

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
MIDNIGHT CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

This is your Annual Operating Instructions for the Michaud C&H Allotment. This Plan is part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8 (a) of your permit.

As part of the Terms & Conditions of your Permit, Part 2 Number 8 (i), all range improvements and maintenance on fences and water developments must be completed before cattle enter the forest. Non-use does not relieve any permittee from their range improvement maintenance responsibility.

Before livestock enter the forest, your grazing fees must be paid and notice received in this office. Failure to follow this procedure is a violation of your permit.

- Be aware of the distribution of cattle in the Clifton Pond and Elk Meadow areas and do not salt within a ¼ mile of these areas
- Cattle are not authorized in the West Fork of Mink Creek
- Coordinate with the adjacent BLM land on season and permitted use

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK (COW/CALF) BY PERMITTEE

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>Authorized</u>
Todd Fitch	158	0	158
Kimberly Whittier Williams Trust	171	0	171
Total	329	0	329

PERMITTED SEASON OF USE: July 1 through September 2

The dates described for moving cattle from unit to unit are approximate, based on proper utilization criteria standards listed below.

Rotation:

Midnight Creek Unit: 4 weeks

Elk Meadows/Clifton Creek Unit: 6 weeks

Specific Standards for:

Stream	Indicator	Standard
Crystal Creek	Bank Alteration	15%
	Stubble Height AIZ (area between the stream and upland vegetation)	3 inches 6/1-7/15 4 inches 7/16-8/15 5 inches 8/16-9/30
	Midnight Creek	Woody Species utilization
Stubble Height AIZ		55%, 6/1-7/15 45%, 7/16-8/15 35%, 8/16-9/30

PROPER UTILIZATION FOR ALL UNITS

Upland Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	Utilization of upland forage species on this allotment should not exceed 50% of key species (Blue Bunch Wheat Grass and Idaho Fescue).
Shrubs (% Annual leader growth)	Utilization in the uplands will be 25% to 35%.
Riparian Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Herbaceous Utilization (AIZ)*	Utilization in the Aquatic Influence Zone at the end of the grazing period will be 50%. (e.g. poa, redbud, etc)

Stubble Height (AIZ)*	Allowable stubble height measurements in the AIZ will vary between 3 to 6 inches at the end of the grazing period depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
Stubble Height (Greenline)*	Allowable stubble height measurements, along the greenline, will be 6 inches at the end of the grazing period. (e.g. carex)
Herbaceous Utilization (Greenline)	Utilization at the greenline at the end of the grazing period will be 50% depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
% Woody Species utilization	Allowable woody utilization 40%
% Cumulative Bank Disturbance (Alteration)	Refers to annual term physical disturbance of alternation of the bank by livestock trampling. Allowable disturbance shall not exceed 15%

When proper use is achieved in each grazing unit, all cattle must be cleaned from the unit. Should bank erosion of perennial streams be evident, soil displacement guidelines may also be used.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Part of good cattle management on the allotment is riding and salting to assure proper cattle distribution. Keeping cattle off "Key" areas and into areas of lesser use serves to prolong the time cattle can expect to stay in a unit. Do not salt within ¼ mile of water, roads, or meadows unless directed to do so. Riding should be done a minimum of three days per week throughout your grazing units.

When moving cattle onto the forest or into a new unit, you may allow for a 24 hour mother-up period. After this, cow-calf pairs should be distributed throughout the unit. You will find that not only will this reduce use on riparian zones, but it will keep cattle better distributed on fresh feed and on newly developed water sources.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Any change that deviates from this Annual Operation Instructions must be made in advance and be in writing by the District Ranger.

A Forest closure exists for any hay or straw used in association with your permit and must be certified and tagged as noxious weed or noxious weed seed free as directed by that order. Please notify our office of any noxious weed populations on your allotment, so that a crew can be sent out to map and treat them.

At the end of the grazing season, cattle must be herded, not drifted home.

Please contact Clayton Collins at 208-236-7504 or Hans Bastian at 208-236-7526 if you have any questions.