

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2005

DEVIL'S CANYON C&H ALLOTMENT

MEDICINE WHEEL RANGER DISTRICT

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST



District Ranger

Permittee

June 15, 2005
Date

Date

DEVIL'S CANYON C&H ALLOTMENT
2005 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

A. Before Entering the Allotment

1. Review all clauses of your term grazing permit and the information contained within this Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). Be sure to ask questions if any portion of your grazing permit or these operating instructions is not clearly understood.
2. The current year's grazing fees must be paid prior to livestock entering the National Forest.
3. Where applicable, regulations for ear tagging (for counting purposes) will be adhered to. All ear tags will be readable and consecutively numbered, with no duplicate numbers. The permittee will inform the Forest Officer administering the grazing permit of the date and number of livestock entering the National Forest and will provide for having the animals counted by a Forest Officer prior to or as the animals enter the allotment.

B. Entering the Allotment

1. The turn on date for the allotment is tentatively scheduled for July 1st. The actual date livestock may enter the allotment will depend on range readiness. Unless notified by a Forest Officer that a delay will be necessary to allow for further forage development, you may plan to place livestock on the allotment on the entry date shown on your 2005 Bill for Collection.

C. Authorized Numbers and Pasture Rotation

1. Authorized Numbers

Permittee	Authorized #	Authorized Date On/Off
E.O. Bischoff Ranch	681 Cow/calf 17 Yearlings 31 Bulls 8 Horses	07/01-10/09

2. Planned Pasture Rotation (2005)

Pasture Sequence	Pasture
1	Cookstove/Steel Granary
2	Reservation Hole
3	Upper Lodge Grass and Cindy
4	Bucking Mule/Tepees

NOTE: With the completion of the Devils Canyon Analysis Area Environmental Assessment, the entire Cindy Fence #01-17, the Lodge Grass Horse Pasture Fence #03-02, and the Burnt Ridge Fence #03-01 that separates Lodge Grass C&H and Devil's Canyon C&H (lies east of Lodge Grass Cow Camp and crosses Lodge Grass Creek), the Line Creek Fence #03-04, the Lodge Grass Basin/Canyon Boundary Fence #03-06, and the BIA/Lodge Grass Boundary Fence #03-03 in the lower end of Lodge Grass C&H will be the responsibility of E.O. Bischoff Ranch permanently. The permittee and FS will evaluate these fences to determine if they are needed for management of the allotment or if they should be removed. This decision will be made by the end of the 2005 season. The Lodge Grass Basin/Canyon Boundary Fence #03-06, and the BIA/Lodge Grass Boundary Fence #03-03 in the lower end of Lodge Grass C&H are not required to be maintained in 2005, however E.O. may want to close the gate in Lodge Grass Canyon pasture to prevent drift.

D. Allowable Use Standards

The actual turn on date will be dependent upon range readiness and moves between pastures will be dependent upon forage utilization. The stubble height standards contained in the Bighorn National Forest Vegetation Grazing Standards document will be followed. The allowable use standards for utilization of the current year's growth by livestock and wildlife combined during the grazing season will be as follows:

Upland Range Sites-----	A. Maximum of 40% of current years growth in first used pastures. (Prior to August 1). B. Maximum of 50% of current years growth in all other pastures. (After August 1).
Riparian Range Sites-----	A. Average 5" inch (using <u>longest</u> leaf length measure) stubble height on wide leaved carex species remaining if livestock leave a pasture prior to August 1.* B. Average 7" inch (using <u>longest</u> leaf length measure)

	stubble height on wide leaf carex species remaining if livestock leave a pasture after August 1.*
Aspen and Cottonwood Stands	A. Average 4" inch stubble height of all grass species within boundaries of aspen or cottonwood stands when livestock leave the pasture.

*All stubble height guidelines stated above are the minimum required when transect measurements record the longest leaf length of all leaves readily available for livestock grazing for each plant measured. Leaves tramped in the mud, protected by willows, or otherwise unavailable to be grazed are not included in the measurements.

Livestock should be moved to the next pasture or off the National Forest, if in the last pasture, when further use will exceed the stated allowable use. It is your responsibility to manage your livestock within each pasture to assure these standards are not exceeded. This will require frequent monitoring of the vegetation by you and /or your allotment rider and not making pasture moves based on calendar dates.

