

**Jack Creek, Snow Canyon, Whiterock, Blue Jacket,
East Blue Jacket, Columbia Basin
Sheep & Goat
AND
Cobb Creek Common Use
Allotments**

**Mountain City Ranger District
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

Permittee: El Tejon Sheep Company

**Jack Creek & Snow Canyon S&G
Permitted Use**

Allotment	Numbers/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Jack Creek S&G	1200 ewe/lamb	7/1-9/30	3630 or 4537*
Snow Canyon S&G	1200 ewe/lamb	6/10-9/30	4458 or 5573*

**Jack Creek & Snow Canyon S&G
Authorized Use**

Allotment	Numbers/Class	Unit	Season of Use	Head Months
**Jack Creek S&G	2 bands (900ewes/lambs)	Early Use Area #2	6/10-6/30	1361 (6/10-7/25) 1982 (7/26-9/30)
		Jack Creek	7/1-10/1	
**Snow Canyon S&G	2 bands (900ewes/lambs)	Early Use Area #3	6/10-7/31	1184 (6/16-7/25) 1982 (7/26-9/30)
		Snow Canyon	8/1-10/01	

* According to the Allotment Management Plan, the three early use areas are to be use in a rest rotation system. Areas #1 and #2 will be used this spring and #3 will be rested. The rested unit will be used for holding bands late in the grazing season when the sheep come into the corrals for shipping. Actual turn on dates will depend on range readiness.

****Note:** All lambs will ship approximately 7/25-8/01.

**COLUMBIA BASIN S&G, WHITEROCK S&G, BLUEJACKET S&G,
EAST BLUEJACKET S&G, and COBB CREEK CU
PERMITTED USE**

Allotment	Numbers/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Whiterock and Bluejacket S&G	1200 ewes/lambs or 1500 dry ewes	6/20-10/10	4458 or 5573
Columbia Basin & East Bluejacket S&G	1200 ewes/lambs or 1500 dry ewes	6/20-10/10	4458 or 5573
*Cobb Creek CU	* To be grazed in conjunction with Whiterock S&G, Blue Jacket S&G, East Bluejacket S&G and Columbia Basin S&G as needed during the grazing season; not to exceed 1200 ewe/lamb or 1500 dry ewes from 6/20 to 10/10.		

**COLUMBIA BASIN S&G, WHITEROCK S&G, BLUEJACKET S&G and
EAST BLUE JACKET S&G TEMPORARY GRAZING
AUTHORIZED USE**

Allotment	Unit	Numbers/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Columbia Basin & East Bluejacket S&G	N/A	900 Ewes/lambs 1300 dry ewes	6/15-10/10	5573
Whiterock and Bluejacket S&G	N/A	900 Ewes/lambs 1300 dry ewes	6/15-10/10	5573
*Cobb Creek CU	* To be grazed in conjunction with Whiterock S&G, Blue Jacket S&G, East Bluejacket S&G and Columbia Basin S&G as needed during the grazing season; not to exceed 1200 ewe/lamb or 1500 dry ewes from 6/20 to 10/10.			

* Actual turn on dates will depend on range readiness.

- Permitted Livestock Brands

Brands

II. COMPLIANCE

- Upon signature, these Annual Operating Instructions supplement and are part of your Term Grazing Permit # ____60119____. Consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements.
- Situations may develop during the grazing season, which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary or if you cannot comply with some parts of these

instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

- By USDA order 04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw, or mulch, possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as noxious weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of noxious weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as noxious weed free.
- As a reminder, requests for nonuse of term grazing permits for personal convenience must be made annually by the permittee in writing sufficiently in advance of the start of the permitted grazing season, (normally 30 days). Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period. As the term permit holder, you are responsible for the maintenance on all assigned improvements on your permitted allotments during the nonuse period.

III. 2015 GRAZING RESULTS

IV. BILLING

- Grazing fees for 2016 are \$1.69 per head month for cattle and horses; unauthorized use is \$2.89 per head month. Sheep and Goat Grazing fees are \$0.34 per head month and unauthorized use fee is \$0.58 per head month.
- Payment of your grazing bill is preferably due five days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. As a reminder, the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay grazing fees. Placing livestock on the allotment prior to payment is non-compliance with Part 2, item 3 of the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may include suspension or cancellation of the grazing permit.

V. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- Grazing System: Open herding with once over grazing.
- Authorized use dates (turn-on & turn-off) are tentative and depend on range readiness, forage utilization and resource conditions during the entire grazing season. Livestock remaining on the allotment past the authorized use date will be billed at the unauthorized use rate.
- Permittees are responsible for monitoring forage utilization within the allotment. Before allowable forage use rates are met in identified key use areas, livestock will be herded to another area or removed from the allotment.

