



CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

2016

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

ALPINE CATTLE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permittee

Livestock Number

Period of Use

105 cows/ calves

May 25 to June 25

All cattle must be your own livestock and branded with your registered brand:

These brands are displayed in your Term Grazing Permit that is on file at the Palisades District Office.

Contact the Palisades Ranger District prior to stocking the allotment.

GRAZING SYSTEM

The Alpine Allotment consists of one unit that is grazed for 30 days beginning late May and ends late June. The allotment encompasses approximately 5,000 acres with the majority of those acres below the high water line of the Palisades Reservoir.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Currently the reservoir 59% full and with the snowpack, it is expected to fill this year. Be sure to extend the electric fence down into the mudflats before placing cattle on the allotment. Then maintain the fence as needed when the water levels fall.

Proper Use Criteria

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the cattle will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs	35%

Allotment Monitoring

Please document the dates when cattle enter and leave the allotment. The folder and completed actual use form needs to be returned to the Palisades District Office by **October 31st**. The information is maintained in the allotment grazing file and used for reports and planning during the winter.

Salting

Salt should be placed away from roadways and away from major camp sites. Move salt blocks often or split the blocks in half so to lighten the impact on any one location.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 200 feet from system roads and water sources.

Range Improvements

The fences for the allotment will need to be maintained and capable of controlling cattle prior to the cattle entering the allotment.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Travel Management

Summer motorized use on the Palisades Ranger District is restricted to designated routes. No cross country motorized travel is allowed. You may travel by vehicle on the lake bed but you must stay on the forest roads in the uplands. As a grazing permittee you may be issued a Travel Permit for the use of motor vehicles off of designated routes for the purpose of maintaining range improvements. The range improvements on this allotment are the allotment fences. If you need to travel off of designated routes for any other reason you must get a separate permit from the District Ranger prior to the activity.

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible. Wolves in Wyoming are managed by the USFWS and are protected under the Endangered

Species Act. Contact information for Wildlife Services, Idaho Fish and Game, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service is included in your folder.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds in the Alpine area this summer. Knapweed continues to be a problem on this allotment. If you drive a vehicle cross country on the allotment for fence maintenance be sure to check for and clean off any plants that become attached to the vehicle. Please report to us of any new weed infestations you find in your travels across the allotment. Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions, Gray Wolf Information and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction Document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that require changes to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

The address to return your folder to is:

**Palisades Ranger District
3659 East Ririe Highway
Idaho Falls, ID 83401**

This plan has been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will be the guide for this allotment for the 2016 grazing season.