



CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

2016

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

CONANT VALLEY C&H ALLOTMENT

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Conant Valley Ranch is authorized 100 head of mature cattle and any of the cows' offspring that are less than 6 months old on June 15th. You are authorized to graze from June 15 to August 17 for the 2016 season. This grazing season includes the Forest Service and BLM portions of the allotment.

All cattle must be owned by Conant Valley Ranch and branded with your registered brand that is on file at the district office.

The Forest Service will bill you for 72 cow calf pairs for the authorized season. The BLM is billing you for the use of the BLM portion of the allotment. The BLM permit refers to this as the North Pasture and bills you for 60 AUMs. These two bills will cover the grazing of 100 cow calf pairs for the authorized season.

Grazing Schedule

The grazing schedule for the 2016 season is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
Graze 1st	June 15-July 31	North Unit	Forest Service and BLM North Pasture
Graze 2nd	August 1-August 17	South Unit	Forest Service

If it appears that proper use will be met prior to the scheduled move date from the North Unit or off date for the South Unit move the cows early and contact the range specialist. Continue daily inspection of cattle while on the allotment to ensure the protection of the riparian improvements in Pritchard Creek. Keeping cattle out of the Pritchard Creek riparian area will aid in the recovery of the old reservoir site. Inform the district range staff if any cattle get into the riparian area.

Allotment Management

Inspections of the allotment last season showed that you have corrected the problems with cattle using the Pritchard Unit. A notice of non-compliance was issued for the continued use of the Pritchard Unit by the permitted cattle. We discussed ways to remedy this problem on the allotment October 14, 2014. One steps to remedy the non-compliance include keeping cattle off of the Pritchard Unit, and immediately reporting any time cattle get on to the Pritchard Unit and removing them promptly. Also report if cattle sign is found but no cattle are on the Pritchard Unit during your inspections. Report these observations to Range Management Specialist, Greg Hanson.

The intake for the solar pump was replaced in 2013. During 2014 it was determined that the intake would not fill fast enough to keep up with the pump. Last year the solar system was retrofitted with an intake that is movable and should help maintain the water flow into the culvert to keep the pump running. This system will not be maintenance free. The intake will have to be checked regularly to ensure it does not become plugged. The hose should be removed when not in use. Heavy flows from heavy rain events could affect operation of the system as well. The Forest Service will make sure the pump is in place prior to cattle needing to enter the South Unit. You will need to attach the intake hose and turn the system on to fill the storage tank so it is ready when cattle enter the South Unit.

BLM Range Manager, Bret Herris, was contacted about locking the gate between Forest Service and BLM on the allotment during the time Cattle were in the North Unit. He said he that he could not authorize locking a gate to access The BLM land.

Trails and Recreation Technician, Dave Woodcock, met with Greg Hanson and Jared Johnson to look at the possibility of moving the Jim Hill Trail away from the corner of the fence. He determined that it was a good alternative and would fit in with other planned reroutes on the trail.

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%

Herding

Cattle will be moved in a timely fashion so the prescribed use rates are not exceeded. 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. When proper use is met all of the cattle need to be removed from the unit, even those that are staying in the uplands. The unit should be checked to insure all cattle have been moved to the next unit. Round-up should start early enough so that all of the cattle may be off the allotment at the end of your permitted 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 so 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 unit. We will continue to work together to maintain the solar pump portion of this system.

Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

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.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment.

In order to treat weeds on National Forest we would like access across your ranch to the allotment. The weed crew will contact you to arrange access.

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

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions, information and contact numbers relating to predator depredations 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.

These instructions have 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.