

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
CHERRY CREEK CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

This is your Annual Operating Instructions for the Cherry Creek C&H Allotment. This Plan is 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 BY PERMITTEE

PERMITEE	TERM	NONUSE
	29	0
	72	0
	25	0
	27	0
	30	0
Total	183	0

PERMITTED SEASON OF USE

APPROXIMATELY June 1 through September 30.

The amount of time allotted in each unit, described below is approximate, based on proper utilization criteria.

Rotation:

Rotation	Unit	Numbers	Time
1ST	Warm Springs Unit	183	30 days
* 2ND	Lower West Cherry Unit	183	45 days
	Middle Cherry Unit		
3RD	Upper Cherry Unit	183	45 days

*Will be run together as agreed by the association since the 2007 spring meeting.

PROPER UTILIZATION CRITERIA FOR ALL UNITS

Riparian Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
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 short term (annual) physical disturbance of alternation of the bank by livestock trampling. Allowable disturbance shall not exceed 10-15 %.

Should bank erosion of perennial streams be evident, soil displacement guidelines may also be used. In addition, recreation sites may have to be grazed at a lower level depending on the

situation. Any changes in utilization levels for these areas will be cooperatively determined with you at each specific site.

Upland Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	Utilization of upland forage species on this allotment should not exceed 50% of key species (Blue Bunch Wheat Grass and Idaho Fescue).
Shrubs (% Annual leader growth)	Utilization in the uplands will vary from 25% to 35% depending on whether it is considered as: winter range, critical winter range, or non-winter range.

When proper use is achieved in each grazing unit, all cattle must be cleaned from the unit and pushed into the next scheduled unit of use. Five days will be allowed to move cattle from one unit to the next. After that, the previously used unit should be back rode to remove any cattle missed and cattle should not be allowed to return there again during the season.

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.

Recommendations for grazing seasons:

- Insure the pasture units are cleaned out after use. Increase days of back riding.
- Maintain the Toms Canyon fence and close out area after seasonal use.
- Increase permittee responsibility to work with the range rider. Do not assume that Rider should be doing all the work. Help with control of livestock and problems that may occur.
- Increase involvement in late August. This is traditionally a difficult time of year for livestock control, high temperatures, and decrease moisture levels. Most of our problems occur around Sept 1st. Look to be proactive and not reactive.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Due to snow load on the fence between New Canyon and Cherry Creek, it will be put up by July 7th.

Any change which deviates from this Annual Operation Instructions must be made in advance and approved by the District Ranger. At the end of the grazing season, cattle must be herded, not drifted home. Cattle on the forest after September 30th are not authorized.

A Forest closure order exists for any hay or straw used in association with your permit. All hay and straw will be certified and tagged as noxious weed or noxious weed seed free as directed by the 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.

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