



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

2016

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
 POINT LOOKOUT SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

| <u>Permittee</u> | <u>Season of Use</u> | <u>Permitted Number</u> |
|------------------|--|---|
| | June 16 th to August 30 th | 1000 ewes & offspring less than 6 months old |
| | | 2 horses |

All sheep must be your own livestock.

GRAZING SCHEDULE

Unload the sheep at the Blacktail. Move the sheep across the Fall Creek Cattle Allotment to the Gravel pit to begin.

The grazing sequence for 2016 is:

| <u>Sequence</u> | <u>Units</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Graze 1st | Point Lookout |
| Graze 2nd | Pritchard |
| Graze 3rd | Dry Hollow |

At the end of the grazing season a portable corral may be set up at Calf Hollow to ship lambs and truck the ewes off the allotment. When the sheep finish grazing the Dry Hollow Unit, trail them across the Point Lookout unit to the head of Porcupine Creek on the Snake River Cattle allotment. Move them down the ridge between Calf Hollow and Porcupine Creek to the corral. Be sure to have your herder use the gate and repair any fence that may get damaged as the sheep go through it. You will be authorized one day to trail the sheep across the Snake River Cattle Allotment via the ridge between Porcupine Creek and Calf Hollow to reach the corral. You will be allowed to keep the sheep at the corral no more

than two nights. The ewes are to be trucked off of the Forest the day after the lambs are shipped. Sheep may be placed on an area of the Mahogany Ridge Allotment in the Lower South Fork Unit during shipping.

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 cattle will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment. The standard for use of shrubs in the Fall Creek drainage and the south half of the Dry Hollow Unit is more restrictive to protect big game winter range.

Upland Forage Utilization

| <u>Vegetation type</u> | <u>Percent Utilization</u> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Herbaceous vegetation including grasses | 55% |
| Shrubs | 35% |
| Shrubs in the Fall Creek drainage and south ½ of the Dry Hollow Unit | 15% |

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).

Herdling

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. Salt will be placed in areas that will create the least impact on the land, such as rock out cropping.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

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

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 high-lining 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.

Range Improvements

The only permanent range improvement you have on this allotment is the Sawmill water development. Make necessary repairs to ensure the longevity of this improvement.

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. As a grazing permittee you may be issued a motorized travel permit to allow you to travel cross country by motor vehicle to maintain range improvements. In your case this would be the Sawmill Water Trough. If you need to take a motor vehicle to this water trough for maintenance this year let us know and we can issue you the permit.

The Black tail road is open from Fall Creek to the location where you park your sheep camp just past the gravel pit. From that point on the road has been converted to a motorized trail open to vehicles that are 50 inches wide or smaller. You may no longer be pull sheep camps past this area with a full sized vehicle.

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 Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 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, information and contact numbers relating to wolf depredations 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.