Interim Grazing Management Plan
September 14, 2011

(Modified from September, 30, 2005, SSA IGMP to comply
With WWP v. Ellis, CV 04-181-S-BLW, Memorandum Decision and Order
Dated July 22, 2011, Docket No. 505

Cedar Creek Cattle Company: Coonskin AMP Allotment

Interim grazing management authorization and conditions:

1. The "Active use" shall be limited to 3,109 AUMs;
2. The Grazing Permit terms and conditions set forth in Table 1;
3. The Management Guidelines by Pasture set forth in Table 2;
4. The utilization level relative to Management Guideline 1 shall will remain at 30% to comply with the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order;
5. The monitoring set forth; and
6. The expiration date is when the grazing permit renewal decision becomes final.

Table 1. Grazing Permits Terms and Conditions

Allotment	Number of Livestock	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	AUMS
Coonskin AMP	1,500	Cattle	03/01 - 02/28	3,109

1. Authorization to deviate from livestock numbers in column 2 and season of use in column 4 will be done in the annual billing. Total AUMs harvested under this permit will not exceed those described in column 5 unless otherwise directed by the authorized officer. Percent public land will be depicted in the annual billing. These practices will ensure compliance with paragraph 3 and 4 of the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order.

2. An Annual Grazing Plan (AGP) is required to be developed between the BLM and the permittee prior to the start of each grazing year. The AGP shall include the following: livestock numbers, season of use, and the active AUMs. The AGP will be enforced pursuant to the authority of 43 CFR 4100. The direction set out in the AGP will also ensure compliance with paragraph 3 and 4 of the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order.

3. 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, sagebrush communities or islands. If this is not possible, they will be placed in previously disturbed areas such as jeep trails, annual grass areas, or in areas where they have previously been used.

4. In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2 (d), the permittee will submit a pasture-specific actual use report within 15 days of completing each grazing period or at the end of the grazing year (February 28/29) when grazing continues into the next grazing year, whichever comes first. Billing for grazing use will be based on the actual use reports in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.8-1(e).

5. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(B), the permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (C), the permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.

Table 2. Management Guidelines by Pasture

Allotment	Pastures	Management Guidelines Specific to Pastures*
Coonskin AMP	NW	2, 9, 10, 11, 13
	Yellow/Guerry Tank	2, 9, 10, 11, 13
	End of Line	3, 4, 5, 9,10, 11, 12, 13
	Juniper	1, 9, 10, 11, 13
	West Reservoir	1, 9, 10, 11, 13
	Reservoir	1, 9, 10, 11, 13
	Lake	1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
	Coonskin	1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

*Pasture specific guidelines may be revised based on on-the-ground conditions.

Description of Pasture Specific Guidelines:

1. Upland utilization on native bunchgrass plant communities (both priority and non-priority sage-grouse pastures as identified in the AGP) will be limited to 30 percent utilization as measured at key areas. Once any utilization standard is met at any key area, livestock will be removed from the pasture. Utilization would be conducted based on the Height-Weight methodology described in Interagency TR (TR) 1734-3, *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements*. Management adjustments would be made in subsequent years based on actual use and utilization data. These practices will also ensure compliance with paragraph 3 and 4 of the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order.

2. Seeded pastures (non-priority sage-grouse pastures as identified in the AGP) would be limited to 50 percent utilization as measured at key areas. Once any utilization standard is met at any key area livestock will be removed from the pasture. Grazing use may be authorized in annual grazing plans up to an average of 70 percent on Crested Wheatgrass in key areas on an occasional basis (once in 5 years) to reduce/prevent Crested Wheatgrass wolf plants. When 70 percent grazing use is authorized in key areas within a seeded pasture, use in the remaining seeded pastures would be at 50 percent or less: in the native pastures at 40 percent or less; and total grazing use would be limited to the permitted use in the allotment. Utilization would be calculated based on the Height-Weight Methodology described in Interagency TR 1734-3, *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements.* Management adjustments would be made in subsequent years based on actual use and utilization data. These practices will also ensure compliance with paragraph 3 and 4 of the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order.

3. Seeded pastures (priority sage-grouse pastures as identified in the AGP) would be limited to 40 percent utilization as measured at key areas. Once any utilization standard is met at any key area, livestock will be removed from the pasture. Utilization would be calculated using the Height-

Weight methodology described in Interagency TR 1734-3, *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements*. Management adjustments would be made in subsequent years based on actual utilization. These practices will also ensure compliance with paragraph 3 and 4 of the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order.

4. Typical climate conditions limit regrowth of upland herbaceous vegetation after July 1. Priority sage-grouse pastures will require a minimum stubble height of 4 inches or taller on key forage grasses at key areas at sage-grouse nest-initiation time to ensure adequate residual stubble heights as identified by Hausleitner et al. (2005). Retaining 4 inch stubble height will ensure compliance with paragraph 4 of the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order.

