

## 2012 ANNUAL GRAZING PLAN- 1<sup>st</sup> Half Schedule

BRACKETT BENCH AMP #1008, CEDAR CREEK #1131, COONSKIN AMP #1123, EAST JUNIPER DRAW #1132, NOH FIELD #1140, NORTH FORK FIELD #1088, AND PIGTAIL BUTTE #1125

### Cedar Creek Cattle Company

As a result of a Memorandum Decision and Order by Chief Judge Winmill dated July 22, 2011, the Brackett Bench AMP (#1008), Cedar Creek (#1131), Coonskin AMP (#1123), East Juniper Draw (#1132), Noh Field (#1140), North Fork Field (#1088), and Pigtail Butte (#1125) Allotments are managed under the Interim Grazing Management Plan (IGMP) (dated September, 2011) until their grazing permit renewal decision is final. Livestock must also be managed pursuant to an Annual Grazing Plan implemented at the beginning of each grazing year (March 1). The IGMP provides that the Active Use be limited to the amount of Animal Unit Months (AUMs) listed in Table 1. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Permittee are responsible for insuring that livestock numbers and time in the allotment do not exceed this AUM number. Exceeding the AUMs specified in the IGMP violates of 43 CFR 4140.1 and will result in administrative action, which may include modifications to the next year's annual grazing plan or civil penalties outlined in 43 CFR 4170.1.

**Table 1. Active Use**

Allotment Name	AUM's
Brackett Bench AMP/North Fork Field	2,386
Cedar Creek	4,200
Coonskin AMP	3,109
East Juniper Draw	2,000
Noh Field	1,000
Pigtail Butte	3,000

### Recent Fires and Related Emergency Stabilization and Restoration Plans (ESR Plans)

From August 6 through August 9, 2010, the China Mountain Fire burned approximately 1,288 BLM acres. The Decision Record implementing the China Mountain Fire ES&BAR plan include Dixie harrowing and broadcast seeding along with aerially seeding a native grass, forb, and shrub mixture in the Brackett Bench AMP Allotment. Mountain big sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings were planted throughout the lower elevation sites in the burned area. Mountain mahogany seedlings were planted on slopes where the mahogany existed pre-burn. Approximately 3 miles of protection fences were constructed in the Brackett Bench AMP Allotment to exclude livestock grazing from seeded areas.

In addition, from August 21 through August 30, 2010, the Long Butte Fire burned approximately 306,113 acres. The Decision Record implementing the Long Butte Fire ES&BAR plans include drill seeding a grass/forb mixture in the Coonskin AMP Allotment, and aerially seeding Wyoming big sagebrush within the Coonskin AMP, East Juniper Draw, and Noh Field Allotments. Approximately three and half miles of protection fence were constructed in the Coonskin AMP Allotment to exclude livestock from seeded areas.

The Emergency Stabilization & Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES&BAR) plans prepared after the fires prescribe resource objectives to promote soil and vegetation recovery, stabilize the watershed, and minimize the potential for soil loss and weed expansion. Monitoring will be conducted for at least three years following the fires to determine if resource objectives are being met.

In addition, both ES&BAR plans included repairing allotment boundary/pasture fences burned in the fire.

### **Actual Grazing Use Report**

The permittee will submit a pasture-specific Actual Grazing Use Report within 15 days of completion of scheduled grazing within the allotment, or the end of the grazing year, whichever comes first.

### **Bird Ladders/Escape Ramps**

The permittee will ensure that wildlife escape ramps in all troughs and open storage tanks are maintained and in a functioning condition.

### **Salt/Supplements**

Protein blocks, salt blocks, and other authorized supplements used during the grazing period will be placed a minimum of 1/4 mile from existing water sources (unless otherwise directed), sagebrush communities or islands. If this is not possible, they will be placed in previously disturbed areas such as jeep trail intersections, annual grass areas, or in areas where they have previously been used. Containerized liquid supplement tub sites must be preapproved prior to use.

### **Range Improvements**

The permittee is responsible for maintaining range improvements unless otherwise specified in Cooperative Agreements. If heavy equipment is needed for major maintenance (i.e., pipeline replacement, pond maintenance) the permittee must contact the authorized officer prior to conducting work.

### **Grazing Plan Description**

The parties agree to rest closed areas until the objectives prescribed in the ES&BAR plans are met. These objectives are:

1. Over 50% of desired herbaceous perennial plants are producing seed.
2. Qualitative monitoring observations indicate that the entire plant community has developed root systems sufficient to provide soil stabilization and withstand grazing when soils are moist.

3. Total ground cover is greater than 80% of what is expected on the range site. Ground cover expected on the site is based on cover data collected prior to the fire. If no site specific data exists, then comparable reference sites or site potential estimates based on range site descriptions would be used.
4. For areas seeded with a grass and forb mix as proposed in this plan, 40% of the total cover must be composed of species contained in the applied seed mix or other desirable native perennial grass and forb species that have recovered since the fire. If this objective is not met after the third growing season, the seeding may be considered a failure and grazing may be allowed to resume.

Resumption of livestock grazing depends upon annual monitoring. The Interdisciplinary Team will evaluate the data relative to the objectives for resumption of livestock grazing. The Field Manager decides when livestock can resume grazing on the remaining closed areas.

The BLM and permittee are responsible for monitoring temporary fire fences and rested areas to ensure maintenance is completed and livestock do not enter burned areas. Maintenance of all other improvements is the responsibility of the permittee.

