

2012 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 2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Permitted and Authorized for 2012:

| Battle Park C&H Allotment Permittee | Permitted |        |          |             | Requested Use for 2012 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|------------------------|
| 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 2012 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 2012 is as follows:

| Pasture                           | Sequence |               |               |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|--|
|                                   | 2010 CCW | 2011 CCW      | 2012 CW       | Discussion                             |
| South Fork South, West            | 1        | 1             | <b>REST</b>   | Rx burn spring or fall 12 or spring 13 |
| South Fork South, East            | REST     | Trail Through | <b>11</b>     |  |
| Soldier Creek                     | 2        | REST          | <b>10</b>     |  |
| Soldier Creek Riparian (Fish Pen) | 2        | 2             | <b>9</b>      | Trail through                          |
| Warner Ridge Southwest            | 3        | REST          | <b>8</b>      |  |
| Warner Ridge Northeast            | 3        | 3             | <b>7</b>      |  |
| Bald Ridge South                  | 4        | 4             | <b>6</b>      |  |
| Bald Ridge North                  | 4        | 4             | <b>5</b>      |  |
| Middle Fork                       | REST     | Trail Through | <b>4</b>      | plan to use normally                   |
| Buck Creek                        | 5        | 5             | <b>3</b>      |  |
| Bellyache Flats                   | 6        | 6             | <b>3</b>      |  |
| Buck Creek, Vee's, South          | REST     | 7             | <b>2</b>      |  |
| Buck Creek, Vee's, North          | 7        | REST          | <b>2 REST</b> | Rx burn spring or fall 12 or spring 13 |
| South Fork North                  | 8        | 8             | <b>1</b>      |  |

- 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). If livestock are delayed, the value of animal months 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  | <b>45</b>    | 35             |

| Riparian Vegetation Residue Guidelines   |                              |                |
|--|------------------------------|----------------|
| Season Of Use  | Existing Rangeland Condition |                |
|  | Satisfactory                 | Unsatisfactory |
| Early Use Pasture; Livestock leave pasture prior to 08/01  | <b>5 inches</b>              | 5 inches       |
| Summer & Fall Use Pasture; Livestock leave pasture after 08/01   | <b>5 inches</b>              | 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. Your spring meeting notes that have been provided along with these instructions describe specific improvement projects planned for 2012.

- Other

Keeping in mind that prescribed burning is highly variable and dependent on weather conditions and resource availability, Buck Creek Veas North is slated for Rx burning in 2012.

Salting and additional management practices are described in your term grazing permit as well as in your revised AMP.

In an effort to address identified resource concerns, plan on meeting on the allotment this summer to discuss fencing options to prevent livestock drift between Soldier Creek and Bald Ridge pastures

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.