5. The BLM will incorporate mandatory management guidelines into this IGMP to implement interim and final policy developed by the National Sage-Grouse Policy Team.

6. Stream reaches accessible to livestock would be managed to achieve Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). Reaches containing designated crossings, water gaps, or collection areas would be managed to minimize the amount of disturbance, but will not otherwise be managed to achieve PFC. Functioning condition ratings would be determined using BLM TR 1737-15 (*A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and Supporting Science for Lotic Areas)* or other current BLM approved protocols. Streams assessed at PFC would be managed to maintain PFC. Streams assessed as functional-at-risk (upward trend, downward trend, no apparent trend, or Non-Functional) would be reviewed by an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) to identify resource concerns and recommend any adjustments in grazing management to improve riparian condition. The AGP will identify current stream-specific PFC ratings.

7. Current BLM protocols, such as the *Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation* (BLM TR-1737-23, 2011), will be used to monitor annual grazing use (short-term) indicators and long-term habitat variables affected by livestock and other large herbivore use on streams. Monitoring will occur at Designated Monitoring Areas (DMA) which have been identified by an IDT as being representative of a larger stream reach. At the DMAs, the IDT will gather data regarding short-term grazing use indicators (e.g., stubble height, streambank alteration, woody species use) and long-term trend indicators (e.g., greenline composition, woody species height class, greenline-to-greenline width, and others) (BLM TR-1737-23, 2011). Grazing use indicators (stubble height, streambank alteration, etc.) will inform the development of AGPs.

a. Stubble height of key plant species or species groups would be measured along the greenline at the beginning, during, or end of the scheduled use to determine if resource objectives have been met. Key plant species would be determined on-site and may consist of herbaceous or herbaceous mix with woody species. Grazing use criteria are based on site specific grazing use indicators that are appropriate for the allotment, pasture, or site. Grazing use criteria are selected on a site specific basis by the IDT to help achieve desired ecological conditions over time and should be designed to be modified at any time if necessary to help ensure satisfactory progress towards meeting resource objectives. Generally grazing use criteria will be established for allotments where they are important to help achieve resource objectives.

Stubble height would be managed to achieve a range of 4-6" at the end of the scheduled use on all allotments. If the grazing use criteria are exceeded, the authorized officer, in consultation with the permittee will:

1) Refer to monitoring data to determine whether there is sufficient progress being made towards meeting desired conditions despite the exceedence. There may be a need to change management or modify either the type or value of grazing use indicator being used to continue progress towards or maintaining desired conditions.
2) Evaluate the cause(s) for exceeding the applicable thresholds and the impact the causes(s) has on actions leading towards meeting desired resource conditions.
3) Evaluate whether there is a need to implement adaptive management and change management techniques.
4) Determine whether the failure is a result of conditions outside the control of the permittee.
5) Determine whether there is a need for administrative action.

b. For known or suspected sensitive fish-bearing streams or tributaries to fish-bearing streams, livestock would be managed so stream bank alteration is minimized. An IDT will determine the appropriate level of streambank alteration for the relevant stream reach DMA based on the occurrence of fish, site potential and PFC rating. If improving trends are not occurring, streambank alteration will be limited to 20 percent (10% attributed to grazing and 10% attributed to natural channel instability) of the stream bank at the DMA. Stream bank alteration would be measured using the MIM protocol (BLM TR 1737-23) or as modified based on future research. Streambank alteration at the DMA in excess of 10% and attributable to livestock grazing will require adjustments in grazing prior to the next grazing season (i.e., livestock numbers, pasture rotation, season of use, or other BLM approved changes).

c. In riparian areas dominated by woody species or a mix of woody and herbaceous species, livestock will be managed so that regeneration of woody species would be allowed to occur. An IDT will determine the appropriate level of woody use for each DMA based on the occurrence of fish, site potential and PFC rating. If regeneration is not occurring due to livestock grazing, woody species use would be limited to no more than 50 percent frequency of nipping on current year leaders of key riparian shrubs accessible to livestock at the DMA. Key plant species would be determined on site by the IDT. Utilization of shrubs in riparian and upland areas would be measured using the MIM protocol (BLM TR 1737-23) as modified based on future research. Woody use levels above 50% would require adjustments in livestock grazing prior to the next grazing season (i.e., livestock numbers, pasture rotation, season of use, or other BLM approved changes).

8. Designated water gaps will be used to facilitate livestock watering or crossing a stream. An IDT would determine the appropriate location and size or length necessary to meet these objectives. Because these areas are managed to provide access to livestock, water gaps will not be managed to achieve PFC.

9. To the extent possible, pastures, crossings, water gaps, or collection areas will be actively

cleared of all livestock after livestock are moved to the next pasture to allow for upland and riparian recovery.

10. Grazing management practices will be implemented to provide periodic rest or deferment during critical growth stages to allow sufficient growth to achieve and maintain healthy, properly functioning conditions including good plant vigor and adequate plant cover appropriate to site potential. These practices will also comply with paragraph 3 of the July 22, 2011 Memorandum Decision and Order.