- Owners of permitted livestock must comply with State of Nevada laws and regulations.
- Shipping sites are located at _____
- Permitted livestock will enter the Mountain City Ranger District at _____
- Grazing Rotation

Jack Creek S&G and Snow Canyon S&G grazing rotation:

**No sheep or shepherd camps will be located anywhere in the reclaimed Big Springs mine area (south of Northfork road), including but not limited to the Sammy Creek dump. Shepherders will keep all sheep above the trail/driveway for the entire summer.*

- **Jack Creek S&G band rotation:** Sheep will graze upper/north corner of allotment after lambs are shipped around 7/25 to keep sheep out of North Fork drainage and to avoid conflicts with cattle operations in the Bull Run C&H allotment.
- **Snow Canyon S&G band rotation:** Sheep will graze the southeast of Snow Canyon then the west side of the allotment to ship lambs on approximately 7/25, then after shipping sheep will graze to Marsh Creek at the north end of the allotment.

**For both Jack Creek and Snow Canyon allotments, the possibility of implementing a deferred rotation system with clockwise/counterclockwise rotations will be investigated by field trips into the allotments and discussions between the Range Management Specialist and the El Tejon manager.*

Columbia Basin S&G and East Bluejacket S&G grazing rotation:

Columbia Basin S&G and East Bluejacket S&G will be grazed by 1 band in a **clockwise** direction as one allotment from 6/20-10/10.

Sheep will enter the East Bluejacket allotment and move up the east side and then to the top of Alder Gulch and up the west side of Columbia Creek and will then enter the Columbia Basin S&G allotment.

Once sheep enter Columbia Basin, they will graze below the ridge of the Pennsylvania Hill area (*avoiding the Lewis' Buckwheat site). Sheep will then graze across the tops of Hutch Creek, Timber Gulch, Alexander Creek, and Maggie Gulch. When up high near Pennsylvania Hill ridge, do not allow sheep or shepherd camps on the top of the ridge where a sensitive plant, Lewis' Buckwheat (see map) is located. **NOTE:** When up high near Pennsylvania Hill ridge, do not allow sheep or shepherd camps on the top of the ridge where a sensitive plant, Lewis' Buckwheat (see map) is located. **A sensitive plant, Lewis' buckwheat is located from the electronic site near Pennsylvania Hill east down the ridge in various areas. Sheep should not graze, be bedded, or trailed through these locations.*

Bluejacket S&G and Whiterock S&G grazing rotation:

Bluejacket and Whiterock S&G will be grazed by 1 band in a **clockwise** direction as one allotment from 6/20-10/10. Sheep must be kept above the IL Ranch/Doby George private land.

Whiterock S&G and Bluejacket S&G band rotation: Turn on will be in the southeast corner of the allotment. Sheep may be trailed near the Forest boundary to reach this southeast corner if necessary. Grazing will be across the top half of Willard Canyon, Edgemont Canyon, Whiterock Canyon, Cottonwood Canyon, Storff Creek, and the South side of Silver Creek, then sheep will enter the Bluejacket S&G allotment.

Once sheep enter Bluejacket S&G, the sheep will graze down the west side of Blue Jacket Creek, then sheep will graze down Sheradin Gulch.

Cobb Creek CU grazing rotation: To be grazed in conjunction with Whiterock S&G, Blue Jacket, S&G, East Blue Jacket S&G, and Columbia Basin S&G as needed during the grazing season; not to exceed 1200 e/1 or 1500 drys from 06/20 to 10/10. 458

Sheep will be grazed in a **clockwise** direction after being trailed to the Cobb Creek allotment. Turn out in the top of Banty Gulch, graze down the upper half of Banty Gulch, up the upper third of Lime Creek, down the upper third of Van Duzer Creek and up the upper half of Cobb Creek; trail sheep off the allotment.

VI. HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LRMP) STANDARDS AND GUIDES

- Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached. You should plan to move livestock to the next pasture or area in your rotation or off the allotment, before allowable use has been reached. This will be done regardless of the time remaining in the grazing season or how many Head Months you have paid for. If you need assistance in determining use levels or identifying key areas, please do not hesitate to contact the Rangeland Management Specialist.
- Management will be directed toward having riparian areas in good or better ecological condition and stable or upward trend.
- Utilization is based on current year's growth for browse and shrubs. The utilization percentages represent the maximum that will be allowed based on current livestock practices and is measured as point in time. The following utilization standards will be the maximum utilization levels allowed for all herbivores on key vegetative species.
- Amendment 2 of the Humboldt-Toiyabe LRMP Dated July 1990:
 - The maximum utilization levels would normally be used only where the plant community is at or near the desired future condition.
 - The listed value is the maximum rate which can be prescribed unless otherwise approved by the Forest Supervisor.

- In most instances utilization would be lower for the higher value management categories; however, this can vary according to ecological conditions and key species.
- Key species can vary by range site and management systems.
- Proper use based on the utilization of shrubs will normally not exceed 35% of the current year's growth.
- Under the High Intensity short duration (early season), timing in relation to the period remaining for regrowth is key. The system is dependent upon sufficient regrowth to meet plant physiological needs and other resource values. Physical damage to the vegetative and soils resources needs to be considered.
- Sediment entrapment is essential to streambank restoration. If this is an objective at least 3-4 inches of herbaceous stubble height is needed on site during high flow periods.

