

**SUGAR CREEK CATTLE ALLOTMENT  
2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**I. Permitted Livestock:**

Permittee:	Permitted: 173 Total
Kind: Cattle	Actual: 140
Class: Cow/Calf	
Permitted Period of Use: June 11 through September 30	

**II. Grazing Rotation:**

**2016: Rotation**

Year	Morgan Ridge 96 pair	Sugar Creek 96 pair	Litz Basin 60 pair	Foster Creek 60 pair	Self Help 60 pair
2015	6/11-6/30 20 days 8/26-9/30 36 days	7/21-8/25 36 days	7/21-9/30 36 days	Rest	6/11-7/20 39 days

**III. Grazing Standards and Guides:**

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* or the *South Bear River Range Allotment Management Plan Revisions Final Environmental Impact Statement* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and two 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.

Woody species utilization and AIZ stubble height is more applicable to the streams on this allotment. See table below for woody species utilization standards. For example, utilization on willows, cottonwood and dogwood should not exceed 40% of current leader growth in mid season (mid July to mid August). These standards enable woody species to regenerate and maintain healthy populations.

**The standards in the table below are the riparian forage utilization standards that will be applied:**

**Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)**

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (% Stubble)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate)	Functioning at Risk (Low) to Non Functioning	Non Functioning (States C&D) (% Stubble Height)

	Height)	(% Stubble Height)	(% 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 three categories refer to the time of season the livestock are in riparian areas (e.g. early/mid/late summer). Forage Utilization Site-specific Standards from the Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide, *version 1-2*, 2005.

Lower Foster Creek and Sugar creek are Functioning at Risk (low). Bonneville Cutthroat trout are present in Sugar and Foster Creeks. These two streams have less allowable utilization in the AIZ for the protection of fish habitat. 4/5/6 inch stubble in the AIZ applies to Sugar and Foster Creek. Litz Basin is Functioning at Risk (moderate) 3/4/5 inch stubble in the AIZ.

Livestock grazing use in the uplands should not exceed 55% of current year's growth on key herbaceous species in the uplands and 35% on key browse species in the upper pastures. The lower pastures of Self Help, Foster Creek and Morgan Ridge are considered winter range and the following use applies: grazing should not exceed 45% of current year's growth on herbaceous species and 20% of current year's growth of browse species. There is no critical winter range on the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization		
Type of Upland	Winter Range	Non winter range
Grass and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	20	35

From CNF Revised Forest Plan 2003

Under the Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (2003) 4-52. Utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative key plant species as **recorded at the end of the grazing period** (when the livestock leave the unit).

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 the livestock from the allotment will occur. If livestock are removed from the Forest early, your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year's fee.

#### IV. Permittee Responsibilities

- 1. 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.

2. **Herdling** - 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.
3. **Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free".
4. **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 prior to cattle entering the allotment. **Paul Jones spring trough can be completed before the cattle reach the upper units, usually by mid-July.** The permittee has proposed a mile long fence be constructed from the Foster Creek fence (1/4 mile) crossing Sugar Creek and continuing south approximately 3/4 of a mile. This fence would hold the cattle in the Morgan Ridge Unit in the early season.
5. **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. Special Instructions:

- Please become familiar with the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- Actual use forms will be mailed out following the grazing season. Please fill these out and return to the office.
- This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.
- Livestock counts will be made on an unscheduled basis. We will make arrangements for a time and place.

#### VI. Wolf Status:

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**

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

	Office
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-8935
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-4356
Dell Transtrum Range Specialist	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939