



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

2011

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
CONANT VALLEY C&H ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Permit Information

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Conant Valley Ranch	July 21 st to September 4 th	100 cow/calf

All cattle must be owned by Conant Valley Ranch and branded with your registered brand that is on file at the district office.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment:

CV

Right Shoulder

To accommodate use of the BLM land included in this allotment and to make the use of the available water on the allotment. You will be authorized to graze from 6-1 to 7-16 for the 2011 season.

Grazing Schedule

The grazing schedule for the 2011 season is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	South Unit
Graze 2nd	North Unit

Continue the daily inspection of cattle while on the allotment to ensure the protection of the riparian improvements in Prichard Creek. Keeping cattle out of the Prichard Creek riparian area will aid in the recovery of the old reservoir site. Inform the district range staff if any cattle get into the riparian area.

Allotment Management

Last season you were authorized to put cattle on the allotment June 1st. Due to range readiness cattle were not turned onto the allotment until June 22. We will establish a permanent “on date” that is compatible with your ranch operation and still takes advantage of the early season water after evaluating range readiness for five years and completion of the capacity study. Your input is very important in evaluation of the turn on date.

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. 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 all of the cattle need to be removed from the unit, even those that are staying in the uplands. The unit should be checked to insure all cattle have been moved to the next unit. Round-up in the fall should start early enough so that all of the cattle may be 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 100 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. You are responsible for the maintenance of the storage tank and trough portion of the solar pump system. We will continue to work together to maintain the Solar pump portion of this system. The ponds were reconstructed on the South Unit last season. This reconstruction will aid in distributing cattle throughout the unit.

Allotment Monitoring

A capacity study on the Conant Valley Allotment began in 2009. We will continue the study for two more years. The purpose of this study is to determine the proper stocking number. This process will monitor actual use on the allotment for four years. The permittee is encouraged to join the range specialist during allotment inspections. At the end of the study, stocking rates will be adjusted to the capacity of the allotment. The results of the second season will be shared with you at the spring meeting.

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.

The Caribou Subsection Travel Plan is currently being revised. Actions in the preferred alternative that may effect the management of your allotment include changing the designation of the Jim Hill Trail to a single track motorized trail. If this proposal is chosen ATVs will no longer be allowed on the trail. No decisions have been made on the revision.

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 and hounds tongue are increasing on your allotment and are high on the district priority for control. Musk thistle can be treated by cutting plants at the root prior to setting seed. Spending a little time treating an infestation that consists only of a few plants may prevent larger infestations from damaging your range in the future.

In order to treat weeds on National Forest we would like access across your ranch to the allotment. The weed crew will contact you to arrange access.

Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

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 US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS). A news release with contact information from the USF&WS has been included in your grazing folder. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

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 2011 grazing season.

/s/ Jared Johnson
Permittee

3-14-2011
Date

/s/ Robert Mickelsen
ROBERT MICKELSEN
District Ranger

3-15-2011
Date