

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
WESTON MOUNTAIN CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

This is the Annual Operating Instructions for the Weston Mountain C&H Allotment. These Instructions are 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.

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK (COW/CALF) BY PERMITTEE

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Private/State*</u>	<u>Authorized</u>
	44	27	71
	73	33	106
Totals	117	60	177

** This includes all or part of Sections 5, 8, 17, 30, & 32. Section 16 is run in May and October separately.*

PERMITTED SEASON OF USE

June 1 through September 30

The amount of time allotted for each unit is approximate, based on the proper utilization criteria listed below.

Rotation:

First: South Unit- *Do not allow drift to return to this area once cattle enter the north unit. This allows the remaining of the season for vegetation regrowth.*

Second: North Unit

PROPER UTILIZATION FOR ALL UNITS

<u>Riparian Forage Utilization</u>	<u>Utilization Criteria</u>
Herbaceous Utilization (AIZ)*	Utilization in the Aquatic Influence Zone at the end of the grazing period will be 50%. (e.g. poa, redtop, 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 physical disturbance of alternation of the bank by livestock trampling. Allowable disturbance shall not

	exceed 15 %.
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Upland Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	Utilization of upland forage species on this allotment should not exceed 35% of key species (Blue Bunch Wheat Grass and Idaho Fescue) in critical winter range and 50% for non-winter range.
Shrubs (% Annual leader growth)	Utilization in the uplands 10% in critical winter range and 25to 35% in non-winter range.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Once a unit is grazed, any drift back is detrimental. The objective of rotational grazing is to give vegetation and soils time for recovery in order to promote continued and increased productivity.

Riding and salting away from bottoms is a very important management tool. Salt must be located at least a ¼ of a mile from water, meadows, and roads.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

A forest closure order 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.

Any changes that deviate from these Annual Operating Instructions must be made in advance and be in writing by the District Ranger.

At the end of the grazing season, cattle must be herded, not drifted home. Cattle on the forest after September 30 are not authorized.

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