



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Montpelier Ranger District

322 N 4th St
Montpelier, ID 83254
(208) 847-0375

File Code: 2210
Date: 23 May, 2011

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED
NUMBER:**

Dear Permittee:

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Nounan Cattle Allotment**. These instructions are guidelines for managing this allotment during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form**, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Montpelier Ranger District by November 30.

1. Permittee and Permitted Livestock

Listed below are the permittees on the allotment, permitted numbers, and livestock class.

| Permittee | Permitted Numbers | Authorized Numbers | Permitted Season of Use | Authorized Season of Use | Class |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Bartschi, Phil | 61 | 61 | 6/26-9/10 | 7/6-9/20 | Cow/calf |
| | | **13 Temp | | | |
| Rhett or Allyn Phelps* | 25 | Non-use | 6/26-9/10 | 7/6-9/20 | Cow/calf |
| Rogers. Vince | 16 | 16 | 6/26-9/10 | 7/6-9/20 | Cow/calf |
| | | **12 Temp | | | |
| Totals | 102 | 102 | | | |

*Ash Phelps is the contact for Rhett and Allyn

** Bartchi and Rogers will fill in behind the non-use taken by Phelps.

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

2. Grazing Rotation

The 2011 order of rotation is outlined in this section. This allotment is not divided into units. The majority of the cattle will be pushed to Yellow Pine and then scattered through the allotment from there. Please contact us five days prior to when you plan to enter the allotment. Salting and riding will be used to keep the cattle properly distributed.

3. Grazing Standards and Guidelines

Standards and Guides covering the allotment are found in the *2005 Caribou National Forest Grazing Implementation Guide*, and the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards for this allotment are listed in tables below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage



utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three

Riparian Utilization Standards for the Nounan C&H Allotment

| Season of Use | Properly Functioning Condition | Functioning at Risk (high to Moderate) % Stubble height | Functioning at Risk (Low to Non-Functioning) % Stubble height | Non Functioning (States C&D) % Stubble height |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Spring | 65/2 | 55/3 | 45/4 | 55/3 |
| Summer | 55/3 | 45/4 | 35/5 | 45/4 |
| Fall | 45/4 | 35/3 | 20/6+ | 35/5 |

Upland Utilization Standards for the Nounan C&H Allotment

| Allowed Upland Forage Utilization | Type of Upland Area | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | Critical Winter Range | Winter Range | Non Winter Range |
| Grasses and Herbaceous Species (% Dry Weight) | 35 | 45 | 55 |
| Shrubs (Annual Leader Growth) | 10 | 20 | 35 |

Upland standards on the allotment are shown in the table above. Use in the uplands is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. If an area is considered critical winter range, use levels for the uplands is 35%. Non critical winter range is allowed to be used up to 45%, and non winter range is allowed to be used up to 55%. **There is no critical winter range within the allotment but much of the eastern portion of the allotment is considered non-critical winter range. The winter range standards will be applicable for this portion of the allotment. See the attached Winter Range Map.**

As the season progresses Forest Personnel will routinely check the range conditions within your allotment. If their monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage, or that other resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts early removal of the livestock from the allotment may be necessary. If the Forest Service requires you to remove your livestock from the allotment before the end of your permitted grazing season you may be eligible for a credit toward

next years grazing fees. This credit must be requested in writing when you turn in your Actual Use Form in the fall.

4. Special Instructions.

This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

It is very important to make certain that the cattle do not use the riparian areas too heavily. Riparian areas will be monitored during grazing use and after the cattle leave each unit. If riparian areas show heavier use than the allowable standards at the end of the units grazing season you will not be allowed to continue with full numbers in the future. Riding and proper placement of salt are key practices that can help with distribution.

The cattle will be required to leave when proper use is reached (riparian and upland utilization standards listed below).

The spread of noxious weeds on the allotment continues to be a concern. Please report or treat all noxious weed infestations that you locate.

The Coop fence needs to be maintained prior to livestock entering the Forest.

5. Wolf Recovery Management:

The following statement came from the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

Current Legal Status

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

6. Permittee Responsibilities

- A. **Salting** - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use.
- B. **Herding** - Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas. The longer cattle can be kept out of these key areas, the longer they can remain in the unit. **Cattle should be "cleaned" out of units within a week after the move date.** Units should be checked regularly to ensure cattle have not drifted back into previously grazed areas.
- C. **Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".
- D. **Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your allotment will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to cattle entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

a. **Fence Maintenance Standards**

Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be re-stretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by snow or wire tension need to be reset.
- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

b. *Water Development Maintenance Standards*

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stock water ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

E. Completion of Forms

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

| | Office | Cell |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dennis Duehren District Ranger | 208) 847-0735 | |
| Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist | 208) 547-4356 | |
| Vic Bradfield Range Specialist | 208) 547-1107 208) 547-4356 | 208) 313-7904 208) 220-2814 |
| Jane Rushane Range Specialist | 208) 847-0375 208) 847-8939 | 208) 313- 5683 |

Sincerely,

/S/ DENNIS DUEHREN

23 MAY, 2011

DENNIS DUEHREN
District Ranger

VB/

Enclosure

**Annual Operating Instructions
Nounan C&H Allotment
Montpelier Ranger District
2011**



Accepted By: /S/ Vince Rogers 5/4/2011
Date

Accepted By: /S/ Phillip Bartchi 5/4/2011
Date

Approved By: /S/ Dennis Duehren 5/23/2011
Dennis Duehren **Date**