



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

**2011**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**INDIAN CREEK CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

Robert Smith

**CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT**

**Permit Information**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Robert Smith	June 16 <sup>th</sup> to September 5 <sup>th</sup>	150 cow/calf pairs

**Authorized use** for 2011 is **120 cow/calf pairs** for the permitted June 16<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> season.

All cattle must be your owned livestock and branded with your registered brand.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment: **R2** *Right Hip*

**GRAZING SCHEDULE**

The grazing sequence for the 2011 is:

Graze 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jack Branch Unit
Graze 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bottom Unit
Graze 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Upper Indian Unit
Graze 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lower Indian Unit
<b>Rest</b>	<b>Spring Run Unit</b>

### **Allotment Management**

Last season, 2011, was the second year you were authorized only 120 head of cattle. It was the first season you have used the Lower Indian Unit first in the rotation. While on the Lower Indian Unit three cows died of larkspur poisoning. We will discuss the rotation at the spring meeting and see what adjustments can be made to avoid larkspur poisoning in the future.

Since the creation of the Indian Creek Allotment in the early 1900s, a portion of your private land has been included in the Jack Branch Unit. Recently it was agreed that we should exclude the private land from the National Forest grazing allotment. In September 2009 the National Forest/private land boundary was surveyed. Last season you completed the fence on the forest boundary. We will evaluate cattle use of the Jack Branch Unit to confirm grazing capacity.

### **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	50%
Shrubs on the Upper Indian Creek Unit	35%
Shrubs on the Lower Indian Creek, Bottom Unit Spring Run, Jack Branch Units.	15%

#### **Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height**

Riparian Shrubs (current year's growth) 30%.

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).

The 50 % utilization levels on upland herbaceous vegetation and the 15% utilization levels for four of the five units for upland shrubs is a result of site specific analysis in the Environmental Assessment for the Indian Creek Allotment. These utilization rates are more restrictive than the rates (55% for upland vegetation and 35% for upland shrubs) as

prescribed in the Revised Forest Plan This reduced use rate is to provide adequate forage for wintering wildlife and wildlife in transit to lower winter range.

### 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 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 should 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.

### 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). Please have in your possession the permit 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. We appreciate your help in past years in the control of noxious weeds. Continue with your treatment and report to us of any new infestations you find in your travels across the allotment.

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.

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 2011 grazing season.

/s/ Robert H. Smith  
Permittee

3/11/11  
Date

/s/ Robbert Mickelsen  
ROBBERT MICKELSEN  
District Ranger

3/11/11  
Date