United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Soda Springs Ranger District | 410 East Hooper Avenue
Soda Springs, ID 83276
208-547-4356

File Code: 2210
Date: 2015

Dear Permittee;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **North Sulphur, Johnson Creek, Henry Olsen (includes Sheep Creek), Mabey Canyon, Slug Creek, Stewart Canyon, and Green Mountain Sheep Allotments.** These Instructions are a guide for management of these allotments during the **2015** grazing season. We have also included your Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by November **30.**

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.

1. Permitted Livestock

Allotment	Permitted Season	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season	Unit Rotation
North Sulphur	6/16 - 9/5	1050	1050	6/16-9/5	Counter-Clockwise
Johnson Creek	6/16 - 9/5	1050	1050	6/16-9/5	Counter-Clockwise
Henry Olsen	6/16 - 9/5	1000	1000	6/16-9/5	Counter-Clockwise
Mabey Canyon	6/21 - 9/15	1000	1000	6/21-9/15	Counter-Clockwise
Slug Creek	6/18 - 9/20	1100	1100	6/18-9/20	Counter-Clockwise
Stewart Canyon	Variable; Not to exceed 6/20-9/15	Variable; 1195 ewe/lambs or Not to exceed 2634 HMs	1195	7/1-9/5 or Up to 66 days with full numbers	Clockwise
Green Mountain	Variable; Not to exceed 6/20-9/15	Variable; 1195 ewe/lambs or Not to exceed 2634 HMs	1195	7/1-9/5 or Up to 66 days with full numbers	Clockwise

2. Grazing Rotation

It is important to remember that the above dates and rotations are guidelines for use and range condition may warrant changes to the grazing season.

3. Special Instructions.

- This year all AOI's will again be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

- The sheep are not allowed to graze on any of the mine dumps due to the potential of high levels of selenium in the vegetation. You should also avoid watering the sheep and horses in Maybe Creek below the dump if possible.

- You will be allowed to cross the Maybe Canyon mine dump to get your sheep to the allotments on the Montpelier District as long as there is a Forest Service representative present. Once the sheep enter Maybe Canyon they must be kept moving until they are across the dump. They are not to rest, water, or graze; just move through. Let us know at least 3 days prior to crossing the dump so we can arrange to have someone there.

4. 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. [PDF, 662 KB]

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.

5. Grazing Standards and Guidelines

Standards and Guides covering these allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* or the 2005 *Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide* and are now made part of your permit.

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Riparian Utilization Standards In the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition	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**

Stream Rating Table

Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Gravel Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Olsen Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Daves Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Sheep Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Kendall Cyn.Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Campbell Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Hornet Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Stewart Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Trail Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Johnson. Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Wood Cyn. Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Slug Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Cold Spring Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Diamond Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Stewart Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35

Upland Utilization Standards

Allowed Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	**Winter Range**	**Non Winter Range**
Grasses and Herbaceous Species(% Dry Weight)	**35**	**45**	**55**
Shrubs (Annual Leader Growth)	**10**	**20**	**35**

Upland standards on the allotment are shown in the table above. Use in the uplands is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. If an area is considered critical winter range, use levels for the uplands is 35%. Non critical winter range is allowed to be used up to 45%, and non winter range is allowed to be used up to 55%.

Winter Range within the Allotments

Allotment	Type of Winter Range	% Use Allowed	Area of Winter Range
North Sulphur	Critical winter range	35%	Soda Front
Henry Olsen	Winter range	45%	Western ½ of allotment
Mabey Canyon	Winter range	45%	Portion of N. Mabey Canyon
Slug Creek	Winter range	45%	NE portion of Allotment

See the attached maps for the specific areas within each allotment.

As the season progresses Forest Personnel will routinely check the range conditions within your allotments. If monitoring determines that standards have been met, or that other resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts early removal of the livestock from the allotment may be necessary.

6. Permittee Responsibilities

A. ***Salting*** **-** Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use.

B. ***Herding*** **–** Herders should keep the sheep in new areas each day. The sheep should bed and water in new areas daily.

C. ***Weed-free hay*** **-** Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".

D. ***Maintaining Improvements*** **-** All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your allotment 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 cattle entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

b. ***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.
- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stock water ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

E. ***Completion of Forms***

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

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	**Cell**
Dennis Duehren **Montpelier District Ranger**	208) 847-8935 208) 547-4356	
Jack Isaacs **Soda District Ranger**	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker **Supervisory Range Specialist**	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
Dell Transtrum **Range Specialist**	208) 847-8939	
Colby Jacobson **Range Specialist**	208) 547-1106	208) 313-7904