

**HARLAN GULCH
GRAZING ALLOTMENT
2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST
DARBY RANGER DISTRICT**

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS PURPOSE

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are used in addition to your Term Grazing Permit to specify terms and conditions, management goals and annual allowable livestock impact standards 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 and INFISH remain in force, unless specifically noted in the AOI.

Grazing Permit for Dwain Rennaker

Allotment	Permit	Class	Factor	Number Allotted	On Date	Off Date	AUM's*
Harlan Gulch	Term	Cow/calf	1.32	60	06/01	08/01	158

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

1) GRAZING MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, ANNUAL STANDARDS AND MANAGEMENT TACTICS

A) Keep cattle dispersed on the uplands. To help distribute cattle better, shut off some of the troughs located in the stream bottoms when the utilization limit of 50% is approached.

B) 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.

C) Please let Diane or Gil know of your plans to move cattle on and off the allotment. Please keep track of your actual use through the season so we may better understand patterns of use and your management efforts. For example, please note if you pull cattle off early. This will also qualify you for a credit on your next year's grazing bill.

D) 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 approached before the scheduled off date. Allowable use levels for your allotment are 50% utilization in summer range areas and 35% in winter range. These standards are one of the important measures we use to determine how well an allotment is managed and whether the grazer is complying with the permit terms and the goals of management.

Diane and Gil are available to help you evaluate, at any time, when you are approaching the allowable use levels in any of the key areas.

The grazeable drainage bottoms, such as Roan Gulch, are magnets for livestock concentration. Please make a strong effort to prevent over utilization of these sites. Most of our concerns about cattle impacts focus on riparian areas and streams for a variety of reasons. We will try to establish cages this year on some key sites to help track forage utilization levels.

2) 2010 SEASON UNIT STOCKING AND ROTATION

Based on the Annual Application, the following numbers of livestock are authorized for the 2010 season;

Unit	Numbers	Class	On Date	Off Date
Allotment Wide	60	Cow/calf	06/01	08/01

Enter the allotment by way of Roan and Harlan Gulch. Move cattle up to higher elevations toward Harlan Mountain as the season progresses. The allotment is grazed on a season-long basis. There are no pastures within the allotment.

Grazing use out of the riparian areas will be encouraged as much as possible. Salting on ridge tops and benches is recommended. Placement of salt within ¼ mile of live water will be avoided.

Dates are tentative depending upon how permittee distributes his cattle, proper use, water availability and climatic conditions. Although spring has been cool and wet, low snow pack this past winter could cause conditions to dry out quickly when summer heat hits. Therefore, it may be necessary to pull cattle off the allotment early.

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.

B) The permittee is responsible for range improvements (fences and water developments) unless other arrangements have been made. Improvements will be maintained and the Forest Service notified before cattle are turned onto the allotment.

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

D) The Forest Service will confirm or adjust the on-date based on range readiness.

4) NOXIOUS WEEDS

Weed treatments on St. Johnswort, leafy spurge, thistle, blueweed and roadside knapweed have been ongoing. This work will continue with follow-up treatments as needed. The Forest is cooperating with the Ravalli County Weed District to do some inventory and or treatment of Forest and private lands along the foothills, including the Harlan and Sleeping Child areas. If you locate any spurge infestations on Forest Service, please notify the Forest Service and we will plan to spray them. For private land infestations, please call the county weed supervisor.

5) GENERAL MANAGEMENT

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

B) Permittees shall place salt supplement or supplement feed in areas where it will most benefit the management objectives of the allotment. The permittee shall be responsible to adequately disperse livestock and limit use away from natural concentrations areas through salt, riding, and other management practices. Tree plantations shall be avoided during salt placement.

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.

7) 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 for removal from the allotment.

A) All work done with a 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.

8) 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 Darby 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.

9) CONTACT

Gil Gale

Range Program Leader

or

Diane Bessler-Hackett

Rangeland Management Specialist

Phone: 406-821-2318

Phone: 406-821-2337

Fax: 406-821-2340