

2026 Annual Operating Instructions for
Bench C, LLC on Lava Creek Allotment

INTRODUCTION

This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit #06069 consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) and are an extension of your term grazing permit. You are strongly encouraged to review your permit terms and condition prior to the 2026 grazing season. Chad Hayward, the Forest Range Program Manager, will be administering your permit and associated grazing activities in 2026. Please reach out to Chad with any questions or concerns. Chad can be reached by calling his cell or by email at steven.hayward@usda.gov.

PERMITTED USE

The permitted use on Lava Creek Allotment is as follows:

55 cattle, cow/calf	June 1- October 15
20 cattle, Yearling	June 1- October 15

2026 AUTHORIZED USE

Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until your Bill for Collection is paid, soils are dry enough to prevent damage to vegetation, and Key plants are mature enough to be grazed.

The **authorized numbers and season of use for the 2026 grazing season** are as follows:

55 cattle, cow/calf	June 1 – October 15
20 Cattle, Yearling	June 1 – October 15

The move-on date is only a guide since the on-date will be when range readiness occurs. Move dates are dependent on precipitation and temperature and their effects on vegetation production. Forage utilization will indicate when moves need to be made earlier. Longer pasture stays can be arranged if an excess of forage condition exists but, must be coordinated with the Forest Service Rangeland Management Specialist.

MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

Avoid concentrating livestock in high use areas used by recreational livestock and by wildlife.

Regular herding and riding practices are key to achieving proper livestock distribution and to provide for the fullest use of the grazing season. Livestock will not be turned onto the allotment and allowed to congregate within any portion of the allotment for an extended period that creates areas of non-uniform proper forage utilization.

Permittees must familiarize themselves with the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) and comply with the travel restrictions associated with wheeled vehicles. MVUM's are available free of charge at the District Office. Under certain circumstances a permittee may request use of a closed route.

The permittee will ensure that all personnel performing on the ground livestock management are thoroughly familiar with the terms and conditions of the grazing permit, annual operating instructions and any relevant allotment management plans.

Place salt in areas where past and or present forage use is light. Salt should be used to spread utilization across the pasture being grazed. Place salt at least a ¼ mile from riparian areas and at least 200 yards from system trails. Salt should be picked up and moved when an area has been sufficiently used.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

If at any time livestock other than those you own are present, please notify the Forest Service. If use in that area becomes a resource issue there may be a need to increase management efforts, including riding and herding capacity specific to that area, to mitigate impacts.

STANDARDS and GUIDELINES

Forage Utilization and Riparian Residual Stubble Height Standards are as follows:
Utilization for the Lava Creek Allotment is 50% allowable use of key species.

As a rule of thumb, two inches of stubble should remain in upland areas and four inches of stubble should remain in riparian areas where grazing is authorized.

Residual Greenline Stubble Height is measured in the greenline directly adjacent to the stream. The permittees are responsible for meeting terms and conditions of the grazing permit, including day to day monitoring of forage utilization and moving livestock according to management guidelines.

Forest Service personnel will be checking permit compliance periodically during the grazing season and may perform long term monitoring to determine if management objectives are being met.

COORDINATION and COOPERATION

Invasive Species

The Bridger-Teton Integrated Weed Management Plan emphasizes inventory and implementing treatment programs. The permittee will adhere to Teton County Weed and Pest Control Districts quarantine of infested farm products.

Region 4 Weed Free Hay Order 04-00-097 : ONLY Certified Weed-Free hay is allowed on National Forest System land in Wyoming. Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as weed free. If

you need sources of Certified Weed-Free hay, please contact the Teton County Weed and Pest Control office.

Predator Conflicts

Please contact the Forest Service immediately if an animal associated with the permit or management of the allotment is found deceased so appropriate measures for health and human safety can be taken. All livestock carcasses associated with the permit and management of the allotment must be removed when human safety is jeopardized. Storage is acceptable per requirements for storage of animal carcasses contained within the Occupancy and User Order #04-00-104.

REPORTING

The Forest Service will be asking for your actual use records at the end of the grazing season. This includes the number and dates livestock enter and leave grazing units. It also includes livestock losses and causes of death. Please keep accurate records. An Actual Use Form is included with this AOI for your convenience. All reporting documents should be emailed to Chad Hayward within 30 days of the end of your permitted use.

This AOI is authorized by:



JASON WILMOT
District Ranger, Blackrock Ranger District



Date

