



File Code: 2210

Date: 2016

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bechler Creek, Deer Creek, Smith Creek, and South Fork of Tincup Creek Sheep Allotments. These operating instructions are a guide for management on these allotments during the 2016 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form will be mailed out at the end of the 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 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.**

Table 1, Permitted numbers and season of use

Allotment	Season of Use	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Unit Rotation
Bechler Creek	7/1-8/30	1000		Counter- Clockwise
Deer Creek	7/1-9/15	900		Clockwise
Smith Creek	7/1-8/30	900		Clockwise
So. Fork Tincup	7/1-9/15	900		Clockwise

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. If riparian or upland monitoring show that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will need to be moved. Any extension to the grazing season must be approved by the Forest Service officer in charge of your allotment. **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 year all AOI's 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.

After the lambs are shipped from the Dancehall Flat Corral and you wish to extend the season of use it will be handled on a case by case basis. My staff will be monitoring the key areas identified in your allotment management plan [i.e. using the rangeland health indicators (FSH 2209.13)]. In addition to the utilization standards, the following instructions need to be adhered to:

- Sheep should not be "nooned" on Tincup Creek by the corrals while shipping.

### Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

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 part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment 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)

<b>Season of Use</b>	<b>Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)</b>	<b>Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)</b>	<b>Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)</b>	<b>Non Functioning (States C &amp; D) (%/Stubble Height)</b>
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. Riparian Utilization Standards for streams on your allotments

Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	AIZ Stubble Height at end of grazing period	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
S. Fk. Tincup Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Chicken Cr.**	Functioning-at-Risk	6+	20
Schiess Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
(Upper)Deer Cr.	Functioning	4	45
Miller Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
S. Fk. Miller Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Brush Cr.	Functioning	4	45
Crooked Cr.	Functioning	4	45
N. Fk. Stump Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Stump Cr.	Functioning	4	45
Bechler Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Smith Cr.	Functioning	4	45

\* Utilization standards are guidelines given in the Caribou National Forest Revised Forest Plan and Grazing implementation Guide (GIG)

\*\*Streams with sensitive species or other factors (303\_d listed) that require standard from one resiliency level lower.

### Upland Utilization Guidelines

Utilization of upland vegetation is based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Use should be measured on key grass species such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.).

Table 4 Upland Forage Utilization Standards

Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Winter Range	Non winter range
Grass and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	20	35

There are areas on the Bechler Cr, Smith Cr, and Deer Cr allotments considered “winter range” (see attached map).

### 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.

### **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 your 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.

#### **For the Henry Cut-off Driveway:**

- a. You must notify the District office that you are trailing across the Henry Cut-off driveway at least 24 hours in advance.
- b. Before sheep can be bedded overnight on the Henry Cut-off and/or Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, Forest Service approval is needed. Keeping sheep overnight on the Forest will count against your permitted days.
- c. Avoid bedding the sheep in the vicinity of the troughs, the switch-back cut-off, the summit, or north of the summit.
- d. While trailing across the Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, stay south of Tincup Highway near the substation.

### **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 on 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 herders leave sanitary and clean campsites.
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. Report all fires to the District Office as soon as possible (208) 547-4356.
7. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free". If you are found to be using uncertified hay or straw, permit action may be taken.
8. All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on the 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**

#### Spring Boxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from head boxes.
- 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 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.

**Forms to be completed**

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder. Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

**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.

	<b>Office</b>
<b>Devon Green Acting District Ranger</b>	208) 547-4356
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1108
<b>Jake Biar Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1113