

2009 Annual Operating Instructions
 Bear Pete, Marshall Mountain,
 and French Creek S&G Allotments
 McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts
 Payette National Forest

These Annual Operating Instructions are for implementing grazing management activities on the above listed allotments for the 2009 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittee on March 2, 2009. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock permittees who participated in development of this plan are:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Mick and Gail Carlson</u> | <u>Permittee</u> |
| 2. <u>Lisa Klinger</u> | <u>McCall District Ranger</u> |
| 3. <u>Kimberly Brandel</u> | <u>New Meadows District Ranger</u> |
| 4. <u>Pete Grinde</u> | <u>Range Specialist</u> |
| 5. <u>Brian McMorris</u> | <u>Range Specialist</u> |
| 6. <u>Rodger Nelson</u> | <u>Fisheries Biologist</u> |

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management and identify commitments and obligations of both the permittee and Forest Service. Any changes in management from these instructions require approval by the Forest Service prior to implementation. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions that apply to these operating instructions. Also included and incorporated with these Annual Operating Instructions are maps of the grazing allotments that indicate areas closed to grazing.

Grazing fees for 2009 are \$.027/HM and must be paid prior to livestock entering the National Forest. The New Meadows District Office must receive confirmation from Lockbox that payment has been made prior to sheep entering the Forest.

2009 AUTHORIZED USE

| <u>ALLOTMENT</u> | <u>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</u> | <u>SEASON</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| French Creek | Resource Protection Non Use | |
| Bear Pete | 833 ewe/lamb | 7/7 – 9/7 |
| Marshall Mtn. | 834 ewe/lamb | 7/7 – 9/7 |
| Marshall Mtn. | 1500 dry ewes | 9/8 – 10/7 |
| Bear Pete | 5 pack stock | 7/7 – 9/7 |

At the time of the AOI meeting Carlson Livestock had not firmly established their exact plans for 2009. The permitted numbers of ewe/lamb pairs are shown on this plan; the actual number of sheep grazed may be less, depending on management decisions made by Carlson Livestock prior to turnout.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers permitted on any given year. The season of use is especially dependent upon weather conditions that influence annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify term grazing permitted use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (c) of your permit.

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is determined by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp, but not saturated, and should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Range personnel will check for range readiness and contact the permittee as to the date sheep may enter the Forest. All animals must be off the National Forest by October 7.

GRAZING PRESCRIPTION AND LIVESTOCK ROTATIONS

The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the resource needs of the soils and vegetation. Fisheries Biologists have completed a biological assessment with respect to grazing in these allotments. The known or potential problem areas have been identified along with the respective mitigation measures designed to eliminate each potentially detrimental effect.

Allowable Use Standards

The following allowable use criteria are to be followed for all grazing activities:

1. Sheep are to move to the next area or leave the allotment after 30% use on suitable range is reached. This is equivalent to once over grazing by a band of sheep. When the permittee observes proper use standards being reached, the livestock will be moved to the next grazing area, or off the Forest and the permittee will notify the Forest Service.
2. Sheep watering is limited to one time per location.
3. Bedding of sheep is limited to once per bed site.

Salting Requirements

Salting is restricted to the following:

1. No less than .25 miles from water, and not to be placed in meadow bottoms.
2. Only at bed grounds.
3. Contained and not placed directly on the ground.
4. Unconsumed salt will be removed from the site.

Other Management Requirements

1. If treatment of hoof rot becomes necessary, the permittee will contact the District Range personnel to determine an appropriate site. The permittee will implement a closed system and haul all effluent off National Forest System lands.
2. Sheep are not authorized to bed or salt on Forest Service trails.
3. If there is damage to Forest System trails by the permittee's livestock the permittee will need to repair it or pay for it to be repaired.
4. The permittee is responsible for ensuring there is no trash left behind when moving sheep camps.

Area Closures (see attached map)

Several areas within or adjacent to the Bear Pete and Marshall Mountain Allotments are closed to domestic livestock use due to potential effects of that use on fish listed as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act of 1969. Lake Creek and Grouse Creek provide habitat that is important to steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, and bull trout. The following areas are closed to domestic livestock use:

1. The Lake Creek meadows, from the Corduroy Road/Burgdorf Road junction south to the Burgdorf Road/Warren Wagon Road junction, are closed to grazing, trailing, or bedding.
2. The Lake Creek riparian area from the Corduroy Road/Burgdorf Road junction north to the confluence of Corduroy Creek and Lake Creek is closed to grazing, trailing, or bedding.
3. The area south of the Warren Wagon Road, from the Burgdorf Road/Warren Wagon Road junction east to the Grouse Creek/Warren Wagon Road, is closed to grazing, trailing, or bedding.
4. The area east of the Grouse Creek Road, from the Warren Wagon Road/Grouse Creek Road junction north to the Sand Creek/Grouse Creek confluence, is closed to grazing, trailing, or bedding. The sheep are not authorized to access Grouse Creek within the closed area.
5. The lower Threemile and South Fork Threemile Creek riparian areas are closed to grazing, trailing, or bedding of sheep. The closure area extends from the point where Threemile Creek crosses the Burgdorf Road upstream approximately 1.0 miles beyond the confluence of Threemile and South Fork Threemile Creeks.
6. The Willow Creek riparian area, from the point where the creek crosses the Burgdorf Road upstream for approximately 1.0 miles, is closed to livestock grazing, trailing, or bedding.

