



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

2016

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
AUSTIN CANYON SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

AUTHORIZED USE

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
	7/1 to 9/16	1200 ewes and their offspring less then 6 months old

All sheep must be your own livestock.

GRAZING SCHEDULE

Truck the sheep to Pine Creek to unload.

The grazing sequence for the 2016 grazing season is as follows:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	Mike Spencer Canyon
Graze 2 nd	Spencer Mountain
Graze 3 rd	Deadman
Graze 4 th	Graze the remainder of the allotment in a clockwise direction

General route for the **clockwise** direction is from Deadman Unit graze lightly up Ice Cove Ridge and down into Lorrain Canyon exit Lorrain Canyon through Twin Ponds and into the head of Siddoway Fork of Big Elk, graze through Neeley Cove and over into Austin Canyon, from Austin Canyon over into Cabin Canyon and back to starvation Peak to enter the sheep driveway.
Follow the sheep driveway back to Pine Creek pass to ship lambs.

REST -

Rainey Creek

The sheep will need to trail through the rest unit to access the next area in the rotation.

Truck the ewes off the allotment from Pine Creek pass or trail them out via the Sheep Driveway to the Forest boundary at Sheep Creek.

ALL TRAIL TIME MUST OCCUR WITHIN YOU PERMITTED SEASON.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

PROPER USE CRITERIA

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the sheep will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation Type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs	35%

Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

- A. The 30% utilization levels of current year’s growth for key woody plant species.
- B. A four inch (4”) stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3”) stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

Herding

When grazing, allow the sheep to spread out and avoid excessive use of dogs to herd the sheep especially on the steep slopes of the allotment. Sheep will not be allowed to shade up along stream banks. After they have watered the sheep will be eased away from the water to shade. Bringing sheep to water either early or late in the day seems to have less impact on streams than when the sheep come to water during the hot part of the day, as they tend to shade up along the streams. Bed grounds will be used only one night during the grazing season. Move the sheep to a new bed ground each night. Do not bed sheep on system roads, trails, or in riparian areas.

Salting

No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land.

Camps

Herder camps should be located at least 50 feet from the trails if possible. Low impact camping techniques will be used: such as picketing or highlining any stock that will remain tied for long periods of time, using existing fire rings or removing sod from a new fire ring and replacing it before you leave, caching tent poles cut from native trees to use another year. Picket lines will be of a length so not to allow pack and saddle stock to cross roads or trails. Fires will be extinguished when not attended. Pack out all trash from your sheep camps including any trash that is left from previous years or items left by other campers. Keep camps clean while they are occupied.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 200 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Motorized Access

The Palisades Ranger District is closed to cross country motorized travel. Adhere to the travel plan while managing your sheep on the allotment.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Spending a little time treating an infestation that consists only of a few plants may prevent larger infestations from damaging your range in the future. Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service concerning wolves in Wyoming and Idaho Fish and Game concerning wolves in Idaho. Wolves in Wyoming are currently protected under the endangered species act. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that requires a change to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

These instructions have been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will direct management for this allotment for the 2016 grazing season.