

**BUNCH GULCH, SHIRLEY MOUNTAIN
AND MEADOW-TOLAN
GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST
SULA RANGER DISTRICT**

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS OBJECTIVES

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) is used in addition to your Term Grazing Permit to specify terms and conditions, and management goals for this allotment. It provides specific items such as direction for management of livestock, monitoring and communication procedures to and from district personnel. All requirements of your Term Grazing Permit remain in force, unless specifically noted in the AOI.

Grazing Permit for Betty Wetzsteon

Allotment	Permit	Class	Factor	Number Allotted	On Date	Off Date	AUM's*
Bunch Gulch	Term	Cow/calf	1.32	100	05/16	06/10	106
Shirley Mountain	Term	Cow/calf	1.32	130	06/01	06/25	137
Meadow-Tolan	Term	Cow/calf	1.32	275	06/28	09/30	1343

* AUM is number allotted x factor x number of months grazed

1) ANNUAL GRAZING MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A) The season of use described above is an estimated time period that livestock will be allowed on the allotment. The season of use may be increased or decreased based on weather conditions, allowable use levels, range readiness, or other conditions affecting forage and water availability.

B) Monitor stream bank trampling by livestock so that the annual end-of-season impacts do not exceed the percentage standards identified in the monitoring plan. If you have any questions about whether or not you are approaching the allowable impact limits on any site, please give Gil or Diane a call.

C) Continue to disperse cattle and discourage use in Meadow Creek.

D) Keep stragglers to a minimum.

E) Keep cattle from contributing to excessive soil disturbance in the burned areas.

- a. Cattle should be trailed along established stock trails or roads.
- b. Salting practices should encourage use away from high severity burn areas, riparian areas, springs and seeps.
- c. Burned riparian areas that are not excluded will be inspected and evaluated for cattle use and potential impacts.
- d. If the Forest Service or the permittee identifies excessive soil disturbance, cattle will be moved to a different unit or off the Forest.

F) Allowable use is the maximum level of grazing that is authorized to occur on the allotment. Removal or dispersment of cattle will be required if allowable levels are met before the scheduled off date. Allowable use levels for this allotment is 50% utilization in summer

range areas, and 35% in winter range. Relevant management requirements of the Bitterroot Forest Plan and INFISH are also to be adhered to.

2) 2010 SEASON UNIT STOCKING AND ROTATION

Allotment	Class	Number	On Date	Off Date	HM's*
Bunch Gulch	Cow/calf	100	06/01	06/27	90
Shirley Mountain	Cow/calf	70	06/01	06/27	63
Meadow-Tolan	Cow/calf	170	06/28	09/30	538

*HM's = Number Allotted x months grazed

Dates are tentative depending upon how permittee distributes his cattle, proper use, water availability and climatic conditions. Range readiness may be late this year due to cool spring temperatures. As a result, turn on date could be later. Due to low snow pack this past winter, conditions may dry quickly. If it is a hot, dry, summer conditions may require an early off date.

3) ENTERING THE FOREST

A) The current year's grazing fees will be paid at least 5 days before the on-date of the grazing season or prior to the time livestock enter the National Forest unless prior arrangements have been made in writing.

B) The permittee must notify the Forest Service when entering the Forest and/or moving cattle between pastures or off the Forest.

C) The Forest Service will confirm or adjust the on-date for the Meadow Creek portion based on range readiness at least 10 days prior to the above stated on-date.

4) NOXIOUS WEEDS

Spotted knapweed, houndstongue and oxeye daisy are located throughout the allotment. Roadside spraying has occurred over the past several years and will continue for as long as is necessary.

5) GENERAL MANAGEMENT

A) Before entering the allotment, a cattle count may be taken. The Forest Service should be notified in advance of the on-date, in order to be available at the time and date specified by the permittee.

B) Salt should be used to draw cattle into areas of low use and removed when areas have received proper use. At the end of the grazing season, all residual salt will be removed from salt

grounds and the allotment. Salt only the units or areas where stock should be. Do not salt the whole allotment in advance; salt progressively with stock movement. Please do not place salt in areas where new tree plantations are being established, within 500 feet of water or on open ridges in primary range.

C) Riding will be necessary to disperse cattle and achieve more uniform use throughout the allotment.

D) Any concentrations of cattle in riparian zones shall be moved and dispersed into areas of low use such as Shirley Mountain. Cattle utilization in riparian zones will not exceed 50 percent on big game summer range or 35% in winter range. This includes Bunch Gulch and North Fork Springer. The riparian pastures may be used temporarily as holding pastures while gathering, sorting, or moving.

E) When proper use is reached in a unit all cattle will be moved out. A handful of stragglers left over a long period in a unit can hang up on small areas of primary range and cause trouble.

F) Following the spring use period on Bunch Gulch and Shirley Mountain, cattle will be moved up Springer Creek and dispersed into Upper Springer, Meadow Creek, Mink Creek and the Hilltop area. As cattle congregate at Mink Creek Saddle and in the Meadow Creek bottoms, they will be dispersed into areas of lower use, such as Bugle, Swift, Echo Creek, Balsam Creek and to Schultz Saddle.

6) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements will be maintained annually to standards of original construction. Improvements must be maintained before stock reach the respective pastures, otherwise cattle will not be turned on or moved and may be requested to be removed from the allotment.

A) All work done with a bull-dozer, tractor, backhoe, or other earth moving equipment must be approved in advance by the District Ranger.

B) Assigned water developments are to be maintained for livestock use during the planned period of use.

7) FOREST FIRE CONTROL

The Permittee and any managers are expected to take all reasonable precautions to prevent fires, to make diligent efforts to suppress fires, and to report all fires endangering NFS lands to the Sula Ranger District or the Bitterroot National Forest dispatcher at 363-7134.

All internal combustion engines used on the Forest will be equipped with a serviceable spark arrestor and/or muffler. Caution is also required when using vehicles off developed roads.

All burning requires prior approval by the District Ranger.

8) CONTACT

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Or

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