

Annual Operating Instructions Cattle and Horse Allotments

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

2016

Caribou- Targhee National Forest
Intermountain Region

Tepee Creek C&H Allotment
2016

PERMIT INFORMATION

	Number of livestock	Season of Use
	180 cow/calf pairs	June 1 – September 30

GRAZING ROTATION

Year	Graze 1 st June 1 to July 8 38 days	Graze 2 nd July 9 to Sept 10 63 days	Graze 3 rd Sept. 11 to Sept 30 19 days
2015 & 2016	Pole Canyon Unit 3 Dry Creek Unit I (20% Use)	East Unit Combined Units Units 4 and 2	Dry Creek Unit I
2017 & 2018	Dry Creek Unit I Pole Canyon Unit 3 (20% Use)	East Unit Unit 2 and 4 Combined Units	Dry Creek Unit I

There are 180 head of livestock permitted to graze the Tepee Allotment for the 2016 grazing season. The previously used four pasture rotation has been changed to a 3 pasture rotation because the east west running fence which separated units 2 and 4 has been removed. Units 2 and 4 will be combined into the Upper East Unit. Units 1-Dry Creek and Unit 3-Pole Canyon are separated by Tepee Creek, a rim rock canyon. This canyon will work as a natural barrier and will be used to maintain cattle in their rotation along with cooperative riding and herding efforts from the permittee. The permittee maintains the north south fence, which works as a division fence between the Upper East Unit, and the Dry Creek and Pole Canyon Units.

Using this system, when the cattle are grazing Unit 3-Pole Canyon there will be some incidental use in Unit 1-Dry Canyon. It is the permittee's responsibility to keep this use at a minimum. Standards will be: not to exceed the 20% upland use assigned for Dry Creek or Pole Canyon through riding and salt placement. McReyold's Reservoir Riparian Pasture is part of Unit 1-Dry Creek and Forest Plan Riparian Grazing Standards will apply to this area and be used as needed.

This grazing system is authorized on a trial basis. The permittee and Forest Service will try this management system for the next four years. The objective will be to utilize one of the lower units at only 20% on the uplands each year. The objective for the East Unit is to stay within upland and riparian utilization standards (55%) for the allotment, with a goal of maintaining good to excellent range conditions and having upward trends on fair condition range. The allotment has been easily maintaining Forest Plan Utilization Standards for the past several years. These standards are outlined below in this document under Grazing standards.

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 agency 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 water's 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 55 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

Fences and water developments will be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment. Call Matt Hoggan when the division fence that runs north and south is maintained. He will need to

inspect this fence prior to placing cattle on 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.

We would like to review the allotment with you this summer to assess the needs of range improvements and overall management of the allotment. We will meet you at your ranch corrals at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, August 24, 2016. Be prepared to ride the allotment as necessary to look at utilization and improvements. We will assess the Badger Springs Trough during this ride.

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. A small new infestation of Leafy Spurge was reported by the permittee in Unit #3. This infestation has been GPS, sprayed, and monitored. We will be monitoring and treating weeds again this season. Please report to us any new weed infestations that have not been treated in the past.

MOTORIZED ACCESS

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan restricts motorized travel to designated routes only. 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 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. Contact the District Ranger to obtain a cross-country travel permit.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to avoid over use of the riparian areas. Utilize side canyons and bench area as much as possible.

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

Any livestock feed or straw brought onto the National Forest must be certified weed free.

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

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 may be taken.

Wildlife

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management in Idaho you can contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Wolves have been relisted as a threatened nonessential experimental population in Wyoming. The US Fish and Wildlife Service are responsible for Wolves in Wyoming. 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.

If you have any questions please contact Matt Hoggan, Rangeland Specialist, at the Teton Basin Office (208) 354-6625 summer desk, or at the Palisades Office (208)-542-5809 winter desk or by cell phone at (208) 313-7915.