



# RUFFNER S&G ALLOTMENT 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

These are your annual operating instructions and are part of your term grazing permit, as specified in part 2, item 8(a), and Part 3, (management practices) item 2.

### **Permitted Number and season of use:**

Etchart Properties, LLC      300 ewes/lambs ON      7/1 through 10/1  
700 ewes/lambs OFF

### **Authorized use:**

Etchart Properties, LLC      300 ewes/lambs ON      7/1 through 10/1  
700 ewes/lambs OFF

### **Allotment Management**

<b>Grazing Rotation</b>
Move from West to East on the allotment. Do not go into high basins and stay below the cliff bands. Do not allow domestic sheep and bighorn sheep to be in the same area. If interaction occurs immediately call the Colorado Division of Wildlife and inform them. If bighorn are seen, immediately call the District Office at 970-327-4261. Follow the Management Actions outlined in the Sheep Producers and Parks and Wildlife agreement.

Do not allow livestock to stay later than dates scheduled or change pasture rotations within this instruction at any time, unless authorized through amendment of this document. If forage conditions show greater than 50% utilization, you will move your livestock prior to the dates listed. If you feel that you need to stay in a pasture longer, or you feel there is a need to change the pasture rotations, you will need to make a request to your Rangeland Management Specialist. Any request to stay must be made prior to your exit date. No extension will be approved unless documentation shows that overall rangeland management objectives can be met with extended use in that pasture or use area.

Livestock management in 2016 will focus on the following:

- Continue using the GRI.
- Move through Forest Service controlled lands variably during the season.
- Focus on taking only 50% of available forage.

Range conditions, livestock distribution, compliance with annual operating instructions, forage utilization, etc. may be inspected during the summer field season. Sheep counts may also be conducted at any time as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(f) of your permit.



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**Monitoring and Administration:** All permittees are required to keep Actual Use and Fence Maintenance records. In addition, you are required to utilize the Grazing Response Index for this allotment. An informational instruction sheet is included with this Annual Operating Instruction. If you require training on how to use the Grazing Response Index, please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist Brian Hoefling at 970-327-4261. These records will be requested by the administering office at the end of the grazing season.

For reference the target is a neutral GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are “Fair” or greater. The target is a positive GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are “Poor”.

**Range Improvements:** Maintenance of allotment boundary fences will be completed prior to turning out on the allotment. Maintenance of all other assigned range improvements must be completed prior to turning out in that unit. Maintenance will be completed according to the specifications outlined in part 3 of the term grazing permit. Reconstruction or construction of range improvements will not occur without a signed and approved permit modification, and cultural resource survey, where needed.

**Salting:** Salt will be placed no closer than 1/4 mile to all water sources, roads, trails, timber regeneration areas, meadows, or other key areas where forage utilization is of concern.

**Grazing Fee:** /HM

Matthew D. Zumstein

**District Ranger**