

RED MOUNTAIN SHEEP ALLOTMENT
2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTION

I. Permitted Livestock:

Permittee	Permitted
	600 ewe/lambs 6/18 to 9/15 or not to exceed 1804 head months 3 Horses 6/18- 9/15

II. Grazing Management:

Generally, open loose herding and once-over grazing should be practiced. Bed grounds, shade-up areas, and salting locations will not be used more than once during the grazing season. After sheep have watered, they should be encouraged to move off the riparian area before being allowed to noon bed. Do not place salt near designated Forest Service trails, roads or within the riparian areas of creeks, springs and ponds. Do not salt in the same location twice.

Montpelier- Elk Valley Cattle will be in Lower Preuss Creek and Dip Creek areas (common –use) within the Red Mountain Allotment in mid August.

III. Grazing Standards and Guides:

Standards and Guides covering the allotment 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 the tables 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.

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

The standards above are the riparian forage utilization standards that will be applied unless specific directions are listed below.

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 below. 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 most current 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.

Site Specific Direction:

	PFC results/rank & trend	AIZ Riparian standards
Preuss Creek	Functioning-at-risk (moderate) trend –stable	4/5/6 inches 303d listed
Dip Creek	Functioning-at-risk (moderate) trend- stable	3/4/5 inches
Fish Creek	Functioning-at-risk (high) trend- upward	3/4/5 inches

Upland Forage Utilization Standards

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Critical Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	55
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	10	35

Critical winter range exists on the lower elevation areas of the allotment.

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring will include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Use on key grass species such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*) will be measured.

As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage production, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of the livestock from the allotment will occur. If livestock are removed from the Forest early, your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year's fee, but must be requested on the Actual Use Form.

IV. Permittee Responsibilities:

- 1. 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 and/or permit action.
- 2. Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. 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.

3. **Noxious weeds** are located on your allotment. If you know of any infestations, please bring them to the attention of the Forest Officer. There may be spray days coordinated on your allotment and your assistance with them would be appreciated.

V. 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.

VI. Wolf Recovery Management:

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.

VII. Forms to be completed:

Actual Use Forms will be mailed out after the grazing season. Please complete these forms and return to the Forest Service in a timely manner.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-8935
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-4356 (208) 547-1108
Dell Transtrum Range Specialist	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939