

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**BIG CANYON SHEEP ALLOTMENT
KING CREEK SHEEP ALLOTMENT
INMAN/NORTH PEBBLE SHEEP ALLOTMENT
TOPONCE SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

This is your Annual Operating Instructions. These Instructions are part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8 (a) of your permit.

As part of the Terms & Conditions of your Permit, Part 2 Number 8 (i), all range improvements and maintenance on water developments must be completed before sheep enter the forest. Non-use does not relieve any permittee from their range improvement maintenance responsibility.

Before livestock enter the forest, your grazing fees must be paid and notice received in this office. Failure to follow this procedure is a violation of your permit.

<u>ALLOTMENT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Big Canyon	896 Yearlings	7/1-9/20	--	--
Inman/N. Pebble	900 Sheep	6/6-8/6	700	8/7-9/28
King Creek	793 Sheep	6/28-8/6	700	8/7-9/28
Toponce	801 Sheep	6/28-8/6	700	8/7-9/28

Shipping of lambs occurs the 1st week in August in which ewes are also culled.

PROPER UTILIZATION FOR ALL UNITS

Riparian Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Herbaceous Utilization (AIZ)*	Utilization in the Aquatic Influence Zone at the end of the grazing period will be 30 to 45%. (e.g. poa, redtop, etc)
Stubble Height (AIZ)*	Allowable stubble height measurements in the AIZ will vary between 3 to 6 inches at the end of the grazing period depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
Stubble Height (Greenline)*	Allowable stubble height measurements, along the greenline, will be 6 inches at the end of the grazing period. (e.g. carex)
Herbaceous Utilization (Greenline)	Utilization at the greenline at the end of the grazing period will not exceed 50% depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
% Woody Species utilization	Allowable woody utilization 40%
% Cumulative Bank Disturbance (Alteration)	Refers to short term (annual) physical disturbance of alternation of the bank by livestock trampling. Allowable disturbance shall not exceed 20%.
Upland Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	Utilization of upland forage species on this allotment should not exceed 50% of key species (Blue Bunch Wheat Grass and Idaho Fescue).
Shrubs (% Annual leader growth)	Utilization in the uplands will vary from 25% to 35% depending on whether it is considered as: winter range, critical winter range, or non-winter range.

Should bank erosion of perennial streams be evident, soil displacement guidelines may also be used. In addition, recreation sites may have to be grazed at a lower level depending on the situation. Any changes in utilization levels for these areas will be cooperatively determined with you at each specific site.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A guideline in the Forest Plan (RFP 3-43) allows travel off designated routes to maintain range improvements, moving camps, and treating weeds. After you access these areas, you must replace barriers and/or lock gates to minimize unauthorized use. This travel activity will be re-evaluated annually. These administrative activities authorized include; Bear Camp 222, Hornet Canyon 225.

"Once-over" grazing use and open herding should be practiced. Bed grounds should not be used in excess of one night. When salting, please salt in a different place from last year. By spreading out salt areas, we can permit grazing of steep watershed areas. We prefer that salt be applied on rocky areas, and avoid salting steep, east-facing slopes where snow cornices build-up. Do not salt sheep near water.

Please insure that your herder allows the sheep to water only once in any given location on live water. Once watered, sheep must be herded back off the stream. Do not allow sheep to shade or noon-up on any live streams. Instruct your herder to move sheep to water as early in the day as possible, preferably before the heat of the day, and to spend no more than 1 hour on water.

Do not allow sheep to shade up, over-water, or water more than once in any given spot in Inman.

You may water in Middle Fork, but your sheep must not shade-up, noon-up, or bed within the boundary of the riparian zone.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

Water Troughs: Cold Springs, Bear Camp, Inkom Pass, Trail Canyon, King Creek, & Robbers Roost Trail

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Any change which deviates from these Annual Operating Instructions must be made in advance and be in writing by the District Ranger.

All camps should have a serviceable ax and shovel for fire control. Please keep your camps clean, and pack out your refuse.

A Forest closure order exists for any hay or straw used in association with your permit will be certified and tagged as noxious weed, or noxious weed seed free as directed by the order.

Please contact Hans Bastian at 236-7526 or Clayton Collins at 236-7504 if you have any questions.