It is important to note that the allowable use standards shown above apply to all suitable range within the allotment. To assist you with your responsibilities of monitoring the actual use, all monitoring measurements will be done using a key area concept. The key areas are generally those areas livestock have the tendency to graze first when placed in a pasture. In most cases, the key areas will include both riparian and upland range sites. It is very important to keep close watch on all range sites within the key area and plan livestock moves when use is nearing the guideline on either the upland or riparian sites.

Permittee collection and submission of carex stubble height data is voluntary, but requested by this office. The permittee monitoring program was designed to give permittees a trigger point to help determine when livestock should be removed from a pasture. You are still responsible to manage your livestock to assure that allowable use standards are met in all areas of the allotment. I strongly encourage you to continue to complete stubble height monitoring in all key areas with riparian plant communities, to assure actual use does not go beyond the standards stated above. I have enclosed copies of the data forms for your use should you decide to continue your monitoring. Any forms voluntarily submitted to our office will be placed in the allotment monitoring folder.

When conducting stubble height monitoring, I recommend you read enough transects to obtain a representative sample of the residual leaf length of the dominant sedges. The number of transects you need to read will depend on the size of the area and the variances of use levels. One transect may be sufficient in a narrow riparian area where use does not vary. Two or more may be necessary in a larger riparian area if you detect utilization varies significantly within 3 feet of the water's edge, compared to the remainder of the area. Photos of the transect and its general location are not required but would be helpful to substantiate your documentation. The Forest Service will also be conducting spot checks and transect measurements of key areas throughout the grazing season to verify standards are being met.

E. Key Areas

Key areas serve as monitoring and evaluation points for the degree of grazing use. Properly selected key areas give an indication of the overall acceptability of current grazing management to meet all resource objectives. Following is a list of key areas for each pasture. These areas may be moved or redefined in future years if monitoring results indicate a change is necessary.

Bucking Mule/Tepees Pasture: 1) The creek bottom and open parks within 300-400 yards of Big Tepee Creek (Section 25) and creek bottom and area of open parks within ¼ mile of tributary to Big Tepee Creek in NW1/4 Section 29.

2) An area of up to 300 yards on either side of Bucking Mule Creek from the S1/2 Section 17 downstream to a point approximately .5 miles above Bucking Mule Falls. The area also includes up the North Fork of Bucking Mule Creek from the confluence with Bucking Mule Creek upstream to NW1/4 Section 13. 3) Spot checks will also be necessary in upland sites around slump areas and/or benches with natural water throughout pasture.

Steel Granary/Cookstove Pasture: 1) An area up to 300 yards on either side of Trout Creek from the point where the Moss Ditch ties into Trout Creek upstream to a point 1/8 mile above Gump's cabin. 2) The open parks between Trout Creek and Steel Granary Ridge in Section 26 and Section 35. 3) The Steel Granary Burn (Section 2 and Section 35). 4) An area up to 300 yards on either side of Deer Creek in the E1/2 of Section 2.

Reservation Hole Pasture: 1) All areas within 300 yards of the six intermittent drainages running northeasterly into Line Creek in Sections 24 and 20. 2) A 300 foot area surrounding the springs in Section 14 and Section 22 of Reservation Hole.

Upper Lodge Grass Pasture: 1) The basin at the head of Lodge Grass Creek and extending downstream 300 yards on either side to Crater Lake. 2) The two slumpy areas with natural water north of Lodgegrass Cow Camp in SW1/4 Section 28 and west of Lodge Grass Cow Camp in Section 29 & 32.

Cindy Pasture: The uplands east of the Cindy Fence in T58N, R91W Section 28.

F. Maintenance of Improvements

Part 2, Clause 8(i) of your term grazing permit states "... the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or Government owned, that are assigned for maintenance 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 your term grazing permit. The maintenance of each improvement

must be completed prior to the time livestock enter the pasture in which the improvement is located each year, or in the case of allotment boundary fences prior to livestock entering the pasture on either side of the fence. The minimum maintenance required will be as follows:

Springs All tanks are to be level, completely surrounded by dry ground and easily accessible by both cows and calves. The inlet and overflow pipes are to be free of crimps or breaks, completely buried or otherwise protected from livestock and capable of delivering water to and away from tanks without any water spilling in the immediate vicinity (20-30 ft.) of the tank. Livestock barriers over tanks must be sturdy and all poles and planks must be in good condition and nailed/bolted in place.

