

Maple Canyon Cattle Allotment Annual Operating Instructions 2016

1. Permittee and Permitted Livestock

This allotment is grazed under a Grazing Agreement. Those holding shares in this agreement include the following.

Permittee	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Season of Use	Class
	29	29	6/16-9/15	Cow/calf
	55	55	6/16-9/15	Cow/calf
	7	7	6/16-9/15	Cow/calf
	26	26	6/16-9/15	Cow/calf
	20	20	6/16-9/15	Cow/Calf
	137	137		

This allotment is managed under a grazing agreement. If one of the shareholders desires to take non-use the other members may fill in as long as the permitted numbers are not exceeded. If you intend to take non-use as an association it must be approved prior to the beginning of the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

2. Grazing Rotation

The grazing system is a deferred rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted depending on range readiness; however the earliest on date is June 16. If a change is necessary you will be notified. The cattle will begin the grazing season in the lower country of the allotment and graze to the higher elevations as the forage reaches range readiness.

This allotment is not divided into units. Cattle begin grazing at the lower elevations at the beginning of the grazing season and are moved when proper use is reached to higher elevations as the feed matures. Cattle will be kept properly distributed with riding and salt distribution. Adequate riding needs to be done to assure that the cattle do not use the sheep allotments to the north and south or the Montpelier/Elk Valley Cattle Allotment to the east. If use from these allotments does occur on the Maple Canyon Allotment please notify the Forest Service as soon as possible so we can notify the permittees of the aforementioned allotments.

3. Grazing Standards and Guidelines

The grazing standards and guides for this allotment are found in the *Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide Version 1-2, 2005(GIG)* and the *2003 Revised Forest*

Plan for the Caribou National Forest, and are a part of your permit. Once these standards are met you must keep cattle out of the area or move to another area. If your cattle cannot be kept out of the areas where proper use has been reached, you will have to take livestock home.

The proper use standards for this allotment are listed in the tables below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three

Riparian Utilization Standards within the AIZ for the Maple Canyon Allotment

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition	Functioning at Risk (high to Moderate) % Stubble height	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non-Functioning) % Stubble height	Non Functioning (States C&D) % Stubble height
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

The Functioning at Risk Moderate Column will be used in the Maple Canyon Allotment

Upland Utilization Standards

Allowed Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and Herbaceous Species(% Dry Weight)	45	55
Shrubs (Annual Leader Growth)	20	35

Upland standards on the allotment are shown in the table above. Use in the uplands is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. If an area is considered critical winter range, use levels for the uplands is 35%. Non critical winter range is allowed use up to 45%, and non winter range is allowed use up to 55%. **There is no critical winter range within the allotment but most of the western half of the allotment is considered winter range. The winter range standards will be applicable for this portion of the allotment. See the attached Winter Range Map.**

As the season progresses Forest Personnel will routinely check the range conditions within your allotment. If their monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage, or that other resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts early removal of livestock from the allotment may be necessary. If the Forest Service requires you to remove your livestock from the allotment before the end of your permitted grazing season you may be eligible for a credit toward next

years grazing fees. This credit must be requested in writing when you turn in your Actual Use Form in the fall.

4. Special Instructions.

Riparian areas will be monitored during grazing use and after the cattle leave each unit. Riding and proper placement of salt are key practices that can help with distribution.

This year all AOI's will again be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

The spread of noxious weeds on this allotment continues to be a concern. We are planning another weed day on the allotment area this year; you will be notified when it is scheduled. Please plan to participate.

5. Wolf Recovery Management:

Current Legal Status as taken from the Idaho Fish and Game Web page, 3/22/2012, (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/science/>)

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.

6. Permittee Responsibilities

A. **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.

- B. Herding** - 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 key areas, the longer they can remain in the unit. **Cattle should be "cleaned" out of units within a week after the move date.** Units should be checked regularly to ensure cattle have not drifted back into previously grazed areas.
- C. Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".
- D. Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your 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 prior to cattle entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

a. Fence Maintenance Standards

Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be re-stretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by snow or wire tension need to be reset.
- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

b. Water Development Maintenance Standards

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.

- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stock water ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

E. Completion of Forms

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Actual Use Forms will be mailed out this year following the grazing season. Please fill these forms out and return to us in a timely manner.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	208) 847-0735
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-4356
Dell Transtrum	208) 847-0375 208) 847-8939