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These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Black Canyon, Hell Creek/ Comb Creek, Squaw Creek, Wolverine-Kirk, Deep Creek, and Henry Cutoff Sheep Allotments**. These operating instructions are a guide for management on these allotments during the 2016 grazing season.

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

Grazing Schedule

The 2016 order of rotation is outlined in this section. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted dependant on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. **Please contact us 5 days prior to when your sheep will enter the Forest.**

Allotment	Season of Use	Permitted No.	2016 Actual Season	Actual No.	Unit Rotation
Black Canyon	6/25-9/10	1100	6/25-9/10	1100	Counter-Clockwise
Hell Cr./Comb Cr.	6/26-8/31	1000	7/10-9/10	1000	Clockwise
Squaw Creek	6/26-8/31	1000	7/10-9/10	1000	Clockwise
Wolverine-Kirk	6/25-9/10	1250	7/2-9/10	1250	Clockwise
Deep Creek	7/1-9/10	1200	7/1-9/10	1200	Counter-Clockwise
Henry Cutoff	9/11-9/20	1200	9/11-9/20	1200	Once- over

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. If riparian or upland monitoring shows that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will need to be moved. The Forest Service officer in charge of your allotment must approve any extension to the grazing season. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

Special Instructions

This AOI 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.



Grazing Management Standards and Guides

Standards and Guides for the allotments have been established in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan (RFP) for the Caribou National Forest. The following grazing management standards for upland areas are now in effect for all your allotments. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the grazing management standards and guides are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The grazing management standards and guides will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Site specific standards will be identified in the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and AOI.

The following grazing standards and guides will be used as a guide in grazing your allotments. When these standards are followed ecological conditions should progress toward the Desired Future Conditions described in Chapter 3, *2003 Caribou RFP*.

A. Upland Grazing Standards and Guides

Upland grazing standards and guides are based on the community type and whether or not they fall under critical winter range, winter range or non-winter range. Community Types and their relevance to winter range were mapped in the *Caribou RFP*. When establishing the standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will follow directions set forth in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Upland Forage Utilization Standards and Guides

	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non winter range
Grass and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	10	20	30

There is designated “critical winter range” on the Deep Creek allotment and “winter range” on Henry Cutoff allotment.

* Key species that would be monitored are Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)

B. Riparian Grazing Standards

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP) and The Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* and are part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for your allotments are listed in tables 2 and 3 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.

Table 2 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

Table 3 Site Specific PFC ratings and standards

Proper Functioning Condition Rating and Stubble Height Standard (Table 4)		
Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	Residual AIZ Stubble Height*
Wolverine Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Kirk Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Fish Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5
Hell Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Comb Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5
Black Cyn. Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Skull Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Trail Cr	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5
Taylor Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Squaw Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4
Jackknife Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	3/4/5
Deep Cr.	Functioning-at-risk (mod)	3/4/5
Pat Cyn. Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5

*The residual stubble height requirement is based on the time of year the area is grazed. 2/3/4 refers to the season; 2 early in the season, 3 in the middle, and 4 at the end of the grazing season.

Example

If the sheep were grazing Wolverine Creek at the first of July the residual Aquatic Influence Zone(AIZ) stubble height would need to be a minimum of 2 inches when the sheep leave. If the sheep were grazing the same area in the fall, there would need to be a minimum of 4 inches of residual stubble height in the AIZ.

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](#).

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.

District Trailing Guidelines

- When trailing, sheep must use Forest Service system roads where feasible.
- Trailing while on National Forest System land will be counted as part of a permittee's permitted days.
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the permitted allotment.
- Do not overnight sheep in the same location where an earlier band of sheep bedded.
- While trailing to and from your allotments, make every effort to cross other sheep and cattle allotments as quickly as possible.

Permittee Responsibilities

1. "Once-over" grazing and open herding is to be practiced on all allotments.
2. Sheep are to bed in new locations each night. Sheep should be encouraged to bed in places other than ridges.

3. Sheep should not be allowed to bed near streams, ponds, springs, or Forest System roads and trails. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Sheep should be encouraged to water early in the day and then moved off water.
4. Ensure the herder leaves a sanitary and clean campsite.
5. Salt should be placed in areas away from water, riparian areas, forest plantations, ridges, shade-up areas, Forest System roads and trails, and bed grounds. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.
6. While trailing to and from your allotments, sheep will be kept on established roadways or the Jackknife driveway.
7. Report all fires to the District Office as soon as possible (208) 547-4356.
8. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free". If you are found to be using uncertified hay or straw, a violation notice and/or permit action may be taken.
9. All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A copy has been attached to this AOI for your convenience. A delay in livestock turnout on your allotments 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. Maintenance work should be completed prior to livestock entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

Water Development Maintenance Standards

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Level troughs and reset when needed.
- Wildlife escape ramps should be installed on all troughs.

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.

- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

Compliance

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3, and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office
Devon Green Acting District Ranger	208) 547-4356
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-4356
Colby Jacobson Range Specialist	208) 547-1106
Jake Biar	208-547-1113