



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

2011

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SNAKE RIVER CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

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

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Kent Barber	256 head	3T Left Rib
KBL Ranches	110 head	L Left Rib
Bret Barber	205 head	BJ Left Shoulder & Left Rib
Scott Hancock	<u>52</u> head	RH Left Rib
Total	623 head	

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 2011 grazing season. All of the cattle will start on the Flat Iron Unit. During the middle of the season the herd will be split. To follow the sequence, once split up the two herds will be referred to as group A and group B

<u>A Cattle</u>	<u>B Cattle</u>
Graze 1 st Flat Iron (All Cattle A&B)	
Graze 2 nd Squaw Creek (All Cattle A&B)	
Graze 3 rd Papoose (remainder of the season)	Graze 3 rd Horse Creek
Graze 4 th Dry Farm (75 head of A Cattle, after Labor day)	Graze 4 th Upper Fall Creek
	Graze 5 th Porcupine

Rest Lower Fall Creek

Cattle will not be allowed to enter the Dry Farm Unit until after Labor Day which in 2011 is September 5th.

Lower Fall Creek Unit is scheduled for rest during the 2011 season. You will be allowed to move cattle into the Lower Fall Creek Unit 7-10 days prior to roundup. We also realize that it is difficult to keep cattle off of the Lower Fall Creek Unit while grazing the adjacent units. Continue to watch the unit throughout the summer and move any cattle that find their way into Lower Fall Creek back to one of the scheduled units as you have done in the past.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Management for 2010 was accomplished in compliance with the Snake River Cattle Allotment Management Plan. Grazing intensities were all within the allowable use rates.

Due to range readiness cattle were not turned out until the 8th and 12th of June. Cattle were removed from the allotment October 22.

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

Vegetation type	Percent Utilization
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	50%
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 all 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 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. We would like to complement you on the improvement work that was accomplished last season. We appreciate the work you put into the reconstruction of the McCabe, Indian Camp Hollow, Dry Hollow and Echo Pond water developments last season. We will discuss what projects beyond your regular maintenance that you would like to complete this season at the spring meeting.

There are several cattle access trails on the allotment. It is important to keep these trails open to help in distribution of cattle as well as provide a route to drive the cattle when moving them from the unit. To prevent a backlog of trail maintenance you should schedule a certain amount of trails to be cleared each

year.

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.

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.

As you know the Caribou Subsection Travel Plan is currently being revised. No decision has 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. The following weeds are high priorities to control on the Snake River Allotment. Spotted Knapweed has been found near the mouth of Calf Hollow and in the Flat Iron unit. Leafy Spurge is located in several places on the allotment. Musk thistle is becoming more wide spread throughout the allotment. You need to become familiar with these weeds and report any new infestations of them to us. 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.

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 will be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires

are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

You should soon receive a scoping document regarding a plan to use fire to treat aspen and mountain brush in the Flat Iron area. Please submit any comments you have regarding this proposal.

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/ Holly Hancock

Permittee

3-08-2011

Date

/s/ Kent Barber

Permittee

3-08-2011

Date

/s/ Bret Barber

Permittee

3-08-2011

Date

/s/ Mark Lundquist

Permittee

3-08-2011

Date

/s/ Robbert Mickelsen

ROBBERT MICKELSEN
District Ranger

3-08-2011

Date