

CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

**ASHTON/ISLAND PARK
RANGER DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE 2012 GRAZING SEASON**

SQUIRREL MEADOWS C&H ALLOTMENT

The following instructions represent the operating plan for the grazing season. These instructions are issued as provided for in Part 2, Clause 8 (a) of your Term Grazing Permit. The instructions state the yearly direction as described in the allotment management plan. These operating instructions become a part of your term grazing permit when signed by the forest officer in charge. 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 before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

1. PERMITTED LIVESTOCK

Permittee	Term	Temp.	Non-use	Private	Total
Carol Albertson	42 c/c				42
Fritz Harrigfeld	66 c/c				66
Harshbarger Farms	143 yrl.				143
Cody Hill	95 c/c				95
Jonathan Kay	40 c/c				40
Larry Orme	336 yrl.				336
Dan Reynolds	228 yrl.				228
Stohl Ranches	202 yrl.				202
<i>[Association Animals]</i>	<i>5 horses</i>				5
					1157

2. PERMITTED SEASON OF USE 6/16 - 10/15

Unit	Head	Period of Use	Actual Use
Bitch Creek	1157	6/16 – 7/9	
Coyote Meadows	1157	7/10 – 8/2	
Cow Heaven	1157	8/3 – 8/26	
Chain Lakes	1157	8/27 – 9/19	
Dry Creek	1157	9/20 – 10/15	

Unsatisfactory conditions will occur when:

- A. Sequence of use for each unit is not followed.
- B. Grazing use occurs in closed areas.
- C. Specified dates are not followed unless modified by actual use conditions or a Forest Officer.
- D. Complete livestock removal is not attained by the end of a specified season of use.
- E. Livestock are allowed to graze outside the permitted allotment or outside the permitted season of use.

3. ALLOWABLE USE

Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). The use level stated below is the maximum utilization allowed for the planned season of use.

Rotation and/or removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation date. Cattle should be rotated to meet the allowable use level. This may require you to begin rotating cattle before the Forest Standards and Guidelines are met.

Unit & Key Area	Key Species	Proper Use
Unit: Bitch Creek Key Area: Elk Creek (SE1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 26, T8N, R45E)	Riparian (grasses and sedges) Riparian shrubs (willows) Upland grasses Upland shrubs	4 inch stubble height (HGL) 3 inch stubble height (AIZ) 30% current years growth 55% current years growth 35% current years growth
Unit: Coyote Meadows Key Area: Coyote Creek (NW1/4, NE1/4, Sec. 34, T47N, R118W)	Riparian (grasses and sedges) Riparian shrubs (willows) Upland grasses Upland shrubs	4 inch stubble height (HGL) 3 inch stubble height (AIZ) 30% current years growth 55% current years growth 35% current years growth
Unit: Chain Lakes Key Area: Squirrel Creek (SE1/4, NE1/4, Sec. 9, T47N, R118W)	Riparian (grasses and sedges) Riparian shrubs (willows) Upland grasses Upland shrubs	4 inch stubble height (HGL) 3 inch stubble height (AIZ) 30% current years growth 55% current years growth 35% current years growth
Unit: Dry Creek Key Area: Squirrel Creek or Dry Creek Meadows (NW1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 11, T8N, R45E)	Riparian (grasses and sedges) Riparian shrubs (willows) Upland grasses Upland shrubs	4 inch stubble height (HGL) 3 inch stubble height (AIZ) 30% current years growth 55% current years growth 35% current years growth

Unit: Cow Heaven	Riparian (grasses and sedges)	4 inch stubble height (HGL) 3 inch stubble height (AIZ)
Key Area: Jackass Meadows (NW1/4 NW1/4 T47N, R118W)	Riparian shrubs (willows) Upland grasses Upland shrubs	30% current years growth 55% current years growth 35% current years growth

4. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS

A. Improvement maintenance is assigned to you as shown in the grazing permit and/or attached map.

B. All fences and water developments will be maintained to Forest Service standards annually prior to the time the improvement is needed to serve its intended purpose. This includes the needs of adjoining allotments with respect to allotment boundary fence maintenance.

C. Unsatisfactory condition will occur when:

1. Fences and spring developments do not serve the intended purpose or maintenance does not meet Forest Service standards.
2. Livestock are outside the permitted area or in the wrong grazing unit due to down fences.

5. MULTIPLE USE COORDINATION

A. None identified

6. DEVELOPMENT WORK

A. None Identified

Items needing further field review and planning:

A. None Identified

7. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

A. **Grazing Fees:** \$1.35/HM. Same as 2011. Fees must be paid prior to turnout.

B. Forage and water conditions should be ample for 2012 grazing season.

C. 2011 Grazing Season: Overall, forage production was good and water sources held-up.

Standards were met and rider did a great job on allotment.

D. Discussed with permittees that the Allotment is classified as a “conflict allotment” because of the past grizzly bear depredation of livestock. Use all units for 2012. Trying the adaptive management approach to Reduce livestock mortality from g. bears.

E. Wolf and grizzly activity—Be aware and take necessary precautions etc.

Permittees can kill wolf if predating on livestock. Permittees must contact FS and Wildlife

Services for wolf and grizzly predation within 24 hrs.

F. Wildlife Service's Contact(s); Or **John Farr** 681-8798 (Ashton or Island Park area), or Lee Czapenski out of Rexburg, (208) 359-1828 or cell (208) 681-0321.

G. Grizzly Bears remain listed on Endangered Species List.

Additionally:

A food storage order is in place which will require proper storage of food to render it unavailable to bears on National Forest System lands in Teton, Fremont, Madison, and Clark Counties east of Interstate-15. As part of the food storage order, human food, refuse and prepared livestock/pet foods associated with the livestock operation will be made unavailable to bears through proper storage, handling and disposal. Proper storage includes:

- inside a bear-proof container (such as bear proof panniers),
- suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at its lowest point and at least 4 feet horizontally from adjacent posts or trees,
- stored in a hard-sided vehicle or trailer, or
- other methods approved by the District Ranger.

Motorized travel is allowed only on designated routes. Permittees can travel on non-designated routes and/or cross-country to maintain, construct, or repair improvements. If you need to drive on a non-designated route more than twice a week, please call or stop by our office to obtain a permit for this situation.

The following acts are prohibited on National Forest System Lands:

Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

Agreed to by Permittees:

/s/ Cody Hill

/s/ Brett Reynolds

/s/ Harshbarger Farms by Brody

/s/ Carol Albertson

/s/ Jon Kay

/s/ Fritz Havrigfeld

/s/ Larry Orme

3/27/2012

Permittee(s)

Date

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Elizabeth Davy

3/27/2012

ELIZABETH DAVY
District Ranger
Ashton/Island Park Ranger District

Date