

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Middle Creek Cattle & Horse Allotment

2012

These Annual Operating Instructions for the Middle Creek Allotment for the 2012 grazing season will be considered part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2 item 8(a).

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval **prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.**

Livestock Management

Permitted #s	Class of Livestock	Season of Use	Allotment
160	Cow/calf	7/16 – 10/15	Middle Creek C&S
20	Cow/calf	7/16 -- 10/15	Pvt Land Permit

Planned #s	Class of Livestock	Season of Use	Allotment
160	Cow/calf	7/16 – 10/15	Middle Creek C&S
20	Cow/calf	7/16 – 10/15	Pvt Land Permit

Bill for Collection

The bill for collection will be made due and payable five (5) days prior to the scheduled turn on date. Payment must be received prior to the turn on date regardless of whether or not actual turn on is delayed. Failure to pay by the due date may result in additional administrative and interest charges. Grazing use that occurs prior to fee payment constitutes non-compliance with the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may also subject the permit to suspension or cancellation action.

Proposed Pasture Rotation

Unit	Tentative Schedule of Use
Mill Fork*	7/16-9/1
Big Springs*	7/16-9/1
Left Fork*	7/16-9/1
Broad Hollow	9/2-9/24
Wood Canyon	9/25-10/15
Poison Creek	9/25-10/15

*Split use in upper pastures to prevent poisoning and to achieve proper distribution.

The livestock rotations are tentative. Vegetative conditions on the allotment will dictate the actual turn out date and when livestock are moved from unit to unit.

Grazing Standards and Guides

The following Standards and Guides from the 1997 Revised Forest Plan as included in Part 3 of your term grazing permit will be monitored and used for determining removal of livestock from a unit and/or the allotment.

- 4 inch stubble height of key species along the hydric greenline.
- 3 inch stubble height of key species within the aquatic influence zone.
- 30% utilization of current year’s growth on riparian woody plants.

Upland Utilization Standards	Season-long Grazing		Rotation Grazing	
	Unsatisfactory Range Condition	Satisfactory Range Condition	Unsatisfactory Range Condition	Satisfactory Range Condition
Grasses and Herbaceous species	35%	45%	45%	55%
Shrubs	25%	35%	35%	35%

*The figures shown represent the best estimate of acceptable use levels which will provide for maintenance or improvement of these ecosystems. They shall be used as maximum use levels unless there is site-specific information to show that these levels are incorrect. Percent use is based on a dry weight percentage.

Utilization monitoring and long-term trend monitoring will take place throughout the season while livestock are on the allotment. Permittee participation is encouraged in these monitoring activities.

Permittee and Rider Responsibilities

Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, forest system roads and trails, areas of high public use or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Under no circumstances will salt or supplement be placed closer than ¼ mile to streams, springs, water developments, or other wetlands. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving heavy use.

Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas. The longer cattle can be kept out of these critical areas, the longer they can remain in the unit. Units should be checked regularly to ensure cattle are distributed evenly and are not exceeding utilization standards in any one area. Cattle repeatedly in the wrong area may be cause for action to be taken against the grazing permit including suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part.

Motorized Travel

Motorized travel is only allowed on designated routes. However, grazing permittees can travel cross country to maintain or construct range improvements. This motorized access must be less than two vehicles per week. The permits that you receive will authorize this use and must be in the vehicle when traveling cross country. No salting or herding should be done by motorized means except on designated roads or trails.

Permittee: Small Ranches

Noxious Weeds

Noxious Weeds are known to exist on your allotment. Please notify our office of any new (small) noxious weed populations on your allotment so that we can attempt to eradicate them early. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified "**weed free**". Contact the District Office for information on where to obtain weed free feeds. Trucks or trailers transporting livestock to the allotment from areas where noxious weeds are present should not be cleaned out on National Forest System lands.

Fire Use

In order to restore natural ecological processes lightning caused fires may be allowed to burn in parts of your allotment. There are specific criteria that land managers will evaluate to determine if the natural caused fire is a candidate for fire use. You as a permittee will be consulted prior to the decision. All fires that do not meet fire use criteria will be managed with the appropriate management response. Report any forest fires you see on National Forest lands and the fire managers will determine the actions to be taken.

Range Improvement Maintenance

All range improvements must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment. Failure to properly complete the assigned maintenance to standard and in a timely manner will be cause for denial of permission to either place livestock on the allotment, or to move to another pasture, and/or may result in action being taken against the grazing permit. If the improvement is deteriorated beyond repair please contact our office to discuss options to resolve the situation. Coordination with adjoining allotment permittees will be necessary to insure fences they are responsible for have been maintained.

Improvements

- #1049 – Middle Cr Boundary Fence: 2 miles (Sec. 32, T13N, R34E)
- #1064 – Middle Cr Drift Fence A: 0.3 mile (Sec. 29, 32, T13N, R34E)
- #1064 – Middle Cr Drift Fence B: 0.3 mile (Sec. 20, 21, T13N, R34E)
- #1064 – Middle Cr Drift Fence C: 0.3 mile (Sec. 16, 21, T13N, R34E)
- #1064 – Middle Cr Drift Fence D: 0.2 mile (Sec. 16, T13N, R34E)
- #1237 – Big Spring W/D: flume trough (Sec. 8, T13N, R34E)
Shared maintenance with Middle Creek Sheep allotment permittee.
- #1429 – Kidd Spring W/D: flume trough (Sec. 9, T13N, R34E)
Shared maintenance with Middle Creek Sheep allotment permittee.
- #1488 – Barrel Spring W/D: flume trough (Sec. 17, T13N, R34E)
Shared maintenance with Middle Creek Sheep allotment permittee.
- #1504 – Poison Cr Drift Fence: 0.2 mile (Sec. 32, T13N, R34E)
- #1527 – Chee Spring W/D: flume trough (Sec.15, T13N, R34E)
- #1551 – Poison Cr W/D: flume trough (Sec. 19, T13N, R34E)
Shared maintenance with Middle Creek Sheep allotment permittee.
- #1552 – Broad Hollow W/D: flume trough (Sec. 28, T13N, R34E)
Shared maintenance with Middle Creek Sheep allotment permittee.

By signing below I certify that the above improvements are present and in satisfactory condition unless otherwise noted.

