

PAINTROCK S&C&H ALLOTMENT
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

A. Before Entering the Allotment

1. Review all clauses of your term grazing permit and the information contained within this Annual Operating Instructions. Be sure to ask questions if any portion of your grazing permit or these operating Instructions is not clearly understood.
2. The current year's grazing fees will be paid before the opening date of the grazing season.
3. Where applicable, regulations for ear tagging (for counting purposes) will be adhered to. All ear tags will be readable and consecutively numbered, with no duplicate numbers. The permittee will inform the Forest Officer administering the grazing permit of the date and number of livestock entering the National Forest and will provide for having the animals counted by a Forest Officer prior to or as the animals enter the allotment.

B. Entering the Allotment

1. The opening date for the allotment is tentatively scheduled for July 11th for Alm and July 16th for Robertson's. The actual date livestock may enter the allotment will depend on range readiness. Unless notified by a Forest Officer that a delay will be necessary to allow for further forage development, you may plan to place livestock on the allotment on the entry date shown on your 2010 Bill for Collection. The grazing fee must be paid prior to livestock turnout.

C. Authorized numbers and Pasture Rotation

1. Authorized Numbers

Permittee	Permitted #	2010 Authorized Numbers	2010 Date on-off	2010 Authorized AMs
Alm, John & Carolyn	2280 AMs including 20 Horses	550 Mature	7/06-08/25 9/10-10/02	1791 AMs cattle Paintrock Basin C&H only. Does not include Forks AMs.
		20 Bulls	7/6-7/29	
		12 Horses	7/6-10/01	
Robertson, Gene & Kristine	302 C/c 7 Horses	300 Mature	7/16-9/20	661 AMs cattle
		6 Horses	7/16-9/20	
	720 AMs cattle			

Cow/calf, mature cow, horse or Bull is equal to one AM. Yearlings are 0.7 AM. An Animal Month (AM) is one animal for one month. Billing for livestock use is based on the Head Month.

2. Planned Pasture Rotation (2010)

North rotation (Alms)

Unit	Pasture Sequence	No. Cattle	No. Days*
West Bench	1	300 Pair 11 Bulls	On 7/6 trailing through Lower Cold Springs Pasture of Forks C&H
U. Canyon Trails	1	250 Pair 9 Bulls	On 7/10 & join herd in West Bench around 7/21
West Bench	2	550 Pair 20 Bulls	All cattle in one herd about 7/21
Toe of Cement	3		
West Cement	4		
East Cement	5		
Willow Swamp	6		
Forks C&H Allotment Anthony Park	7		
Trout Creek	Trail through to next pasture		
Lower West Side	8		
Upper Woodchuck	9		
Lower Woodchuck	10		
North High	Rest		

The number of days per pasture are estimates and used for planning purposes only. Actual time spent in each pasture will depend on climatic conditions, forage production, livestock distribution and utilization.

Timing of use of Willow Swamp will be dependent on forage development and climatic conditions. Try to use Willow Swamp while vegetation is still green to lessen use on willows.

The Forest Service and the permittees on both the Forks Allotment and Paintrock Allotment have agreed to run separate rotations. The Alms will run their cattle separate from both the Forks Permittees and the Robertson's on the Paintrock Basin Allotment. The Alms will combine their Forks and Paintrock cattle and run as one herd using the Anthony Park and Trout Creek Pastures of the Forks Allotment in with the Paintrock Basin rotation as listed above. Robertsons will run separately on the south side of the Paintrock Basin Allotment in the following rotation. All parties (Permittees and Forest Service) agreed to the splitting of herds mainly due to differences in breeding times and class of livestock. This agreement will be documented annually in the Annual Operating Instructions of both allotments. The agreement to run individual livestock separately will be evaluated annually for both Allotments. This agreement addresses only running individual livestock in separate rotations. For the present there will be no changes in allotment boundaries or in Term Grazing permits as a result of this agreement.

South rotation (Robertsons 2010)

Unit	on-off date	No. Cattle	No. Days
Jakes Garden	1		
Long Creek	2		
West Battle Park	3		
South High Park	4		
East Battle Park	5		
Middle Fork	6		

South High Park Pasture will be used per the Amendment to the AMP dated 10/23/1997. Specifically, the South High Park Pasture will be used only when another pasture is to be rested for the purpose of reaching woody plant objectives. During times of scheduled use, standards listed in Section IV Management Systems pages 20-22 will be followed. Use on South High Park Pasture will be as early as range readiness allows in years utilized.

