



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

2016

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN C&H ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

Season of use begins Saturday, May 21st and ends Monday, October 10th. The permit reads as follows:

Permittee

Permitted Number

274 head cow/calf pairs

200 head cow/calf pairs

Total 474 head cow/calf pairs

All cattle must be your owned livestock and branded with your registered brand. The following brands are listed in your Term Grazing Permit.

The 474 cattle permitted are adult cattle. Off spring of the cows less than 6 months old at the start of the season are permitted with those adult cattle but not included in the counted number.

GRAZING SCHEDULE

The allotment management plan specifies the unit rotation for the 2016 grazing season is:

Sequence

Units

Graze 1st

Table Rock

Graze 2nd

West Wolverine

Graze 3rd

Limekiln

Graze 4th

East Wolverine

REST

Woods

When moving cattle to the Limekiln Unit from the West Wolverine Unit they will have to pass through the East Wolverine Unit. After grazing the Limekiln Unit cattle will be moved back to the East Wolverine Unit. At the end of the season cattle will be moved to the corral in the Table Rock Unit. Be sure to leave enough forage in the Table Rock Unit for the fall use.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

When grazing the Limekiln Unit herd cattle on the east end of the unit to keep them in the Moody drainage.

Kelly Canyon is looking to do more summer activities at the resort. They would rather not have cattle on the private land or in their permitted area. Do your best to clean cattle off of the West wolverine Unit in a timely fashion and keep after any stragglers that show up on the ski hill throughout the summer.

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

Vegetation type	Percent Utilization
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
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. When proper use is met on the riparian areas all of the cattle need to be removed from the unit, even those that are staying in the uplands. The unit will be periodically checked to insure all cattle have been moved to the next unit. **Round-up in the fall must start early enough so that all of the cattle are 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 existing range improvements will need to be maintained, and in service prior to cattle entering the units. In past years maintenance of the allotment fences has been completed to good standard and with the new fences maintenance time should be reduced. We will discuss other needs during the spring meeting.

Allotment Monitoring

Please continue to assist us in the monitoring by taking pictures prior to the cattle entering the unit and pictures of the same area just as the cattle exit that unit. Also stubble height should be recorded as the cattle 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. 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. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. You need to become familiar with noxious weeds and report any new infestations of them to us so they can be treated before they become a big problem on the allotment.

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.

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires will 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 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.