

## 2016 Annual Operating Instructions

### Fish Creek, Hurst Canyon, and Trail Creek S&G Allotments

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Fish Creek, Hurst Canyon, and Trail Creek S&G allotments.

Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependent on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related circumstances.

#### Permitted Sheep Numbers and Season of Use

Permittee	Sheep	Season
Lava Lake Land & and Livestock		
Fish Creek Allotment	1000	6/16-9/19
Trail Creek Allotment	948	7/1-9/19
Hurst Canyon Allotment	1152	7/1-9/15
<b>Total</b>	<b>3100</b>	

These Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8.

#### Authorized Sheep Numbers and Season of Use for 2016

Permittee	Sheep	Non-Use	Season
Lava Lake Land & and Livestock			
Fish Creek Allotment	<b>736</b>		<b>7/12-7/23</b>
Trail Creek Allotment	<b>736</b>		<b>7/24-8/1</b>
Hurst Canyon Allotment	<b>736</b>		<b>8/2-9/2</b>
Fish Creek Allotment (Dry Band)	<b>1152</b>		<b>9/7-9/10</b>
Trail Creek Allotment (Dry Band)	<b>1152</b>		<b>9/11-9/13</b>
Hurst Canyon Allotment (Dry Band)	<b>1152</b>		<b>9/14-9/15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>736/1152</b>		

#### Utilization Standards

Unit	Upland % Use	Riparian Stubble Height inches	Riparian Woody Browse Use
Fish Creek Allotment	50%	4 inches	50%
Trail Creek Allotment	50%	4 inches	50%
Hurst Canyon Allotment	50%	4 inches	50%

Sheep are allowed to graze one time once-over-lightly. Once allowable use is achieved in key areas sheep must be moved regardless of how much feed is left. Sheep use on ranges already grazed is not authorized. Once the allowable use standard in any particular area is reached all your sheep must be moved to the next area of the allotment. When proper use in the last area

scheduled for use is achieved, sheep must be removed from the allotment. Only bed sheep for one night per bed ground. When there is wolf activity in the area and fladry is used to minimize predation, bed grounds may be used for more than one night. When this situation occurs bed ground site selection needs to be discussed with the Range Management Specialist.

**INFISH Grazing Module Implementation:** Key areas are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit. Key area monitoring establishes a record of utilization trend, a location for observation to plan sheep moves, a location to record whether end of season stubble height standards are met, a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified.

**Trailing:** When trailing to your allotment call the Forest Service Range staff and let them know when you start and when you are finished trailing. When trailing through other allotments do it in a timely manner of 1-4 days.

**Cleaning Grazing Units:** Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the indicators of use being met to ensure allowable use levels are not exceeded. This is especially important during drought conditions. Permittees should be prepared to assist herders in checking that the herd stays together. Herders should keep permittees informed of problems regarding lost or separated sheep and this information should be reported to your rangeland management specialist in a timely manner.

**Fence & Water Improvements:** Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be checked prior to sheep entering the allotment, interior fences should be checked at this time or before sheep enter a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

**Weed Free Hay:** In accordance with State Law, please ensure that range riders bring hay that is certified and tagged noxious weed free.

**Bighorn Sheep:** We will continue working within the framework of the 2015 Strategy for Managing Separation between Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep on Allotments Grazed by Lava Lake Land & Livestock, LLC and Muldoon Grazing Association, Inc. Please follow the communication and response plan in the strategy.

**Grazing Fees:** The grazing fees for the 2016 season are \$0.42/head month. Your grazing fee payment will need to be received prior to turning livestock out on the National Forest.

**Actual Use Report:** An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you upon completion of the grazing season. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District by December 31, 2016.

Applications for refunds/credits for unused portions of your allotment must be requested and filed separately. Please contact our office if you need an application for refund/credit.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Allison Jackson, District Ranger; Birk Roseman or Lans Stavast the Rangeland Management Specialists at (208) 588-3400.