

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Big Flat C&H Allotment

2016

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Big Flat Allotment for the 2016 grazing season will be considered part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2 item 8(a).

Situations may develop during the grazing season that would require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval **prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.**

Livestock Management

Permitted #s	Class of Livestock	Season of Use	Permittee
370	Cow/calf	7/1– 9/30	

Planned #'s	Class of Livestock	Season of Use	Permittee
370	Cow/calf		

Bill for Collection

The bill for collection will be made due and payable five (5) days prior to the scheduled turn on date. Payment must be received prior to the turn on date regardless of whether or not actual turn on is delayed. Failure to pay by the due date may result in additional administrative and interest charges. Grazing use that occurs prior to fee payment constitutes non-compliance with the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may also subject the permit to suspension or cancellation action.

Proposed Pasture Rotation

Pasture	Season of Use
Big Flat	7/01-8/2
Long Creek	8/3-8/22
* East Poison	8/23-9/2
* Larkspur	9/3-9/30

*Take advantage of any years to use Long Creek pasture last, with the hopes that the larkspur will dry out early enough that cattle won't be threatened by the poison.

The livestock rotations are tentative. Vegetative conditions on the allotment will dictate the actual turn out date and when livestock are moved from unit to unit.

Grazing Standards and Guides

The following Standards and Guides from the 1997 Revised Forest Plan as included in Part 3 of your term grazing permit will be monitored and used for determining removal of livestock from a unit and/or the allotment.

- 4 inch stubble height of key species along the hydric greenline.
- 3 inch stubble height of key species within the aquatic influence zone.
- 30% utilization of current year's growth on riparian woody plants.

Upland Utilization Standards	Season-long Grazing		Rotation Grazing	
	Unsatisfactory Range Condition	Satisfactory Range Condition	Unsatisfactory Range Condition	Satisfactory Range Condition
Grasses and Herbaceous species	35%	45%	45%	55%
Shrubs	25%	35%	35%	35%
*The figures shown represent the best estimate of acceptable use levels which will provide for maintenance or improvement of these ecosystems. They shall be used as maximum use levels unless there is site-specific information to show that these levels are incorrect. Percent use is based on a dry weight percentage.				

Utilization monitoring and long-term trend monitoring will take place throughout the season while livestock are on the allotment. Permittee participation is encouraged in these monitoring activities.

Permittee and Rider Responsibilities

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, forest system roads and trails, areas of high public use or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Under no circumstances will salt or supplement be placed closer than ¼ mile to streams, springs, water developments, or other wetlands. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving heavy use.

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 critical areas, the longer they can remain in the unit. To the extent possible, cattle should be completely "cleaned out" of a past unit within 3 days of the move date unless other arrangements have been approved by a Forest Officer. Units should be checked regularly to ensure cattle have not drifted into previously grazed areas or into ungrazed areas. Cattle repeatedly in wrong units may be cause for action to be taken against the grazing permit including suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part.

Motorized Travel

Motorized travel is only allowed on designated routes. However, grazing permittees can travel cross country to maintain or construct range improvements. This motorized access must be less than two vehicles per week. The permits that you receive will authorize this use and must be in the vehicle when traveling cross country.

Noxious Weeds

Noxious Weeds are known to exist on your allotment. Please notify our office of any new (small) noxious weed populations on your allotment so that we can attempt to eradicate them early. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified "**weed free**". Contact the District Office for information on where to obtain weed free feeds. Trucks or trailers transporting livestock to the allotment from areas where noxious weeds are present should not be cleaned out on National Forest System lands.

Range Improvement Maintenance

All range improvements must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment. Failure to properly complete the assigned maintenance to standard and in a timely manner will be cause for denial of permission to either place livestock on the allotment, or to move to another pasture, and/or may result in action being taken against the grazing permit. If the improvement is deteriorated beyond repair please contact our office to discuss options to resolve the situation. Coordination with adjoining allotment permittees will be necessary to insure fences they are responsible for have been maintained.

Improvements

#1014 Big Flat Pasture Fence	T14N R36E sec. 24
#1109 Big Flat Allotment B/F	T14N R36E sec. 22, 23
#1110 Big Flat Unit D/F	T14N R36E sec. 23
#1128 Boatman Spring W/D	T14N R36E sec. 24
#1277 Upper West Camas W/D	T14N, R37E sec. 19
#1403 Boatman Spring Trough	T14N R36E sec. 24
#1404 Boatman Spring Ext.	T14N R36E sec. 24
#1501 Larkspur D/F	T14N R37E sec.18, 19
#1542 Big Flat D/F	T14N R36E sec. 25, 26
#1276 Big Flat East Trough W/D	T14N R37E sec. 19
#Big Flat Horse Pasture	T14N R36E sec. 24
#1554 Larkspur Water System	T14N R36E sec. 24

By signing this AOI, I, the permitted user, certify that the above improvements are present and in satisfactory condition unless otherwise noted.

Grizzly Bear/Wolf Recovery Management

If you or your rider see any wolves or grizzly bears on your allotment please contact John Farr of Wildlife Services at 374-5202 **immediately** after any possible sightings. Then contact Scott McCoy at 374-5422. Please keep us informed of the predator control activities conducted on your allotment. The information that you provide us on your Actual Use Form is very helpful.

Big Flat C&H

A food storage order is in place which will require proper storage of food to render it unavailable to bears on National Forest System lands in Teton, Fremont, Madison, and Clark Counties east of Interstate-15. As part of the food storage order, human food, refuse and prepared livestock/pet foods associated with the livestock operation will be made unavailable to bears through proper storage, handling and disposal. Proper storage includes:

- inside a bear-proof container (such as bear proof panniers),
- suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at its lowest point and at least 4 feet horizontally from adjacent posts or trees,
- stored in a hard-sided vehicle or trailer, or
- other methods approved by the District Ranger.

The exception is when the food is being eaten or prepared for eating or when food and similar organic matter is being transported. Unburned human foods, garbage or other refuse will be carried off the Forest as often as practical.

Any dead livestock shall be moved to a location greater than 200 feet from water, out of view of roads or trails, and away from any areas of significant public use.

Reports and Record Keeping

Please fill out the forms in your folder that tracks your actual use, losses and expenditures for maintenance and management on your allotment and return to our office within **15 days of removing livestock**. That information is very helpful for our records and is used for upward reporting.

Notification of Problems/Coordination

In order to prevent small problems from becoming big problems, please work closely with your rangeland management specialist in his/her capacity as the representative of the District Ranger. Your rangeland management specialist is Scott McCoy. The work telephone number is 374-5422, or (580) 339-3235. The mailing address is P.O. Box 46, Dubois, ID 83423.