

# Annual Operating Instructions Cattle and Horse Allotments

For the  
Teton Basin Ranger District  
Idaho/**Wyoming**  
Driggs, Idaho

2013

Caribou - Targhee National Forest  
Intermountain Region

**Annual Operating Instructions  
Pinnacle C&H Allotment**

Randall Foster

2013



PLEASE CONTACT US FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

**Permit Information**

<b>Number of livestock authorized to graze this year.</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
35 head if cow/calf pairs	6/16 – 9/30

The allotment is managed as a two-pasture system. The system is based on good cattle distribution and herding practices. Grazing starts at the west end of the allotment at the Forest Boundary. Using the lower pasture first, and then moving to the upper pasture about the middle of August. On the south side of Sorensen Creek there is no division fence. Riding takes care of any livestock that may drift out of the upper pasture. Salting on the upper benches will help with the desired distribution. This allotment is showing no disturbance issues from grazing and is in good to excellent vegetative condition. The location and higher elevation has provided adequate moisture for forage growth and drought conditions are not as apparent on this allotment as other areas in the region.

**COMPLIANCE**

This AOI is a yearly agreement that is part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). It is a working document, and situations may develop during the grazing season which requires 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.

**GRAZING STANDARDS**

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan Standards are as follows:

1. Within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ):
  - a. At least four inches of stubble must remain along the hydric greenline (HGL) at the end of the grazing period. The HGL is the first permanent vegetation next to the waters edge.
  - b. Away from the HGL, at least three inches of stubble will be left on the key riparian species at the end of the grazing period.
2. No more than 30 percent use of the current year's growth is allowed on the woody riparian vegetation (i.e., willows)

3. Allowable use on grasses and forbs in the uplands is 45 percent (dry weight); on upland shrubs (i.e., mountain mahogany) it is 35 percent of the current year's growth.

Once these use rates are reached the cattle will have to be moved to the next unit or they may be required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season. As you know this can be a concern due to the possibility of a below normal moisture summer ahead. Please consider how you may be able to accommodate your livestock on alternate feed sources if they are required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season.

## **OWNERSHIP**

Cattle grazed under the Term Grazing Permit, must be owned by the Term Permit Holder, and branded with  $\overline{F}$  brand authorized by the permit.

## **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Fences and water developments will be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment. The cattle access trails that were constructed through thick stands of brush and trees should be maintained to ensure cattle may utilize available forage in the uplands to lessen the use in the riparian areas. Total number of riparian acres on this allotment is low and mostly located in the bottom of Sorenson Creek. Cattle are not using these areas due to the heavy brush and steep side-hills, as indicated by the few numbers of trails.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping in the control of noxious weeds. Remember, all livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest has to be certified weed free. We will be treating weeds again this season. Please report to us any new weed patches we have not been treating in the past. The Pinnacle Allotment is in good vegetative condition, ground cover is high and native vegetation is competing or reducing the risk of invasion of noxious weeds. A few musk thistle infestations are appearing and mechanical control has been implemented for the past three years to contain and reduce the musk thistle infestations. The density of these infestations is low and scattered.

## **MOTORIZED ACCESS**

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan restricts motorized travel to designated routes only. For administrative purposes, grazing permittee(s) will be issued a permit to travel cross-country to maintain facilities for up to two vehicles per week. This permit should be adequate to allow you to repair water troughs, fences, and other range improvements identified in your Term Grazing Permit on pages 6-8. For projects that will require the permittee to travel off designated routes more than two times per week an additional permit will be required. **Remember**, anywhere you drive the public will follow.

## **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT**

Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to avoid over use of the riparian areas. No salt should be placed within ¼ mile of any created opening with trees less than 6 feet tall.

