



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

2016

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

ANTELOPE CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

The authorized season of use for 150 cows/calf pairs will begin **June 24th** and end **October 4th**.

All cattle must be your owned livestock and branded with your registered brand that is listed in your Term Grazing permit.

The following brands are permitted on the allotment:

GRAZING SCHEDULE

You will be operating the allotment as a single pasture this season. At the start of the grazing season place the cattle to the south end of the allotment to start the season. Use Indian Fork and Big Dry Hollow areas first. Cattle will naturally move to Nelson Creek and Antelope Creek later in the summer. Encourage the cattle to the higher portions of the allotment through riding and salt placement throughout the season.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

The reconstruction of the allotment boundary fence was completed in 2013 season. Gates have been hung and cattle guards installed on the upper portions of the fence. An ATV cattle guard was installed last spring on the trail from Indian Fork to Tex Creek. A motorcycle cattle guard was installed in the fence on trail 138 between Garden Creek and Pritchard Creek. The unit fences are no longer functional and are a hazard to people wildlife and livestock. This season you need to start the process of removing these fences. This season you need to remove the wire from the section of the Nelson/Dry Hollow Unit fence from the Allotment Boundary over to the trough that is in the fence. This is approximately one half mile of fence that has reasonable access from the 057, Ballys Hole Road.

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	45%
Shrubs	35%

Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

- A. The 30% utilization levels of current year's growth for key woody plant species.
- B. A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

Herding

Cattle will be moved in a timely fashion so the prescribed use rates are not exceeded. Cattle that tend to congregate or persist to graze riparian areas are to be moved first. These moves need to start before proper use is met. The cattle that are content to graze the uplands and are on good feed will be moved last. Once proper use is met on the riparian areas all of the cattle need to be removed from the area. With a single pasture system if cattle cannot be kept off an area once it has met proper use you will need to remove the cattle from the allotment. **Round-up in the fall must start early enough so that all of the cattle are off the allotment at the end of your Authorized season.**

Salting

Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution. **No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails.** Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land. Move salt blocks often or split the blocks in half to lighten the impact on any one location. Under no circumstance place more than one salt block at one location. Manage your salting late in the season so as little salt as possible is left after the cattle leave the allotment.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

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

Range Improvements

All range improvements must be maintained and in operation prior to cattle entering the Allotment. Last season two of the three old unit fences were inspected and their GPS . The first step will be to GPS these fences and inventory the condition. Then we will come up with a plan to remove them or reconstruct them over the next several years.

Allotment Monitoring

Permittees are encouraged to join the range specialist during allotment inspections. During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the allotment. Also stubble height should be recorded in different areas of the allotment. If you have a camera it would be good to take pictures. Document losses, and the cause if known also document the time spent maintaining improvements and herding.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area

Managers at the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) have been having problems with cattle from neighboring lands using the WMA. Some of these cattle have been cattle permitted on the Antelope Creek Allotment. They are maintaining boundary fences between the allotment and the WMA. Cooperate with the WMA as best you can to keep cattle on the Allotment.

Motorized Access

The Palisades Ranger District is closed to cross country motorized travel. As a grazing permittee you may be issued a motorized travel permit to allow you to travel cross country by motor vehicle to maintain range improvements (fences and water developments). Have the permit in your possession when traveling cross-country. This permit is good for no more than two trips per week. For situations where extended periods of cross-country travel are needed, such as fence construction, you will be issued a separate permit on a case-by-case basis.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Rush skeleton weed has been found west of the allotment near Ririe Reservoir. Please learn to identify this weed and report any sightings of it to us. Spending a little time treating an infestation that consists only of a few plants may prevent larger infestations from damaging your range in the future.

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.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions 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 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.

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.