



CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

2016

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

SOUTH FORK CATTLE ALLOTMENT

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

The permit is for 25 cow/calf pairs. The period of use specifies 84 days to be used in the period between May 15th and October 10th. All cattle must be your own livestock with your registered brand that is on file at the district office.

GRAZING SCHEDULE

The schedule for 2016 is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	East Unit
Graze 2nd	West Unit

Cattle will graze the east Unit starting May 15. They will be allowed to use the east Unit until proper use is met. The cattle will then be removed from the Forest and taken to their summer pasture on private land. In the late summer or early fall the cattle are to be brought back to the allotment and placed on the West Unit. They may graze the West Unit until proper use is met. No more than 84 days may be spent grazing on the allotment. All cattle must be removed from the allotment October 10th even if proper use has not been met.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

PROPER USE CRITERIA

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the cattle will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs	35%

Herding

Cattle will be moved in a timely fashion so the prescribed use rates are not exceeded.

Salting

Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution. No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land. Move salt blocks often or split the blocks in half so to lighten the impact on any one location. Under no circumstance place more than one salt block at one location.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 200 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

Range Improvements

All range improvements must be maintained and in operation prior to cattle entering the unit. The fence that was built last year needs to be improved. We will also make a plan in the Spring 2016 meeting on construction of the rest of the fence.

Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Motorized Access

The Palisades Ranger District is closed to cross country motorized travel. As a grazing permittee you may be issued a motorized travel permit to allow you to travel cross country by motor vehicle to maintain range improvements (fences and water developments). Have the permit in your possession when traveling cross-country. This permit is good for no more than two trips per week. For situations where extended periods of cross-country travel are needed, such as fence construction, you will be issued a separate permit on a case-by-case basis.

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 Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Musk thistle control is a high priority to control on the South Fork Allotment. Report any new infestations you find to us.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions, information and contact numbers relating to wolf depredations and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that require changes to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

These instructions have been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will be the guide for this allotment for the 2016 grazing season.