vegetation at the time of measurement. Some species may not naturally grow to the allowed stubble height. Natural conditions such as drought may also reduce some plants growth. If these situations are extreme, the stubble height measurement may not be used. The measurement is the average height of the plant and is measured at the green line (adjacent to the water) and on the floodplain.
2. Woody species utilization is the use of the annual growth of woody species within the riparian area (willows, aspen, dogwood, etc.) by livestock and wildlife. Emphasis will be placed on measuring the individual plants closest to the stream bank. Utilization is measured by counting the number of leaders browsed (new shoots) as compared to the number of the leaders not browsed.

3. Key species utilization is the percent of key species grazed in the affected riparian area (AIZ – Aquatic Influence Zone). Key species that will be monitored include beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), smallwing sedge (*Carex microptera),* and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*). If Red top or Kentucky Bluegrass are the only species present in the AIZ or Greenline they will be monitored. However, the stubble height will be adjusted to meet percent use standards. Sampling methods may include; utilization cages, ocular estimates, or utilization gauges.

Table 1. Riparian Utilization Standards (determined using the GIG)

Stream	Stream Condition Rating	AIZ Stubble Height	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Deer Creek	Proper Functioning	2/3/4	65/55/45
Grouse Creek	Functioning-at-risk	3/4/5	55/45/35
Limekiln Creek	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Miller Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5	55/45/35
SF Miller Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5	55/45/35
Schiess Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5	55/45/35
Smith Creek	Proper Functioning	2/3/4	65/55/45
Swab Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5	55/45/35

Example:
If you were grazing in Deer Creek, and it was the first pasture used, you would have to move the cattle when there was an average stubble height of 2 inches remaining on the riparian grasses and grass like species in the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ). If this was the second unit used you would have to move when there was a stubble height of four inches.

If there were only a few riparian species in the AIZ you would use the % Utilization column. In this instance you could utilize 65% of the forage when grazed first, 55% when grazed second, and 45% when grazed third.

These Standards were established using the GIG

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, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. **Use on key grass species** such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoenis*), 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*.)**.**

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

Parts of the Deer Creek and Smith Creek Units fall within 'Winter Range'. The north end of the Allotment is considered 'Non-Winter Range' (Grouse Creek Unit).

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 delay in livestock turnout on the Tincup 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 letdown 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. 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.

Forms to be Completed

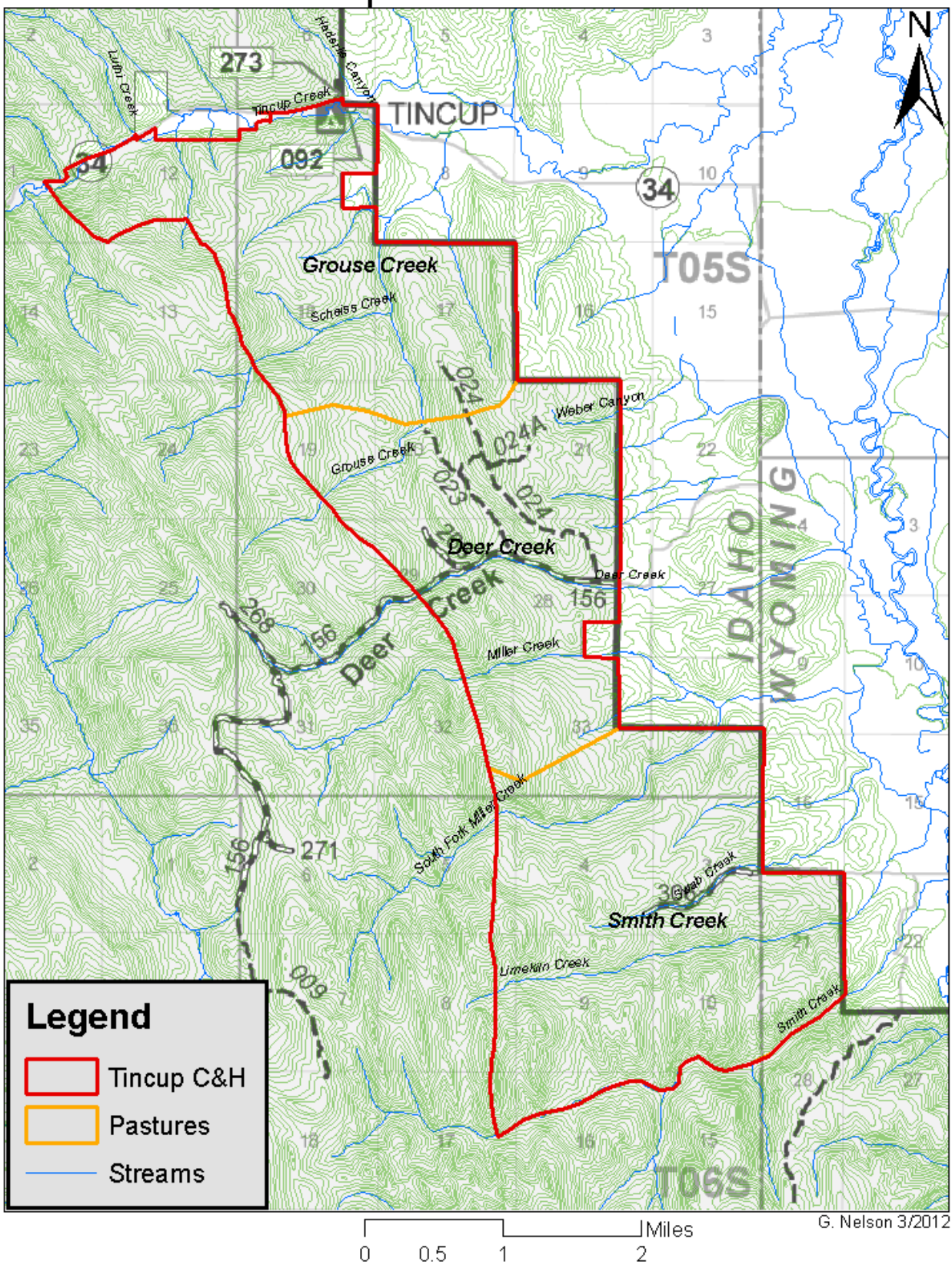
Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2013.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

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
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
Tincup C&H Allotment
2013

Accepted By: _____*/s/ Robert Jenkins*_____ __*6/4/2013*_____
Robert Jenkins **Date**
Association President

Approved By: */s/ Dennis Duehren*_____ __*6/4/2013*_____
Dennis Duehren **Date**
District Ranger

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