Wire Fences: Fences are to be in an upright, vertical position with all broken wires repaired, wires tight and properly spaced and all corner posts, braces, line posts, steel posts, stays, loops, staples, etc. replaced as needed. Gates are to be tight enough to prevent sagging but must be able to be easily opened and closed by the general public.

Buck and Pole Fences: Fences must be in an upright, serviceable position. Bucks that are spreading and lowering the overall height of the fence must be stabilized with a bottom brace or replaced. All poles must be nailed to bucks and all broken or rotting poles and bucks are to be replaced.

G. Planned Range Improvement Projects:

1. Relocation of a portion of the Bucking Mule-Lodge Grass Division Fence #01-30 needs to be planned in order to protect an archeological site. Both the permittee and FS will be involved in deciding on a new location. The Forest Service will be responsible for labor and materials for this relocation, by the end of the 2005 grazing season or sooner if funds are available. FS will contact permittee in 2005 to look at new location.
2. Evaluate the need for the Intermission Horse Pasture Fence, and look at options to provide water to the pasture. E.O. will contact the Forest Service when ready to look at options.
3. Set 1 tank on Hannan's Coulee Ridge. The majority of the materials are on site. Permittee will provide labor.
4. Reconstruct a portion of the Hannan's Coulee Fence. Permittee should contact Forest Service with a list of materials.

H. Neighboring Allotment Rotation:

The rotations for the neighboring allotments are being provided to give you an idea of when livestock may be adjacent to any allotment boundary fences you are responsible for maintaining.

Red Springs 1 Face 2 Deer Basin, Crater Ridge 3 Mann Creek 4 Cub Creek, West Bend (against Upper Lodge Grass Pasture) 5 Red Springs Flat, Face	7/01-10/05
Medicine Mountain C&H 1 South Medicine 2 Upper Porcupine 3 Lower Porcupine 4 Railroad Springs 5 Elk Springs 6 Five Springs	06/26-10/10

NOTE: The horse pasture and corrals at Intermission are for management of the grazing allotment and you have responsibility for maintenance of this fence. If you have the need to use a camper trailer to help administer the grazing permit out of the Intermission area please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist for approval and a location.

I. General:

1. The attached allotment use form should be completed at the end of the grazing season and returned to this office no later than October 30.
2. The permittees and their employees will do all in their power to prevent and suppress fires on or in the vicinity of the National Forest and to report promptly all fires that they may discover which they cannot suppress.
3. All livestock carcasses are to be moved at least 100 feet from the high water line of streams and lakes, springs, and out of view of roads, trails, recreation sites, and areas of concentrated public use.
4. Horses to be used on the allotment and kept in the horse pastures will be charged at the

same rate as cattle. These horses will be broke and usable, for use in the management of this allotment. Application for horse use will be made each year prior to the beginning of the grazing season.

J. Salting Practices:

Salt can be used as a management tool to help you achieve proper utilization. The following are guidelines that should be used when placing salt on your allotment.

1. Scatter salt in its proper location prior to livestock entering the pasture.
2. Salt should be placed between water developments and at least 1/4 mile from water if at all possible. Salting near water just encourages cattle to stay nearby and should seldom be practiced.
3. Salt away from small parks, trails, roads and areas of concentrated public use. Salt should be placed in areas of rock outcrops, mature timber (other than aspen), or areas of dense sagebrush where the general public will not easily see it. Do not salt in aspen stands.
4. Change your salt location at least every year and preferably, every time salt is placed within a pasture. Moving salt blocks 50-100 feet can prevent an area from becoming abused from salt placement year after year.
5. Remove salt from an area when proper use is reached. (Note: If you cannot prevent livestock from continuing to utilize the area, it will be necessary to move to the next pasture.)
6. Please do not salt on top of Sheep Mountain as it is a sensitive site.

ACTUAL USE RECORD 2005

MEDWHEEL/PAINTROCK DEVIL'S CANYON C&H BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST
ALLOTMENT

ACTUAL USE

Pasture	Number of cattle	Date on pasture	Date off

Losses: Numbers by age class and possible cause (Poison, natural or predator).

Allotment Operating Cost:

Labor costs:

Rider _____

Transportation Cost _____

Improvement Maintenance

Water _____

Fence _____

Other _____

Horse maintenance _____

Improvement Construction

Water _____

Fence _____

Other _____

Salt _____

Permittee signature: _____

Date _____

PLEASE ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR NOTES YOU WISH TO PLACE IN THE PERMANENT ALLOTMENT FILE.

