

Annual Operating Instructions
Cattle and Horse Allotments

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

2016

Caribou- Targhee National Forest
Interrnountain Region

Annual Operating Instructions
Westside C&H Allotment
2016

PLEASE CONTACT US FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Permit Information

<u>Number of livestock authorized to graze this year.</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>
115 head of cow/calf pairs (250 headmonths 66 days)	July 1 – September 4

The Grazing System is managed under a three pasture system. The 2016 grazing season will consist of livestock grazing starting in Unit 1 Henderson, beginning July 1st to July 20th. If these use rates are reached the cattle will need to be moved to the next unit earlier. Then move the cattle to Patterson Creek into Unit 2 and graze this unit from July 21 to August 10th. In Unit 3 the Grove and Drake Creek drainages cattle will finishing the grazing season from August 11 to August 31. You have increased the utilization rate in the Drake Creek Drainage as requested. This takes the grazing pressure off other areas/drainages. Previous grazed drainages need to be monitor for cattle reentering the unit/drainages and moved to the scheduled unit to maintain a proper rotation and utilization levels. Adaptive management techniques will be utilized to meet resource objectives.

2015 Grazing Schedule

Henderson (Unit #land #2)	July 1	to	July 20	20 days
Patterson (Unit #3 and #4)	July 21	to	August 10	20 days
Grove and Drake Creek (Unit #5)	August 10	to	September 4	26 days

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.

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 beleft 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. 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. 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.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Fences and 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.

We would like to review the allotment with you this summer to assess the needs of range improvements and overall management of the allotment. The authorized officer will contact you with a meeting date.

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.

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.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to avoid over use of the riparian areas. No salt should be placed within ¼ 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.

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.

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can 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.

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, at Teton Basin (208) 354-6625 (desk) (208) 313-7915 (cell) 307-699-1093 Palisades Office (desk) 208-542-5809.