The Forest Service (District Ranger, Fish Biologist, Range Specialist), Nez Perce Tribal representative, and permittee will meet on the ground prior to the grazing season to determine how to implement the grazing activities within the constraints of the above-listed closure areas.

2009 Livestock Rotations

The rotation schedule and maps show an outline of grazing and trailing for the 2009 grazing season.

French Creek Allotment: Resource Protection Non-Use

Bear Pete Allotment: The ewe/lamb band will enter the allotment on the Fingers Road. Once they enter the Forest the sheep will trail to Freight Landing. From Freight landing they will graze up to Toller Ditch staying southwest of the road. Once at Toller Ditch they will graze west to the head of the Fall Creek drainage. You will need to ensure that the sheep do not trail or bed above the Bear Pete Trail. The sheep will continue to graze south to Nethker Creek Trail where they will graze down the drainage to Nethker Corrals for shipping, approximately September 5.

Marshall Mountain Allotment: The ewe/lamb band will enter the allotment up the Fingers Road. Once they reach the Carey Dome/Corduoy Road they will begin grazing. They will graze up the Corduroy Road and then move to the California Lake Road. Sheep will then graze the Union Creek, California Creek, and Sand Creek Country. After grazing these areas the sheep will graze down the Willow Creek drainage to the Burgdorf Road. They would then trail on the road to Nethker Corrals for shipping of the lambs, approximately September 5. While trailing on the Burgdorf Road, and crossing the Lake Creek bridge, it is important to ensure that no sheep are allowed to access Lake Creek.

After shipping of lambs at the Nether Corrals the dry band will trail out to the Burgdorf Road, following it to the Warren Wagon Road. Again, it is important to ensure all sheep use the bridge across Lake Creek instead of fording the stream. They will trail down the Warren Wagon Road to the Grouse Creek Road and up to the Flat Creek area where they will start grazing. While trailing to the Flat Creek area, the Lake Creek, Grouse Creek (to the Sand Creek confluence), and the Secesh River riparian area/meadows are closed to any sheep use. From Flat Creek the sheep will graze up to the War Eagle Lookout area. After grazing this area the sheep will graze out to Cottontail Point. From Cottontail Point the sheep will start moving off the forest out the California Lake Road making sure not to re-graze any areas the ewe/lamb band grazed earlier. The Carey Dome and Corduroy area may be grazed when coming off the Forest if it wasn't grazed with the ewe/lamb band earlier. The sheep will then trail down the Burgdorf Road and off the Forest via the Fingers Road. The sheep will be off the Forest by October 7.

Sheep are only allowed to trail on and off Forest using FSR #246 (Fingers Road), and trailing time is limited to 2 days each for ingress to and egress from the allotments.

No livestock use is allowed in the Fall Creek and East Fork Fall Creek drainages north of FSR #246 (Fingers Road) and all of the Carey Creek drainage (trailing is allowed only on FSR #246). This is the area known as the Studebaker Saddle/Carey Creek area.

Nethker Corrals will be used for shipping approximately September 5-8.

All livestock will be off the National Forest by October 7, 2009.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained before turning livestock into the unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement has been properly maintained but requires reconstruction, a cooperative effort can be made between the Forest Service and permittee to reconstruct the improvement, depending on material availability. The permittee is required to provide the materials and labor to perform routine maintenance. A temporary fence will need to be put up along Nethker Creek by the Nethker Corrals to help protect the streambank. This will be required for the period of time that livestock are in the area, including horses pastured in the area. This is the permittee’s responsibility.

MONITORING OF THE ANNUAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACTIVITY

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each unit grazed. If you have any questions about completing the form, please call the Forest Service at (208) 347-0300. We request the forms be returned no later than February 1, 2010.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act (Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout), a change in authorized grazing activity will occur. If proper use grazing levels are reached then livestock are to be moved to the next grazing unit or off of the allotment. If livestock grazing does not comply with the terms and conditions of these Annual Operating Instructions, Forest Service policy and procedures regarding administrative permit actions will be followed.

We ask you or your employees to report the date, time, and location of each bighorn sheep seen to the New Meadows Ranger District immediately after the sighting.

You are responsible for ensuring that your herders are informed and understand the standards, guidelines, and other management direction in this plan.

/s/ Lisa A. Klinger
Approved by
Lisa J. Klinger
McCall District Ranger

3/11/09
Date

/s/ Kimberly A. Brandel
Approved by
Kimberly A. Brandel
New Meadows District Ranger

3/11/09
Date

Carlson Livestock
Permittee

Date