

Annual Operating Instructions Cattle and Horse Allotments

For the
Teton Basin Ranger District
Idaho/Wyoming
Driggs, Idaho

2016

Caribou - Targhee National Forest
Intermountain Region



Annual Operating Instructions Pinnacle C&H Allotment

Permit Information

Permitted numbers	Grazing Season
35 mother cows with calves or breeding bulls	6/16 -9/30
Number of livestock authorized to graze this year.	
34 cow/calf pairs and 1 breeding bull	Authorized Season of Use 6/16 -9/30

The allotment is managed as a single unit system. There are no fences on the allotment, so the system is based on good herding practices for cattle distribution. Grazing starts at the west end of the allotment at the Forest Boundary. Cattle graze uphill following the Darby Ridge Pipeline.

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is a yearly agreement that is part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). It is a working document, and situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

GRAZING STANDARDS

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan Standards are as follows:

1. Within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ):
 - a. At least four inches of stubble must remain along the hydric greenline (HGL) at the end of the grazing period. The HGL is the first permanent vegetation next to the waters edge.
 - b. Away from the HGL, at least three inches of stubble will be left on the key riparian species at the end of the grazing period.
2. No more than 30 percent use of the current year's growth is allowed on the woody riparian vegetation (i.e., willows)
3. Allowable use on grasses and forbs in the uplands is 45 percent (dry weight); on upland shrubs (i.e., mountain mahogany) it is 35 percent of the current

year's growth.

Once these use rates are reached the cattle will have to be moved to the next unit or they may be required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season. As you know this can be a concern due to the possibility of a below normal moisture summer ahead. Please consider how you may be able to accommodate your livestock on alternate feed sources if they are required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Water Developments will be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment. The cattle access trails that were constructed through thick stands of brush and trees should be maintained to ensure cattle may utilize available forage in the uplands to lessen the use in the riparian areas. Total number of riparian acres on this allotment is low and mostly located in the bottom of Sorenson Creek. Cattle are not using these areas due to the heavy brush and steep side-hills, as indicated by the few numbers of trails and livestock sign.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping in the control of noxious weeds. Remember, all livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest has to be certified weed free. We will be treating weeds again this season. Please report to us any new weed patches we have not been treating in the past. The Pinnacle Allotment is in good vegetative condition, ground cover is high and native vegetation is competing or reducing the risk of invasion of noxious weeds. A few musk thistle infestations are appearing and mechanical control has been implemented for the past three years to contain and reduce the musk thistle infestations. The density of these infestations is low and scattered.

MOTORIZED ACCESS

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan restricts motorized travel to designated routes. For administrative purposes, grazing permittee(s) will be issued a permit to travel cross-country to maintain facilities for up to two vehicles per week. This permit should be adequate to allow you to repair water troughs, fences, and other range improvements identified in your Term Grazing Permit on pages 6-8. For projects that will be require the permittee to travel off designated routes more than two times per week an additional permit will be required. **Remember**, anywhere you drive the public will follow.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to avoid over use of the riparian areas. Salting on the upper benches will help with the desired distribution. No salt should be placed within 4 mile of any created opening with trees less than 6 feet tall.

Please contact us five days before entering allotment for verification of range readiness.

Utilize side canyons and bench areas as much as possible. Working for uniform livestock use will allow you to stay longer on each unit. Any livestock feed or straw brought on the National Forest for camping must be certified weed free.

State laws require all non-virgin bulls to be trichomoniasis tested and tagged 45 days prior to turning onto public lands.

Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process must be received before livestock can enter NFS Lands. Payments can now be made at the District Office with a credit card. It would be best if you had a copy of your bill when paying at the Office.

Stocks outside the permitted season or permitted area are considered excess livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action maybe taken.

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 Teton Basin Ranger District as soon as possible.

Due to the relisting, all of Wyoming except the Wind River Indian Reservation again operates under the 1994 nonessential experimental population rule. Take of wolves may be authorized only by the nonessential experimental population rules. A permittee may chase wolves away from livestock in a manner in which wolves will not be injured. If livestock depredation occurs, Wildlife Services should be contacted. A permittee may be granted a permit by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove a problem wolf. Any wolf deaths must be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within 24 hours.

RECORD KEEPING

Included in your folder is a page of general grazing instructions, an allotment map, and an Actual Use Record. Please fill out the record and return it and the folder to us at the end of the grazing season. We appreciate your cooperation in the past of writing your comments on the Actual Use Record. The comments are valuable to help us improve range management of the allotment.

I would like to thank-you, for coming in and discussing your concern about the allotment

this spring. If you have any questions please contact me or Matt Hoggan, Rangeland Specialist, for Teton Basin at (208) 354-6625 or his cell number is (208) 313-7915.