Allotment: Jack Creek S&G

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Boyd Creek Chicken Creek E. Fork Mill Creek Mill Creek Dorsey Creek	Desirable grasses and Sedges	35%
Class III	Coffin Creek Schoonover Creek Springs & Seeps	Desirable grasses and Sedges	55%
Uplands	All Units	Desirable grasses and Forbs	60%
Upland Browse	All Units	Desirable Shrubs	50%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows/Shrubs	35%

Allotment: Snow Canyon S&G

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II Riparian	Snow Canyon Marsh Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III Riparian	Springs & Seeps	Desirable grasses and sedges	55%
Class IV Riparian	China Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	55%
Uplands	All Units	Desirable grasses and forbs	60%

Upland Browse	All Units	Desirable Shrubs	50%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows/Shrubs	35%

Allotment: Columbia Basin S&G

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class I	Columbia Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III	Banty Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class IV	Spring Creek Timber Gulch Hutch Creek Twin Creek Sheep Creek Deer Creek	Desirable grasses and Sedges	35%
Class V	Alexander Creek Maggie Gulch	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

Allotment: Whiterock S&G

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class III	Silver Creek	Desirable grasses and Sedges	35%
Class IV	Storff Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class V	Cottonwood Creek Whiterock Canyon Echo Canyon Edgemont Canyon Willard Canyon	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

Allotment: Bluejacket S&G

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Blue Jacket Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III	California Gulch	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%

Class V	Sheridan Gulch	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and Bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

Allotment: East Bluejacket S&G

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class I	Columbia Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class II	Blue Jacket Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III	Alder Gulch	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and Bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

Allotment: Cobb Creek CU

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Lime Creek Van Duzer Creek Cobb Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and Bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

- No nooning, shading, or bedding within 100 yards of all streams.
- Only one night/one time use of bed grounds.
- Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of designated campgrounds, trails, trailheads, or maintained roads.
- Only once-over grazing is allowed.
- Graze rather than trail to water and do not water at the same locations.
- Route sheep to avoid steep slopes with loose soil, snowbank areas, and active rills or gullies.
- Specify if different use requirements around corrals at shipping area is needed.
- Highline, picket, or hobble, pack and saddle stock.
- Clean and repair all roads and trails to the condition prior to sheep impacts.
- No salt in riparian areas, under trees, or within 200 yards of water or maintained roads.

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

- Range structural improvements will be constructed and maintained to facilitate proper use of the range resource.

- Range improvements must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment(s). Please be aware that it is necessary to plan projects with at least one-year lead time to allow for the required documentation and clearances. Please work with the Rangeland Management Specialist to develop a schedule for large projects.

VIII. HERDER/CAMP TENDER AND/OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

- Herder Management practices: The Permittee is responsible to ensure the herders understand the standards, guidelines, and herding practices outlined in the grazing permit and the direction outlined in these instructions. All trailing will be within the approved season of use, be along varied routes, and kept to a minimum.
- Herder's camps must be kept clean at all times. All garbage and debris associated with managing your sheep on the National Forest must be removed. Flammable trash will be completely burned in a safe and reasonable way. All unburnable material will be removed to a disposal site. **Burying of trash is not allowed.** Temporary holding pens, corrals, and facilities authorized on a permanent basis must be kept clean at all times and cleaned up after use. All camps must have a serviceable axe and shovel for fire control.
- If you or your herders spot a wild fire please report it to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Elko. (775) 748-4000.
- Place salt or supplement at least 200 yards from water sources and away from trailheads, roads, and key areas. Place salt in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. Salt will be removed from areas where maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season. Salt fens in loose form shall be contained in an approved receptacle that will keep it from spilling onto the ground. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Forest Officer, salt or supplement shall be removed from a pasture when the livestock are removed.
- There will be enough herders to achieve proper distribution of livestock within the allotment for uniform proper forage utilization. Livestock will not be turned onto the allotment or allowed to congregate within any portion of the allotment for an extended period of time that creates areas of non-uniform proper forage utilization.

IX. REQUIRED REPORTING

- Enclosed is a Grazing Use Record for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the dates livestock spend on the allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs/maintenance cost, etc. The grazing use record should be submitted to the district office by December 31, 2016.

X. INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

- Range Readiness- Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until soils are dry enough to prevent damage to vegetation or increase soil erosion, and when key plants are phonologically ready to be grazed.

XI. COORDINATION & COOPERATION

XII. OTHER

- In case of any deceased livestock, notify a Forest Officer, determine the impact to the public, move out of water to the first flood plain, and move away from trails, roads, etc.

XIII. MAPS, FORMS, & ATTACHMENTS

- You will find attached to your AOI a Grazing Use Record, Bill for Collection, and Allotment map(s).

XIV. SIGNATURE BLOCK

Recommended by: _____
Rangeland Management Specialist Date

Signed by: _____
Permittee or Authorized Representative Date

Approved by: _____
District Ranger Date