

2010 Annual Operating Instructions

Battle Park C&H Allotment

Powder River Ranger District

Bighorn National Forest

District Ranger _____ Date _____

Permittee _____ Date _____

BATTLE PARK C&H ALLOTMENT
YEAR 2010 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Permitted and Authorized for 2010:

Battle Park C&H Allotment Permittee	Permitted				Requested Use for 2010			
Forshee Trust	446	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12	346	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12
	100	Cattle	Yearling	07/01-10/12	100	Cattle	Yearling	07/01-10/12
	5	Horses	Mature	07/01-10/12	5	Horses	Mature	07/01-10/12
Forshee Land and Livestock, LLC	554	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12	554	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12
	3	Horses	Mature	07/01-10/12	3	Horses	Mature	07/01-10/12
Shirran Trust	124	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12	124	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12

- Before Entering the Allotment

I suggest that you review your term grazing permit, revised Allotment Management Plan, and the following Annual Operating Instructions, and ask questions if any portion is not clearly understood.

Year 2010 grazing fees are \$1.35/head month, and must be paid before livestock can be turned onto the Forest. Let Scott or Silas know the date and number of livestock entering the National Forest and, upon request, provide for having stock counted.

The rotation for year 2010 is as follows:

Pasture	Sequence			
	2008 (CCW)	2009 (CW)	2010 (CCW)	2011 (CW)
South Fork South, West	1	8	1	8
South Fork South, East (divided by temp. E-fence)	1	8	REST Rx Burned Fall 2009	8
Soldier Creek	2	7	2	7
Warner Ridge	3	6	3	6
Bald Ridge	4	5	4	5
Middle Fork	5	4	REST Rx Burn Fall 2010	4
Buck Creek	6	3	REST Rx Burn Fall 2010	3
Bellyache Flats	6	3	6	3
Buck Creek, Vee's, South	7	2	REST Rx Burned Fall 2009	2
Buck Creek, Vee's, North	7	2	7	2
South Fork North	8	1	8	1

- Entering the Allotment

The turn on date for Battle Park C&H Allotment is tentatively authorized for July 01. Range readiness and your turn-on date are discussed in the revised Battle Park C&H Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The value of animal months lost due to a delay for forage development may be credited against next year's fees, if requested by the end of the calendar year.

- Resource Guidelines

Resource guidelines are described in the Bighorn National Forest Vegetation Grazing Guidelines, the Bighorn Forest Plan, and in your revised AMP. The allowable use guidelines for utilization of the current year's forage are listed in the following tables. These guidelines are applicable at the time the livestock leave the unit and include use by both livestock and wildlife. Battle Park C&H Allotment is managed under a "Rotation" grazing strategy, and existing rangeland condition is considered "satisfactory". Existing rangeland condition determinations may be revised as trend assessments are conducted.

Uplands (percent utilization by weight of forage species)		
Type Of Management	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Rotation	45	35

Riparian Vegetation Residue Guidelines		
Season Of Use	Existing Rangeland Condition	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Early Use Pasture Livestock leave pasture prior to 08/01	5 inches	5 inches
Summer & Fall Use Pasture Livestock leave pasture after 08/01	5 inches	7 inches
*Satisfactory is defined here as meeting or moving toward desired vegetative condition and unsatisfactory is defined as not meeting desired vegetative condition or undetermined. Vegetation residue guidelines are expressed in terms of the inches of stubble height to be left, measuring longest leaf of designated Carex species, after livestock use. In this case, all wide leaved sedges have been designated, subject to update		

Your rotational grazing strategy and pasture move triggers are described in your revised AMP. Note that livestock use beyond allowable guidelines could result in an administrative action in subsequent years, such as an adjustment to the season of use, in order to allow plants a chance to recover and restore root reserves.

- Monitoring

Monitoring of forage use levels and other livestock impacts should occur throughout the grazing season, with management adjustments made as needed. If issues are raised indicating the need to monitor aspen, stream banks, or willows, we will work with you to determine transect locations and establish transects on the ground. Any data you collect and submit will be maintained in USFS permanent monitoring files.

To facilitate monitoring actual use, and to avoid the need to measure utilization on all suitable range, monitoring will be done using a key area concept. Key areas are listed and described in your revised AMP. Note that allowable use standards apply to all suitable range on the allotment, and that key areas may be revised as needed. The Forest Service will conduct spot checks throughout the grazing season, and I encourage your participation.

- Maintenance of Improvements

Term grazing permits state that permittees will maintain assigned range improvements to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Service. A complete list of the improvements and designated maintenance responsibility is included in Part 3 of term grazing permits, with maintenance standards described in your revised AMP.

Range Improvement Projects for year 2010:

Improvement #	Improvement name	Project Description
501216	Bellyache-Buck Creek Division Fence	May be built to allow rest of Buck Creek Unit Rx burning
501212	Ed's Point Stock Trail	Reconstruct and fence wings into trail. May be used in order to allow rest of Buck Creek Unit for Rx burning.
NONE	ATV Trail 360	Re-route ATV Trail 360 to the west side of the horse pasture to eliminate recreation travel and gates being left open. Depends on the availability of the Wyoming State Trails crew.
501153	Middle Fork - Buck Creek Division Fence East	Discretionary, the Forest Service may provide materials and specs for project if permittees decide to construct in 2010.
501199	Soldier Creek Riparian Southwest link Fence	Project started, complete in 2010
501031	Red Spring (Laddie Spring)	Clean reservoir and add ¼ mile of fence to exclude livestock around the spring
501230	Harry's Reservoir	Clean reservoir
501211	South Fork South Division Fence	Project started, needs completed
501227a	Pothole Pipeline and stock tank #1	Permittees would like to build in 2010; Forest Service needs to check if an archeology survey has been completed.

- Other

Keeping in mind that prescribed burning is highly variable and dependent on weather conditions and resource availability, areas in Middle Fork, the north portion of Soldier Creek, and/or Buck Creek (west of the creek) are identified as priority for treatment on the Battle Park Allotment in 2010.

Salting and additional management practices are described in your term grazing permit as well as in your revised AMP.

Documentation on the enclosed Annual Use Report is required, and will help us to plan livestock use in the future. Return the completed form to the Powder River Ranger District Office by December 31, 2010.