D. Allowable Use Guidelines

The actual turn on date will be dependent upon range readiness and moves between pastures will be dependent upon **forage utilization**. The stubble height guidelines contained in the Bighorn National Forest Vegetation Grazing Guidelines document do not apply to this allotment. The allowable use guidelines for utilization of the current year's growth by livestock and wildlife combined during the grazing season will be as follows:

- Upland Range Sites-----
 - A. Maximum of 40% of current year's growth in first used pastures. (Prior to August 1).
 - B. Maximum of 50% of current year's growth in all other pastures. (After August 1).

Riparian Range Sites-----	<p>A. Average 4" inch (using longest leaf length measure) stubble height on wide leaved carex species remaining if livestock leave a pasture prior to August 1.*</p> <p>B. Average 4" inch (using longest leaf length measure) stubble height on wide leaf carex species remaining if livestock leave a pasture after August 1.*</p>
Aspen and Cottonwood Stands	<p>A. Average 4" inch stubble height of all grass species within boundaries of aspen or cottonwood stands when livestock leave the pasture.</p> <p>B. No more than 10% browsing on terminal buds of aspen or cottonwood suckers or sprouts when livestock leave a pasture.</p>
Willow and Bog Birch	<p>A. No more than 30% browsing on terminal buds of Willow or Bog Birch when livestock leave a pasture.</p>

*All stubble height guidelines stated above are the minimum required when transect measurements record the longest leaf length of all leaves readily available for livestock grazing for each plant measured. Leaves tramped in the mud, protected by willows, or otherwise unavailable to be grazed are not included in the measurements.

Livestock should be moved to the next pasture or off the National Forest, if in the last pasture, when further use will exceed the stated allowable use. It is your responsibility to manage your livestock within each pasture to assure these guidelines are not exceeded. This will require frequent monitoring of the vegetation by you and /or your allotment rider and not making pasture moves based on calendar dates.

It is important to note that the allowable use guidelines shown above apply to all suitable range within the allotment. To assist you with your responsibilities of monitoring the actual use, all monitoring measurements will be done using a key area concept. The key areas are generally those areas livestock have the tendency to graze first when placed in a pasture. In most cases, the key areas will include both riparian and upland range sites. It is very important to keep close watch on all range sites within the key area and plan livestock moves when use is nearing the guideline on either the upland or riparian sites.

Permittee collection and submission of carex stubble height data is voluntary but requested by this office. Permittee monitoring program is designed to give permittees a trigger point to help determine when livestock should be removed from a pasture. You are still responsible to manage your livestock to assure that allowable use guidelines are met in all areas of the allotment. I strongly encourage you to continue to complete stubble height monitoring in all key areas with riparian plant communities, to assure actual use does not go beyond the guidelines stated above. I have enclosed copies of the data forms for your use should you decide to continue your monitoring. Any forms voluntarily submitted to our office will be placed in the allotment monitoring folder.

When conducting stubble height monitoring, I recommend you read enough transects to obtain a representative sample of the residual leaf length of the dominant sedges. The number of transects you need to read will depend on the size of the area and the variances of use levels. One transect may be sufficient in a narrow riparian area where use does not vary. Two or more may be necessary in a larger

riparian area if you detect utilization varies significantly within 3 feet of the water's edge, compared to the remainder of the area. Photos of the transect and its general location are not required but would be helpful to substantiate your documentation. The Forest Service will also be conducting spot checks and transect measurements of key areas throughout the grazing season to verify guidelines are being met.

Range Utilization Monitoring methods to be used in addition to stubble height:

Forage utilization will be measured using height weight method, clipping method and the ocular method in conjunction with height weight or clipping on uplands.

Paced transects in aspen can be used in addition to permanent transects to determine utilization on terminal leaders. Five terminal leaders browsed on a 50 point transect will constitute 10% utilization. Only utilization occurring during the period cattle are in the pasture will be counted toward the utilization limit.

Paced transects in willow and birch communities can be used in addition to permanent transects to determine utilization. Fifteen browsed twigs on a 50 point transect will constitute 30% utilization.