Range conditions can vary from one year to the next, the actual AUMs available for use during the grazing year will be determined through utilization monitoring using thresholds specified in the IGMP. The pastures' grazing use presented here is approximate and may vary slightly with weather conditions, soil conditions, plant phenology, and monitoring data. The BLM may authorize additional time in pastures beyond what is shown in Table 3 if monitoring data indicates adequate forage is available and additional time is consistent with other resource objectives and the IGMP. Additional time in pastures or changes to livestock numbers or use periods in a pasture cannot result in exceeding the AUM's specified for the allotment in the IGMP. Reaching or approaching pasture utilization guidelines in the IGMP and will require removal of livestock from the pasture regardless of the dates shown in Table 3.

Livestock movement within allotment boundaries will be accounted for in the grazing schedule. All livestock movement from one pasture to another will require they be "driven" rather than allowed to "drift". Rates of travel will be appropriate to the class of livestock to minimize the time spent.

Table 2 describes the estimated AUMs now available after the 2010 fires. The grazing season will be described in a first and second half schedule. The first half schedule is included in Table 3. The second half must be discussed and agreed upon in writing (grazing application) with the permit administrator prior to July 31, 2012. Departures from the schedule shown in Table 3 must be discussed between the permittee and the permit administrator prior to making any changes on the ground.

**Table 2. Fire Information**

Allotment	Fire	Acres Burned	Total AUMs allowed by IGMP	Estimated AUMs now Available *
Brackett Bench AMP	2010 China Mountain	1,288	2,386	2,267

\* Available AUMs are estimated. Actual AUMs available for use will be established through utilization monitoring.

**Table 3. 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Half Pasture Schedule**

Allotment	Pasture/Utilization Guideline	Number of Livestock	Approximate Season of Use/ Comment
Brackett Bench AMP/North Fork Field	1 North*/30%	300C	05/01/2012-6/15/2012 or until utilization reaches 30%.
	2 Whiskey Slough*~/30%	300C	06/15/2012-06/30/2012
	3 Indian Cave*/30%	300C	06/15/2012-07/07/2012
	4 Corral Creek*^/40%	300C	06/15/2012-07/15/2012
	5 Meadow */30%		
	6 Browns Creek*~/30%	-	<i>The portion located within the temporary protection fenced area will be rested until the ES&amp;BAR plan objectives are met.</i> This pasture is scheduled to be deferred.
	7 China Creek*~/30%	-	This pasture is scheduled to be rested.
Cedar Creek	North Fork Field~/30%	300C	07/01/2012-10/31/2012
	Monument Springs*/30%	525C	07/01/2012-10/31/2012
	Roseworth Reservoir*^/40%	-	This pasture is scheduled to be deferred.
	Highway Field*^/40%	150C	04/01/2012-06/30/2012 Trough on the western side of the pastures will be turned off until June 15.
	North Burn Field*/30%	150C	06/15/2012-09/30/2012
	South Burn Field*/30%	300C	05/01/2012-05/15/2012
Coonskin AMP		525C	06/15/2012-07/08/2012
	End of Line (East & West)*/40%	-	This pasture is scheduled to be grazed by Guerry, Inc.
	Northwest/50%	1000C	05/05/2012-05/15/2012
	Guerry/Yellow Tank/50%	550C	03/01/2012-04/20/2012
	Juniper/30%	1000C	<i>The portion located within the temporary protection fenced area will be rested until the ES&amp;BAR plan objectives are met.</i> Cattle will move south through these pastures from 05/15/2012-06/15/2012
	Reservoir/30%		
	West Reservoir/30%		
Coonskin*/30%	-	The cattle will only move through this pasture on the way to the Coonskin Pasture.	
East Juniper Draw	Lake*/30%	-	
	Straw Stack/30%	-	This pasture is scheduled to be deferred.
	East Juniper /30%	650C	03/01/2012-04/30/2012
	Halfway/30%	600C	04/20/2012-04/30/2012
	North Coonskin*/40%	-	Cattle will only move through this pasture on their way south.
Noh Field	South Coonskin/50%	-	Cattle will only move through this pasture on their way south.
	East/50%	200C	04/01/2012-05/05/2012
Pigtail Butte	West/50%	400C	03/01/2012-03/31/2012
	South Pigtail Butte/Tank Field/30%	600C	04/20/2012-05/10/2012
		600C	04/30/2012-05/20/2012
	Three Mile Crossing*~/40%	-	This pasture is scheduled to be deferred.
	Northeast Roseworth Reservoir*~/40%	-	This pasture is scheduled to be deferred.
	Northwest Roseworth Reservoir~/50%	600C	Two groups of 600C will move through this pasture from 05/01/2012-05/15/2012
<p>*Identified by the ID Team to be a priority pasture for sage-grouse. This classification may be revised by the ID Team based on on-the-ground conditions.  ^ Through management of water and salt/supplements, the native vegetation community in these pastures will be managed to not exceed 30% utilization.  ~Monitoring will occur at a Designated Monitoring Area (DMA) within this pasture.</p>			

## Monitoring

Upland utilization monitoring for the 2012 grazing year is scheduled to be conducted at key areas in each grazed pasture.

Multiple Indicator Monitoring is planned to occur at established Designated Monitoring Areas for the 2012 grazing year.

## Agreement

This agreement will be signed by the permittee(s) and the Jarbidge Field Manager prior to turnout on the Brackett Bench (1008), Cedar Creek (1131), Coonskin AMP (1123), East Juniper Draw (1132), Noh Field (1140), North Fork Field (1088), and Pigtail Butte (1125) Allotments.

 2-22-12  
Cedar Creek Cattle Co.                      Date

 3-1-12  
Jarbidge Field Manager                      Date