

**Main Canyon Cattle Allotment
2016 Annual Operating Instructions**

I. Permitted Livestock:

Permittees:

Kind: Cattle

Class: Cow/Calf

Permitted on FS: 129 head from 6/16-8/31 = 327 head months

Authorized for 2014 FS
108 cow/calf
6/16-9/15-327 HM

HM = head months

* This allotment has no fencing between the BLM, State and Forest Service lands. A total of 662 Head Months (HM) are available when BLM, State and Forest Service lands are fully stocked. Cattle start in the lower elevations (BLM and State lands) on May 15 and starting June 16th a portion (129 Pair) of cattle are to be moved to the Forest Service while 64 remain on the BLM. On July 7th, 39 pair are to be taken home from the BLM while 25 remain. On August 31, 129 pair are to be taken home from the Forest while 25 remain on the BLM until September 30th. To cut down on the three off dates and reduce disturbance on the cattle, which results in cattle drifting to the lower country it was decided between the Forest Service and permittee that a total of 137 pair will be turned out on May 15th. Starting June 16th 108 pair will be pushed onto the Forest while about 29 pair remains on the BLM. These cattle will stay on the BLM and Forest until September 15th at which time all livestock will be brought home. This rotation does not exceed the 327 HM on the Forest nor does it exceed the 335 on BLM and State. The 137 pair from May 15th to September 15th actually uses 533 HM compared to the 662 HM permitted. If at some time the permittee decides to use all permitted HM it will be up to them to remove cattle on the varying off dates and make sure numbers are appropriate throughout the allotment boundaries. See attached map for State, BLM and Forest land boundaries.

II. Grazing Management:

The cattle will be split into two groups of 54 head each. One group will begin the grazing season in Lower Main Canyon Unit (after utilizing the BLM portion) and be allowed to drift into the Upper Main Canyon Unit until proper use on forage species has been reached. Grazing of the lower units early in the season is encouraged. These lower units are considered deer winter range. The second group will begin grazing in Lower Post Hollow and drift to the Lost Spring Unit. Turning water off to the lower troughs will encourage the cattle to stay in the higher country. Riding will be necessary to move the cattle into the upper units. Main Canyon cattle should be monitored to reduce drift into Moonlight meadow and the Emigration and North Canyon Sheep Allotments.

Year	Lower Main Cy	Upper Main Cy	Lower Post Hollow	Lost Spring
2016	1st	2nd	1st	2nd

III. Grazin

g Standards and Guides:

Your livestock must be removed from an area when allowable forage utilization levels are reached in the uplands. There are no live streams on the allotment, therefore upland standards will apply. The standards apply to both native and desirable non-native, key species. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Forage Utilization Standards

Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grass and Herbaceous Species %	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	20	35

With proper forage utilization, impacts to the resource can be minimized. As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage production, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of livestock from the allotment will occur.

IV. Permittee Responsibilities:

- 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.
- Herdin** - Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas. Cattle should be checked regularly to ensure they are properly distributed.
- Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free".
- Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. These standards may be set by the Forest Officer over the allotment. A delay in livestock turnout on the 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 and up to standards prior to cattle entering the allotment.
- Noxious weeds**- Dyer's woad, leafy spurge, and thistle are located on your allotment. Because of budget constraints, the control of noxious weed needs to become a joint effort. If you know of any infestations bring them to the attention of the Forest Officer. There may be spray days coordinated on your allotment and your assistance with them would benefit all.

V. Wolf 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. [PDF, 662 KB]

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.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wolves/?getPage=167>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Idaho State Office - Toll-free at: 877-661-1908

To report suspected wolf depredations on livestock or pets, contact

USDA Wildlife Services: Toll-free at: 866-487-3297 or 208-378-5077

VI. Special Instructions:

- Please become familiar with the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- Please inform the District Office, especially during entry dates, of a convenient time and place to enable an accurate count of livestock to be made.
- Actual use forms will be mailed out following the grazing season. Please fill these out and return in a timely manner.**
- This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI verifying that they have read it and accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office
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