Aspen, riparian and upland key areas are delineated on maps attached to the Allotment Management Plan. These areas were delineated based on condition and livestock utilization patterns. Aspen, willow and birch will be monitored for utilization prior to cattle entering the pasture and during the time they are in the pasture. Monitoring for proper use levels will focus on key areas but will not be limited to key areas.

E. Key Areas

Key areas serve as monitoring and evaluation points for the degree of grazing use. Properly selected key areas give an indication of the overall acceptability of current grazing management to meet all resource objectives. Following is a list of key areas for each pasture. These areas may be moved or redefined in future years if monitoring results indicate a change is necessary.

Key areas have been delineated on maps and described in the Allotment Management Plan.

F. Maintenance of Improvements

Part 2, Clause 8(i) of your term grazing permit states the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or Government owned, that are assigned for maintenance 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 your term grazing permit. The maintenance of each improvement must be completed prior to the time livestock enter the pasture in which the improvement is located each year or in the case of allotment boundary fences prior to livestock entering the pasture on either side of the fence. The minimum maintenance required will be as follows:

Springs All tanks are to be level, completely surrounded by dry ground and easily accessible by both cows and calves. The inlet and overflow pipes are to be free of crimps or breaks, completely buried or otherwise protected from livestock and capable of delivering water to and away from tanks without any water spilling in the immediate vicinity (20-30 ft.) of the tank. Livestock barriers over tanks must be sturdy and all poles and planks must be in good condition and nailed/bolted in place.

Wire Fences: All fences are to be in an upright, vertical position with all broken wires repaired, wires tight and properly spaced and all corner posts, braces, line posts, steel posts, stays, loops, staples, etc. replaced as needed. Gates are to be tight enough to prevent sagging but must be able to be easily opened and closed by the general public.

Buck and Pole Fences: must be in an upright, serviceable position. Bucks that are spreading and lowering the overall height of the fence must be stabilized with a bottom brace or replaced. All poles must be nailed to bucks and all broken or rotting poles and bucks are to be replaced.

G. Planned Range Improvement Projects:

1. Reconstruction of the cattle bridge at confluence of North Fork and Main Fork Paintrock is scheduled for 2010. A crossing above the bridge will be also be evaluated. FS takes the lead.
2. South High buck n pole drift fence. Look at reconstruction in 2010 with temporary electric fence about ¼ -1/2 mile. Robertson's have the lead.
3. Gate for fence #405001 Robertson's have the lead.
4. Reconstruction of portion of #405140 with about ½ mile 2" polypipe and ½ mile 1 ½" polypipe. Robertson's have the lead.
5. Request for 350 native poles plus treated jacks for fence between Long Creek and East Cement. Will look at possibility of internal pole permit on site. Alms have the lead.
6. Look at cutting out trail where blow down occurred in 2009 that takes cattle from East Cement to Willow Swamp. FS will see if trail crew is available.

H. General:

1. The attached allotment use form should be completed at the end of the grazing season and returned to this office no later than October 30.
2. The permittees and their employees will do all in their power to prevent and suppress fires on or in the vicinity of the National Forest and to report promptly all fires that they may discover which they cannot suppress.
3. All livestock carcasses are to be moved at least 100 feet from the high water line of streams and lakes, springs, and out of view of roads, trails, recreation sites, and areas of concentrated public use.

4. Horses to be used on the allotment and kept in the horse pastures will be charged at the same rate as cattle. These horses will be broke and usable, for use in the management of this allotment. Application for horse use will be made each year prior to the beginning of the grazing season.

I. Salting Practices:

Salt can be used as a management tool to help you achieve proper utilization. The following are guidelines that should be used when placing salt on your allotment.

1. Scatter salt in its proper location prior to livestock entering the pasture.
2. Salt should be placed between water developments and at least 1/4 mile from water if at all possible. Salting near water just encourages cattle to stay nearby and should not be practiced.
3. Salt away from small parks, trails, roads and areas of concentrated public use. Salt should be placed in areas of rock outcrops, mature timber (other than aspen), or areas of dense sagebrush where the general public will not easily see it. Do not salt in aspen stands.
4. Change your salt location at least every year and preferably, every time salt is placed within a pasture. Moving salt blocks 50-100 feet can prevent an area from becoming abused from salt placement year after year.
5. Remove salt from an area when proper use is reached. (Note: If you cannot prevent livestock from continuing to utilize the area, it will be necessary to move to the next pasture.)

