

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Emigration S&G, North Canyon S&G, Hells Kitchen S&G, Strawberry S&G

For the
2016 Grazing Season

I. Management of Livestock:

Permittee	Livestock				Period of Use		Pasture or Unit
	Number	2015	Kind	Class	From	To	
North Canyon Cyn	1200	1200	Sheep	Ewe/Lamb	6/25	9/20	
Hells Kitchen & Strawberry Cyn	1200	1200	Sheep	Ewe/Lamb	6/16	9/15	
Emmigration Cyn	1200	1200	Sheep	Ewe/Lamb	6/25	9/25	

II. Grazing Management:

Generally, loose herding and once-over light grazing should be practiced. Bed grounds, shade-up areas, and salting locations should not be used more than once during the grazing season. Watering at a different location along the creek each day will reduce impacts to the riparian area. After sheep have watered, they should be encouraged to move off the riparian area before being allowed to noon bed. Do not allow sheep to noon bed near water. Water may be hauled onto the Sinks Allotment and use of Pipeline Spring development – Right Hand Fork Williams Creek, when grazing on the Hell’s Kitchen Allotment. This will reduce the need to water along the highway. Sinks spring area may also be used this year. Avoid use of the burn area in Right Fork of Williams Creek.

III. Grazing Standards and Guides:

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* and are part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in Tables one and two below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to both native and desirable non-native key species. Stubble heights on riparian areas will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

Site Specific Standards:

Creek	Ratings
Emigration Creek	Functioning at risk-3/4/5
North Canyon	Non Functioning- 4/5/6
Copenhagen	Functioning at risk -3/4/5
Meadow Creek	Non Functioning-4/5/6
Mill Hollow	Proper Functioning Condition-2/3/4

If it is determined that bank disturbance/alteration, greenline stubble height or woody/shrubby species utilization should replace the utilization triggers listed above it will be addressed in the site specific standards. Riparian site specific standards will be established when a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the Grazing Implementation Guide dated 12/28/2005. If a site specific PFC rating has not been conducted on a riparian area standards for the area will be established by the Range Specialist on the allotment.

Table 2: Upland Forage Utilization**

Vegetation Component	Type of Upland Area	
	Winter Range	Non-Winter Range
Grass and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	20	35

**Table from Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest Table 3.6 (2003).

Winter range on the allotment is located on the upper northwest end of the Hell's Kitchen allotment.

As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that utilization is met, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of livestock from the allotment will occur.

Closed Areas to sheep grazing on the allotments are: Emigration Campground, Group Site 3, and Archery Range, all units in the Emigration Timber Sale and the graveled camping area in Mecham Hollow.

V. Permittee Responsibilities:

1. Maintaining Improvements - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. These standards may be set by the Forest Officer over the allotment. A delay in livestock turnout on the allotment will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative

action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed and up to standards prior to cattle entering the allotment.

The Mill Canyon Forest/BLM fence will need to be put up south of the cattle guard in the spring and taken down in the fall. The Paris-Liberty Association maintains from the cattle guard to the north.

2. Noxious weeds- Dyer's woad, knapweed, and thistle are located on your allotment. Because of budget constraints, the control of noxious weed needs to become a joint effort. If you know of any infestations bring them to the attention of the Forest Officer. There may be spray days coordinated on your allotment and your assistance with them would benefit all.

VI. Special Instructions:

- ❖ Please review the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- ❖ **Please inform the Montpelier Ranger District (208-847-0375), especially during entry date, of a convenient time and place to enable an accurate count of livestock to be made.**
- ❖ Be certain that your herder is aware of all unit and allotment boundaries, and that sheep are kept in the proper areas.
- ❖ Areas around sheep camps should be kept clean and trash packed out.
- ❖ Salting - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads and trails. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use. Salt bags must be packed out.
- ❖ Leaving campfires unattended could result in a wildfire hazard. Camps should be equipped with a shovel and axe for putting out campfires.
- ❖ The water truck can be filled at the turnoff to the Archery Range as has been done in the past. Strawberry Spring and Meadow Creek Spring are additional sources. The herders may get potable camp water at the Emigration Campground water development, but filling the water truck from this location is prohibited. The system can barely meet the demands of the campground. Temporary dams created for water draw, should be removed after the water source is no longer needed. When moderate use on surrounding vegetation is reached (55%) water troughs should be moved to a new location. When watering at the troughs below the Group Site 3 in Emigration, keep sheep away from the camping area. Do not allow sheep to noon bed around the picnic area. It is best to encourage the sheep to bed west of the troughs. When trailing to this trough it would be best to trail from above the camp.
- ❖ When hauling water, place troughs as far away from the highway as possible and limit the time spent watering at each location. When watering sheep in Mecham Hollow avoid trailing through the camping area and the ATV trail head crossing.
- ❖ Sheep are to be bedded in a new location every night. Sheep are not allowed to bed near streams, ponds, springs, trails or roadways.

- ❖ **Actual Use Forms will be mailed out this year following the grazing season. Please fill out these forms and mail back in a timely manner.**
- ❖ This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

VII. Wolf Status:

Wolves in Idaho are no longer under the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act.

On May 5, 2011, wolf management in all of Idaho reverted to state management under state code 36-1107 and Idaho's 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. [PDF, 662 KB]

Simply put, the law says wolves molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals may be disposed of by livestock or domestic animal owners, their employees, agents and animal damage control personnel. No permit from Fish and Game is necessary. The incident must be reported to the Fish and Game director within 72 hours, with additional reasonable time allowed if access to the site where taken is limited. Wolves so taken shall remain the property of the state.

Livestock and domestic animal owners may take all nonlethal steps they deem necessary to protect their property. A permit must be obtained from the director to control wolves not molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals. Control is also permitted by owners, their employees and agents pursuant to the Idaho department of fish and game harvest rules. "Molesting" means the actions of a wolf that are annoying, disturbing or persecuting, especially with hostile intent or injurious effect, or chasing, driving, flushing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, or stalking or lying in wait for, livestock or domestic animals.

For wolf sightings, wolf mortalities or wolf management questions, contact:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Idaho State Office - Toll-free at: 877-661-1908

To report suspected wolf depredations on livestock or pets, contact

USDA Wildlife Services: Toll-free at: 866-487-3297 or 208-378-5077

VIII. Certified Weed Free Hay:

Weed Free Hay Order is in effect. If hay is needed while on the forest: Certified Weed free hay and other forages are required on the Forest and must be identified as such with a State and/or County tag. Failure to do so will result in a violation notice or permit action.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-0735
Kevin Parker	(208) 547-4356

Supervisory Range Specialist	(208)547-1108
Dell Transtrum	(208) 847-0375
Range Specialist	(208) 847-8939