



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

2016

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
RUSSELL/VAN SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Season of Use

6/1 to 8/31

Permitted Number

1000 ewes and their offspring
less than 6 months old

All sheep must be your own livestock.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment:

GRAZING SCHEDULE

Truck the sheep to the River Unit at the beginning of the season.

The grazing sequence for the 2016 season is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Approximate Dates</u>
Graze 1 st	River Unit	June 1-June 21
Graze 2 nd	Bear Creek Unit	June 22-July 6
Graze 3 rd	Van Point Unit	July 7-August 31

The above dates to move from the units are only for general reference. If proper use is reached prior to the prescribed date move the sheep to the next unit. If proper use has not been met and there are areas the sheep have not grazed you may keep them on the unit past the recommended date. The Van Point Unit will be grazed **CLOCKWISE** this season. Ship the lambs from the Bear Creek Sheep Corrals. The ewes from this allotment will be combined with the Poker Peak herd to graze the Elk Mountain Allotment from September 1st to September 10th.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Do not bed sheep around the vault toilet in the Gravel Flats area.

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%
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Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

Riparian Shrubs (current year's growth)	30%.
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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. 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. Any livestock feed brought on to the forest must be certified noxious weed free. 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.

Range Improvements

You are responsible for your share of the maintenance on the Bear Creek Corral. Continue to coordinate with other corral users as to when you intend to use the corral. The annual maintenance of the corral will be completed prior to shipping lambs. We will evaluate the water troughs on the allotment this season.

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. If you have a camera it would be good to take pictures. Photos should be taken of key areas of the unit at the time the livestock enter the unit and then again at the same locations at the time the livestock leave 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. Motorized vehicles are only allowed on the roads and trails designated as open to motorized use.

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. 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 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 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 require changes 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.

This plan has been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will be the guide for this allotment for the 2016 grazing season.