11. Knowledgeable and reasonable practices other than those listed herein may be used to meet applicable land use objectives and applicable Rangeland Health Standards. These practices may be initiated subject to scientific literature; monitoring data collected over time; consultation, coordination and cooperation; and consistent with 43 CFR 4130.3 and 43 CFR Part 4100, subpart 4160 and NEPA. (See Table Above)

12. In areas of Sage Grouse strongholds, grazing management includes shutting off troughs near sage grouse leks during breeding and nesting period; placing any new salting (other approved supplement) areas at least 0.25 mile from leks during the breeding and nesting period and placing salting areas at least .25 mile from sagebrush stands where there is adequate areas of non-sagebrush plant communities. These management strategies, and MG's 4, 7, and 10, would provide parameters for adaptive management to assure adequate nesting, brood rearing and winter habitat is available for sage grouse. In addition see Term and Condition, item 3, above. Once they are developed, the management guidelines for sage grouse described in MG 5, above, may replace this MG in its entirety.

13. Range Improvements:

a. Temporary and/or permanent range improvements for which the permittee has maintenance responsibilities will be maintained to BLM standards, as specified by the authorized officer prior to livestock entering a pasture.

b. Excess material (i.e., wire, t-posts, wooden rails, old pipe, troughs, and other material) as a result of maintenance will be removed from BLM land at the conclusion of the maintenance activity.

c. If the permittee notes sage-grouse carcasses or feather piles along a fence or other improvement the permittee shall notify the authorized officer of the location of the find within three working days.

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

e. The permittee will notify the BLM before repairing watering infrastructure as springs, wetlands, or playas to ensure cultural or other resources are not impacted, and to ensure the repairs stay within the original disturbed area.

f. Areas disturbed from repair or replacement will be seeded to a seed mix approved by the authorized officer.

Monitoring

The following represents the kind of monitoring BLM will conduct to measure progress toward meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health and RMP objectives. Monitoring data will be used in developing subsequent annual grazing plans.

Annual

1. Utilization will be monitored at the end of the grazing year or as otherwise necessary, at key areas established by the IDT and the permittee. Utilization data will be used as triggers in meeting utilization management guidelines and determining livestock movements. In upland areas, utilization relating to MGs 1, 2 and 3 would be measured using the Height-Weight Method. Utilization pattern mapping may also be done as needed to help locate key areas.

2. The MIM (BLM TR-1737-23, 2011) or other protocols adopted by the BLM will be used to collect data on annual grazing use indicators during years when livestock grazing occurs in a specific pasture.

3. The AGP will determine which monitoring is scheduled for that grazing year. However, use supervision will occur every year.

Long-term

1. Nested-Plot Frequency Method studies along with Photo Plots will continue to be read on established key study sites located within the allotments in accordance with Sampling Vegetation Attributes Interagency Technical Reference (BLM, 1996). Each of these studies will be read at five-to-ten year intervals in conjunction with the permit renewal process. The data will be baseline, for comparison with future readings to determine trend and changes in the plant communities.

2. Canopy cover data are collected as part of the nested plot-frequency method. Vegetation cover may also be collected using a line intercept or pace transect that measures the layers of vegetative cover, structure, and composition diversity. This method of evaluating habitat is described in A Framework to Assist in Making Sensitive Species Habitat Assessments for BLM-Administered Public Lands in Idaho (BLM 2000). Habitat assessments will be conducted at approximately 10-year intervals in conjunction with the permit renewal process.

3. The frequency of re-evaluating PFC ratings would be determined by the IDT based on site-specific data collected using the MIM protocol (BLM TR-1737-23, 2011). Re-assessment of PFC ratings occurs approximately every 10 years but could be re-evaluated at a shorter interval as the IDT determines is appropriate (e. g., after a wildfire, after an uncharacteristic flood event, or if site specific data indicates changes in livestock management have achieved resource objectives for the long-term indicators.)

4. The MIM (BLM TR-1737-23, 2011) would be used to collect data on annual grazing use indicators when livestock grazing occurs in a pasture. Data collected to evaluate long-term trend in ecological condition will be collected every five years or as otherwise determined by the IDT. However, data may be collected more frequently if needed to measure progress towards reaching resource objectives.

5. Utilization of shrubs in riparian and upland areas would be measured using the extensive browse method, when deemed appropriate. Woody use would not be collected if woody species are not present. Woody browse monitoring may be dropped if, based on at least two years of annual monitoring, frequency of nipping is below the threshold as described in MG 7c. above.

6. Weather data will be used from representative NOAA weather stations and data collected at BLM's precipitation stations to normalize data collected.

7. Long term monitoring data collected during the IGMP period will be evaluated in conjunction with the permit renewal process. Annual monitoring would be evaluated to determine if short term resource objectives are being met and to adjust Annual Grazing Plans when warranted.

Jenifer Arnold 9/14/11

Acting Jarbidge Field Manager Date