

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2010

MEDICINE LODGE/TRAPPER CREEK C, H, S & G ALLOTMENT

MEDICINE WHEEL/PAINTROCK DISTRICTS

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

District Ranger

Date

/s/ Keith Hamilton
Permittee

6/08/10
Date

MEDICINE LODGE-TRAPPER CREEK C&H&S&G 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 this 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 consecutive 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 11. 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.

C. Permitted numbers and Pasture Rotation

1. Permitted Numbers

Permittee	Permitted #	Date on-off	Actual numbers Applied for	Permitted dates
Hamilton Ranch Inc.	2219 Sheep months	7/11-9/2	260 Cow/calf	7/11-9/30
	1012 Cow months	7/11-9/30	70 Yearlings	
	4 Horses		2 Horses	

2. Planned Pasture Rotation (2010)

Unit	on-off date	No. Cattle	Approx. No. Days
1) Black Butte	7/11-	250 C/c 50 yearlings	
2) Lower Flat		250 C/c 50 yearlings	
3) Iron Mountain		250 C/c 50 yearlings	
4) North High		250 C/c 50 yearlings	
5) Mill Creek		250 C/c 50 yearlings	
6) Whaley High Cabin	-9/30	250 C/c 50 yearlings	

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 will be followed. 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 years growth in first used pastures. (Prior to August 1).
B. Maximum of 50% of current years growth in all other pastures. (After August 1). |
| Medicine Lodge
Riparian Range
Sites----- | 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.
B. Average 4" inch (using longest leaf length measure) stubble height on wide leave carex species remaining if livestock leave a pasture after August 1. |
| Trapper Creek
Riparian Range
Sites----- | A. Average 5" inch (using longest leaf length measure) stubble height on wide leaved carex species remaining if livestock leave a pasture prior to August 1.
B. Average 7" inch (using longest leaf length measure) stubble height on wide leave carex species remaining if livestock leave a pasture after August 1. |
| Aspen and
Cottonwood Stands | A. Average 4" inch stubble height of all grass species within boundaries of aspen or cottonwood stands when livestock leave the pasture. |

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 constant monitoring of the vegetation by you and /or your allotment rider and not just simply waiting for estimated calendar dates to determine the proper use period for each pasture.

It is important to note the allowable use guidelines shown above applies 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 and have tentatively been identified below. In all key areas containing riparian vegetation, you will need to read from 1-3 (depending on size of the area) stubble height transects and record the information on the enclosed forms and submit copies of this information to our office following the grazing season. All measurements must be completed within 7 days of the time livestock are removed from the pasture. Photos of the transect and it's general location are not required but would be helpful to substantiate your documentation. Photos will be required where monitoring includes willow, aspen or stream bank condition following techniques described in the Bighorn National Forest Vegetation Grazing Guidelines document. 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.

E. Key Areas

Key areas serve as a monitoring and evaluation point for the degree of grazing use occurring in each pasture. Properly selected key areas give an indication of the overall acceptability of current grazing management to meet all resource objectives. Following is our first effort to identify the key areas for each pasture and it is our intent to validate these areas through our monitoring efforts.

Sheep: North High Park to ridge above Horseshoe Lake, Edelman Flat (Riparian area upper end of flat north side) and west slope of Iron Mountain.

Cattle: North High Park (the wet areas in the first bowl east of the allotment boundary fence. The riparian associated with the entire length of Medicine Lodge Creek. The southwest slope of Iron Mountain around the potholes. Riparian area associated with Dry Fork Medicine Lodge.

Black Butte Pasture: The area above the Forest Boundary along Dry Fork Medicine Lodge Creek including riparian, aspen and uplands. The riparian area east of and including Round Lake and the Fork of Medicine Lodge Creek along Forest Road 17. North Park and South Park.

Mill Creek Pasture: Mill Creek drainage riparian and riparian associated with North and South Trapper Creek.

"Whaley High Cabin" High country portion of the Mill Creek Pasture: Johnny Creek riparian and South Trapper Creek Riparian.

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 Instructionsks must be in good condition and nailed/bolted in place.

Wire Fences: 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: 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. No planned range improvements for 2010 Grazing Season.

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 for at the same rate as for 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 beginning of the grazing season.
5. Sheep camps must be kept clean and well maintained at all times. Use a trench type latrine at each camp and cover pit with 12" of soil when camp is moved.
6. Herd sheep openly and quietly.
7. Do not trail the sheep to camp at noon.
8. Do not use the same bed ground more than one year in 4 years.
9. Avoid snowbank areas.
10. Carry trash out. Do not bury cans or other rubbish.

I. Salting Practices:

The proper use of salt is very beneficial to the management of the range. Cattle need a minimum of 2 pounds of salt per head for one month.

1. Salt should be placed between watering areas for better distribution. Salt at watering places causes overuse and should not be practiced.
2. Salt away from small parks and not in them. Salt in the rocks, sagebrush, or timber to increase distribution. Salt away from aspen stands.
3. Change salt grounds each year. Areas become badly abused if salted year after year. Salting in the same location year after year will also cause trailing.
4. Many times a split block of salt works better than a full block for increased distribution.
5. Use salt to increase use away from roads and trails. Cattle normally overuse parks, trails and roadsides without salting them.
6. Remove salt from the area when proper use has been reached. Unused salt should be picked up.

ACTUAL USE RECORD 2010

MEDWHEEL/PAINTROCK
DISTRICTS

MEDICINE
LODGE/TRAPPER
ALLOTMENT

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

ACTUAL USE

Pasture	Number of Livestock	Date on pasture	Date off

Losses: Numbers by age class and possible cause (Poison, natural or predator).

Allotment Operating Cost:

Labor costs:

Rider _____ Transportation Cost
 Improvement Maintenance Horse maintenance
 Water
 Fence
 Other
 Improvement Construction
 Water
 Fence
 Other
 Salt

Permittee signature: _____ Date

PLEASE ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR NOTES YOU WISH TO PLACE IN THE PERMANENT ALLOTMENT FILE.