



Annual Operating Instructions
Mill Creek - Teton C&H Allotment
 Teton Basin Ranger District
 Idaho/Wyoming
 Driggs, Idaho

 Caribou- Targhee National Forest
 Intermountain Region
2015

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Permit Information

Permitted Numbers	Season of Use
34 head of	June 16 – September 30
34 head of	June 16 – September 30

Authorized Numbers

Livestock authorized to graze this year.	Season of Use
34 head of cow/calf pairs	June 16 – September 30
Non-use	Non-use

The Mill Creek-Teton Cattle and Horse Allotment is managed with a deferred-rotation grazing system consisting of two-units. The rotation is used to accommodate high recreational use on the allotment. The allotment is in good to excellent condition.

2015 Grazing Schedule

	Dates	Days
Teton Creek (Unit #2)	June 16 to June 30	14
Bustle Creek (West ½ of Unit #1)	July 1 to July 31	31
Mill Creek (East ½ of Unit #1)	August 1 to August 16	16
Teton Creek (Unit #2)	August 17 to September 30	46

On June 16, start grazing the herd in the Teton Canyon Drainage and surrounding areas northeast along the Teton Canyon Road until June 30th. Then move the cattle west of the Ski Hill Road using the Bustle Creek Drainages and surrounding areas, the second half of that unit is then grazed east of the Ski Hill Road. These two areas are grazed as one unit and cattle may drift across both areas. Grazing should then be finished in the Teton Canyon.

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. 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. 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

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.

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 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.

OWNERSHIP

Cattle grazed under the Term Grazing Permit, must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with your registered brand(s) as authorized by the permit.

GRAZING FEES

Confirmation of payment must be received before cattle can enter National Forest Service lands.

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) may 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 5-8. 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

Utilize side canyons and bench areas as much as possible. Working for uniform livestock use will allow you to meet proper use on each unit. Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to maintain grazing standards in the riparian areas.

Stock 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 maybe taken.

Do not park vehicles in the area that was rehabilitated near the sheep bridge. The best place to park is at the Mill Teton Trailhead.

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

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for Wolves in Wyoming. Wolves are listed as a threatened nonessential experimental population 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 of wolves, 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.

Grizzly Bear Management

Grizzly bears are listed as threatened in Idaho and Wyoming. Take appropriate measures to discourage any bear, grizzly or black, from frequenting human use areas. Enclosed in your grazing folder is the Food Storage Order that is in effect on areas of the Targhee National Forest east of Interstate 15 and north of Idaho Highway 33 and Wyoming Highway 22 (Teton Pass). This order is in effect on your allotment. The intended outcome of the order is to minimize bear and human encounters which protect both bears and humans. The grizzly bear is a protected species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. As such all persons are prohibited from “taking” a bear under any circumstance except in the defense of human life. The taking of a bear to protect livestock or property is prohibited. Taking is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Report any grizzly bear sightings or conflicts to the Teton Basin Ranger District as soon as possible.

Livestock carcasses will be removed from National Forest Service Lands when feasible. If it is not feasible to remove the carcass it will be disposed of ¼ mile from frequently occupied human areas (trails/ houses/ streams).

RECORD KEEPING

Included in your folder is an allotment map, the Food Storage Order, contact information for Wildlife Services and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, 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. Make comments pertaining to management on the Actual Use Record. The comments are valuable to help us improve range management of the allotment and documenting the use on 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 (208) 313-7915 (cell) or (208) 542-5809 (desk) or Teton Basin Ranger District is 208-354-2312.
