

2013 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 2013 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Permitted and Authorized for 2013:

Battle Park C&H Allotment Permittee	Permitted				Authorized			
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	479	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12	334	Cattle	Mature	07/01-10/12
					20	Cattle	Yearlings	07/01-10/12
	3	Horses	Mature	07/01-10/12	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 2013 grazing fees are \$1.35/head month, and must be paid before livestock can be turned onto the Forest. Let Scott or Kerri know the date and number of livestock entering the National Forest and, upon request, provide for having stock counted.

The rotation for year 2013 is as follows:

Pasture	Sequence					Discussion
	2010 CCW	2011 CCW	2012 Clockwise	2013 CCW		
South Fork South, West	1	1	REST	Graze Lightly		Rx burn spring/fall '13 or spring '14 if fuel is available
South Fork South, East	REST Rx Burned Fall 2009	Trail Through	11	1		Limit use on Heritage Site; electric fencing as an option
Soldier Creek	2	REST Rx Burned Fall 2010	10	2		
Soldier Creek Riparian (Fish Pen)	2	2	9	3		With fence constructed in 2012, now considered East Soldier Creek
Warner Ridge Southwest	3	REST	8	4		
Warner Ridge Northeast	3	3	7	5		
Bald Ridge South	4	4	6	6		
Bald Ridge North	4	4	5	7		
Middle Fork	REST Rx Burn Fall 2010	REST Trail Through	4	8		Apply 50% use guideline on Heritage site
Buck Creek	5	5	3	9		
Bellyache Flats	6	6	3	9		
Buck Creek, Vee's, South	REST Rx Burned Fall 2009	7 Late season use	2	10		Rx burn if fuels are available; no "rest" planned.
Buck Creek, Vee's, North	7	REST Rx Burn planned fall 2011	2 REST	11		Pick up unused electric fence materials
South Fork North	8	8	1	12		

- 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	45	35

Riparian Vegetation Residue Guidelines		
Season Of Use	Existing Rangeland Condition	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Early Use Pasture; Livestock leave pasture prior to 08/01	5 inches	5 inches
Summer & Fall Use Pasture; Livestock leave pasture after 08/01	5 inches	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.

Projects Planned:

Impt #	Improvement name	Project Discussion
501200	Soldier Creek Riparian North Link Fence	-Mostly completed in 2012; Not yet approved; materials need to be picked up.
501214	Soldier Creek Stock Pipeline & Stock Tank	-New Stock Pipeline. -Mostly completed in 2012; Not Approved; Stock pipeline not placed properly
501153	Middle Fork – Buck Creek Division Fence East	-New Fence and Cattleguard from cow camp to Bald Ridge Middle Pasture. -Could be done any time; includes movement of cattle guard; not planned for 2013.
501196	Buck Creek Veas/Buckskin Ed Creek Division fence	-Convert southernmost portion to permanent four wire fence. -Project planned for 2013; need to coordinate in the filed with wildlife concerns prior to completion of work.
501207	Bald Ridge Division Fence, South	-Extend to the south to Soldier Creek-Bald Ridge Pasture Division fence (501122) above the green gate to prevent livestock drift between pastures. -Permittees to look at feasibility for construction or other management options. Monitoring of impacts to continue.
501219	Buck Creek Trails Fence	to protect bottom of Buck Creek Pasture, and facilitate livestock movement Could be completed in 2013; permittees to contact Forest Service for on-site review.

- Other

Prescribed burning is dependent on weather conditions, forage production, physical access, and resource availability. South Fork South is a priority for Rx burning in 2013 if fuel is available, given plans for light early grazing. If conditions are not appropriate, it may be postponed.

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

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, 2013.