



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

2016

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
GRAND VALLEY SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
	9/10 to 10/10	2100 sheep

All sheep must be your own livestock and branded with the brand as displayed in your Term Grazing permit

GRAZING SCHEDULE

The sheep that graze the Dog Creek and South Indian Cottonwood allotments are authorized to graze the Grand Valley Allotment after shipping the lambs. Use a water truck when necessary to water the sheep.

The reservoir should fill this summer but it is expected to be lower in September when the sheep are on the Allotment. Follow the proper use criteria for the areas above the high water line. Portable corrals may be erected on Grand Valley Allotment for the sheep to be trucked from the National Forest. If water levels permit set the corral up at the mouth of Indian Creek.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

2100 adult sheep will be allowed to use the allotment.

PROPER USE CRITERIA

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period. Use rates apply to vegetation above high waterline.

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. If proper use is met on areas above the high waterline and no forage is available below the high waterline the sheep will be removed from the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

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

Herdling

Bed the sheep in areas to best avoid conflicts with other forest users while on the allotment. When using a water truck and portable troughs, water the sheep below the high waterline.

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

Low impact camping techniques will be used. Fires will be extinguished when not attended. Pack out all trash.

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 we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers and include general remarks pertaining to management of the allotment.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Motorized Access

Adhere to the travel plan for the Palisades Ranger District while managing your sheep on the allotment. You are allowed to drive cross-country below the high waterline of Palisades Reservoir.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Spotted knapweed is prevalent on upland areas of the allotment and treated by the district annually. 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.

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.