



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

2016

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

MOODY C&H ALLOTMENT

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

The authorized season of use for 2016 begins Saturday, **June 11th** and ends Saturday, **October 15th**.

The Permit read as follows:

Permittee

Permitted Number

436 head cow/calf pairs

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

GRAZING SCHEDULE

The grazing rotation for the 2016 season is:

Sequence

Units

Graze 1st

Sheep Creek

Graze 2nd

Sawmill

Graze 3rd

Fish Creek

Graze 4th

Graham Hollow

Rest

Moody Riparian

At the end of the season cattle will need to be gathered into the Moody Riparian Unit prior to shipping.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

When grazing the Sheep Creek Unit watch the upper reaches of Canyon Creek for cattle sign as there is no fence between the cattle and sheep allotment. The sheep permittee has been trucking their sheep in the spring to the Pine Creek highway to get to their allotments. This has eliminated nearly all spring sheep use on the sheep driveway going through the Sheep Creek Unit. In the fall 2 bands of sheep will ship lambs from portable corrals near the Forest boundary. Three to four ewe bands of sheep may also trail out the driveway in the fall.

Keep cattle out of the Moody enclosure except when moving cattle across it from the Fish Creek Unit to the Graham Hollow Unit.

The Fish Creek rehabilitation project was completed last season. Do not use this enclosure at all for several seasons while the stream banks in the project area heal. In the past some cattle were put in this enclosure to hold them until someone could get them during roundup.

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. Right now the snow pack at our lower elevations is light. This does not mean we will have a dry season but it would be good to keep in mind that once proper use is met you will have to move to the next unit or off the forest even if there is more time left in the permitted season.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
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. Ideal locations to move carcasses to are open areas that are not visible from roads and trails.

Range Improvements

All range improvements must be maintained and in operation prior to cattle entering the unit. We need to meet with you on the allotment to review range improvements that have deteriorated beyond a maintenance level. These improvements will be evaluated for their importance to management of the allotment and if deemed necessary will be scheduled for reconstruction.

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 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). Please have the permit in your possession when traveling off of designated routes. 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. Please try to become more familiar with various species of noxious weeds so they can be identified and treated before they become a big problem on the allotment. Certain weed species can impact rangelands by invading and replacing usable forage species. You need to become familiar with the weeds on your allotment and report any new infestations of them to us. Musk thistle can be treated by cutting plants at the root prior to setting seed. 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.

Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

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. Please 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, please 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.