

2011 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 2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

Permitted and Authorized for 2011:

Battle Park C&H Allotment Permittee	Permitted				Requested Use for 2011
Forshee Trust	446	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12	Same as Permitted
	100	Cattle	Yearling	07/01-10/12	
	5	Horses	Mature	07/01-10/12	
Forshee Land and Livestock, LLC	554	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12	Same as Permitted
	3	Horses	Mature	07/01-10/12	
Shirran Trust	124	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12	Same as Permitted

- Before Entering the Allotment

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

Year 2011 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 2011 is as follows:

Pasture	Sequence			
	2009 clockwise	2010 counter clockwise	2011 counter clockwise	2012 clockwise
South Fork South, West	8	1	<b>1</b>	8
South Fork South, East	8	REST Rx Burned Fall 2009	<b>Trail Through</b>	8
Soldier Creek Riparian (Fish Pen)	7	2	<b>2</b>	7
Soldier Creek	7	2	<b>REST Rx Burned Fall 2010</b>	7
Warner Ridge East	6	3	<b>3</b>	6
Warner Ridge West	6	3	<b>REST</b>	6
Bald Ridge	5	4	<b>4</b>	5
Middle Fork	4	REST Rx Burn Fall 2010	<b>REST Trail Through</b>	4
Buck Creek	3	5	<b>5</b>	3
Bellyache Flats	3	6	<b>6</b>	3
Buck Creek, Vee's, South	2	REST Rx Burned Fall 2009	<b>7 Late season use</b>	2
Buck Creek, Vee's, North	2	7	<b>REST Rx Burn planned fall 2011</b>	2
South Fork North	1	8	<b>8</b>	1

\*Permittees requested counter clockwise rotation again this year in order to facilitate resting pastures associated with new and existing Rx burns

- Entering the Allotment

The turn on date for Battle Park C&H Allotment is tentatively authorized for July 01, but is dependent upon range readiness as 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 rangeland, monitoring will be done using a key area concept. Key areas are listed and described in your revised AMP. Note that allowable use guidelines apply to all Suitable rangeland 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 2011:

Impt #	Improvement name	Project Discussion
501153	Middle Fork – Buck Creek Division Fence East	New Fence and Cattleguard from cow camp to Bald Ridge Middle Pasture.
501162f	Buck Creek Vee Water Development	Install Buck Creek Vee Pipeline and stock tank F (501162F) to pipe and pump/gravity-flow water from Buck Creek to stock tank F near south guzzler 501138
501178	Ross Ranch Fence	Convert Ross Ranch to Warner Division Fence; take out west or east part & extend N & S to existing fences
501196	Buck Creek Vees/Buckskin Ed Creek Division fence	Convert southernmost portion to permanent four wire fence.
501200	Soldier Creek Riparian North Link Fence	New fence from existing Fish Pen (501165) north to Battle Park Road
501214	Soldier Creek Stock Pipeline & Stock Tank	Pull water from Upper Soldier Creek to the flat above the fishpond & return overflow back to Soldier Creek.
501002	Buck Creek Cow Camp	Permittees requested adding a small ATV shed – pending approval
501003	Soldier Creek Cow Camp	Permittees may replace windows in the cookhouse.

- Other

Keeping in mind that prescribed burning is highly variable and dependent on weather conditions and resource availability, Buck Creek Vees North is slated for Rx burning in the fall of 2011.

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, 2011.