



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST  
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT  
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

**2013**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
RAINEY CREEK CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

**CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT**

**Permit Information**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
KBL Ranches Limited Partnership	June 1 to October 5	144

All cattle must be your owned livestock and branded with your registered brand.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment:



Left Rib

**GRAZING SCHEDULE**

The grazing sequence for 2013 is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	Dry Canyon
Graze 2nd	Oakden Canyon
Graze 3rd	Lower Rainey Creek
Graze 4th	Road Canyon Creek
Graze 5th	Upper Rainey
<b>REST</b>	<b>Shurtliff Canyon</b>

## **Allotment Management**

There is a proposal to do some vegetation management in the Rainy Creek area. The proposals have a goal of improving habitat for Mule Deer and Elk. We will discuss this proposal with you at the spring meeting. You have been granted nonuse for personal convenience in 2009 and 2011 for the entire permitted number of livestock. You were granted nonuse for personal convenience for 109 head during the 2012 season. According to Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.13- Grazing Permit Administration Handbook, Chapter 10-Permits With Term Status, Section 17.1-Nonuse for Permittee Convenience, "full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four in any ten year period". Nonuse will be discussed at the spring meeting.

## PROPER USE CRITERIA

Rainey Creek Allotment has varying degrees of utilization requirements due to the big game winter range. Some of these rates are more restrictive than the standards and guides set in the Revised Forest Plan. This is to ensure there is adequate forage left for wildlife during the winter and early spring.

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the cattle will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

### Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs	10%

### Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

Thirty percent utilization of current year's growth for key woody plant species will be applied to native and desirable nonnative shrubs and trees in the riparian area.

The following are riparian standards are for the Lower Rainey Unit.

A six inch (6") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a four inch (4") stubble height will be applied in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

The following are riparian standards are for the Dry Canyon, Upper Rainey and Road Canyon Units.

A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the HGL and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the AIZ.

### Herding

Cattle will be moved in a timely fashion so the prescribed use rates are not exceeded. Cattle that tend to congregate or persist to graze riparian areas are to be moved first. These moves need to start before proper use is met. The cattle that are content to graze the uplands and are on good feed will be moved last. When proper use is met on the riparian areas or the uplands all of the cattle need to be removed from the unit, even those that are staying in the uplands. The unit should be checked to insure all cattle have been moved to the next unit. Round-up in the fall should start early enough so that all of the cattle may be off the allotment at the end of your permitted season.

### Salting

Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution. No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land. Move salt blocks often or split the blocks in half to lighten the impact on any one location. Under no circumstance place more than one salt block at one location. Manage your salting late in the season so as little salt as possible is left after the cattle leave the allotment.

### Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

### Range Improvements

All range improvements must be maintained and in operation prior to cattle entering the unit. Improvements will be discussed at the spring meeting.

### Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit.

## **COORDINATION & COOPERATION**

### Motorized Access

The Palisades Ranger District is closed to cross country motorized travel. As a grazing permittee you may be issued a motorized travel permit to allow you to travel cross country by motor vehicle to maintain range improvements (fences and water developments). Have the permit in your possession when traveling cross-country. This permit is good for no more than two trips per week. For situations where extended periods of cross-country travel are needed, such as fence construction, you will be issued a separate permit on a case-by-case basis.

### Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Leafy spurge and musk thistle are high priorities to control on the Rainey Creek Allotment. You need to become familiar with these weeds and report any new infestations of them to us. Musk thistle can be treated by cutting plants at the root prior to setting seed. Spending a little time treating an infestation that consists only of a few plants may prevent larger infestations from damaging your range in the future.

### Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

### Grizzly Bear Management

In the fall of 2007 Idaho Fish and Game notified us of a grizzly bear in the Mike Spencer Canyon area. During 2009 there was grizzly bear activity in Palisades Creek. In 2010 a grizzly was photographed in Dry Canyon. The grizzly bear is listed under the Endangered Species Act. Any grizzly bear problems should be reported to the US Fish and Wildlife Service or Wildlife Services as well as the Palisades Ranger District.

### Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

**INFORMATION**

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that require changes to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

This plan has been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will be the guide for this allotment for the 2013 grazing season.

          /s/ Ben Lundquist            
Permittee

          3/18/2013            
Date

          /s/ Tracy Hollingshead            
TRACY HOLLINGSHEAD  
District Ranger

          3/18/2013            
Date