



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST**

**PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT**

**IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

**2016**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**SNAKE RIVER CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

**CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT**

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

Season of use begins Wednesday, June 1 and ends Saturday, October 15. Permits read as follows:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>	<u>Brand</u>
	366 head	
	205 head	
	<u>52 head</u>	
Total	623 head	

Permitted numbers count any cattle over 6 months old. Offspring of permitted cows less than 6 months old are not counted.

**All cattle must be your owned livestock and branded with your registered brand as shown in your Term Grazing Permit.**

**GRAZING SCHEDULE**

The allotment management plan specifies the following schedule for the 2016 grazing season.

The herd is split at the beginning of the year. Herd A starts in the Lower Fall Creek Unit and herd B starts in the Porcupine Unit. Herd A goes to the Papoose Unit while herd B goes to the Upper Fall Creek Unit. Both herds combine and go into the Squaw Creek Unit and then into the Flatiron Unit. All but 75 head stay in the Flatiron Unit the remainder of the season. The 75 head spend approximately 35 days (after Labor Day) or until proper utilization is reached in the Dry Farm Unit. The Horse Creek Unit is rested.

Herd B will need to move through the rested Horse Creek Unit. Move cattle through this unit as rapidly as possible to maintain the integrity of the rest it is supposed to receive.

Sequence	Group A	Group B
Graze First	<i>Lower Fall Creek</i>	Porcupine
Graze second	<i>Papoose</i>	Upper Fall Creek
Graze Third	<i>Squaw Creek</i>	
Graze Fourth	<i>Flat Iron</i>	
Graze Fifth	<i>* Campground Unit</i>	

**REST**

**Horse Creek**

Lower Fall Creek Unit may be used for seven days to gather into at the end of the grazing season just prior to shipping. While grazing this unit in the scheduled rotation you will need to plan to have adequate forage to sustain the round-up cattle for seven days at the end of the season, without exceeding the specified use rates.

The old Vanoy farm lease may be used to gather some stray cattle at the end of the grazing season.

Cattle will not be allowed to enter the Campground Unit until after Labor Day which in 2016 is September 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT**

We have received a decision on Squaw Creek Island. The BLM manages Squaw Creek Island. You will need to keep cattle off of the Island.

Kent Barber, Tracy Hollingshead, Jaimi Stokes, and Greg Hanson looked at options to change fencing and add a fence at Indian Creek to make management between Indian Creek and Squaw Creek more manageable. This would aid in keeping cattle off of the Island at Squaw Creek.

The Idaho Falls Trail Machine Association ride is scheduled for June 17-19. We will keep you informed of other events that are permitted to take place on your allotment this summer.

The campground managers have secured funding to fence the Fall Creek Camp Ground fenced. Construction will begin this summer.

### 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

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

### Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

- A. The 30% utilization levels of current year's growth for key woody plant species.
- B. A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

### Herding

Cattle will be moved in a timely fashion so the prescribed use rates are not exceeded. Cattle that tend to congregate or persist to graze riparian areas are to be moved first. These moves need to start before proper use is met. The cattle that are content to graze the uplands and are on good feed will be moved last. When proper use is met on the riparian areas all of the cattle need to be removed from the unit, even those that are staying in the uplands. The rider may need extra help from the permittees to clear all stragglers from a unit which has reached proper use. Cattle should be out of the unit within two weeks of the initial start of the move. We do not want cattle in all of the units at one time. The unit will be periodically checked to insure all cattle have been moved to the next unit. Round-up in the fall must start early enough so that all of the cattle are off the allotment at the end of your permitted season.

### 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. Manage your salting late in the season so as little salt as possible is left after the cattle leave the allotment.

### Disposal of Dead Livestock

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

### Range Improvements

Last spring meeting the permittees decided the Porcupine trough needed to be rebuilt. The forest range crew removed the old trough and prepared it for back haul when the new trough was brought in. The new trough and fencing materials for the spring were delivered to the site in September. This trough needs to be installed prior to turnout this year.

All range improvements must be maintained and in operation prior to cattle entering the unit. We will discuss what projects beyond your regular maintenance that you would like to complete this season at the spring meeting.

The process to determine if a corral may be built on the old farm ground to facilitate gathering cattle has been started.

The grazing permit for each permittee specifies certain range improvements that are assigned to that individual. Failure to properly maintain that improvement could result in suspension or cancellation of their grazing permit. The improvement list has been updated and you will receive a copy of it with this Annual Operating Instruction. The list shows the Long Gulch pipeline and Deer Creek corral are the maintenance of all permittees. There are several improvements which are not assigned to any permittee. We will discuss how to manage these improvements at the spring meeting.

Several water troughs on the allotment are in need of attention. When maintain the troughs check for animal escape ramps. We have several of these ramps on hand that work well in the Powder River type troughs.

### 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 cattle leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit. Photos are helpful when documenting cattle use.

## **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.

### 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. The following weeds are high priorities to control on the Snake River Allotment: spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, and musk thistle. Become familiar with these weeds and report any new infestations of them to us.

### 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 Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

### **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.

This plan has 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.