



CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO
2016
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

HOME RIDGE – RED PEAK
SHEEP ALLOTMENT

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Authorized Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
	July 3 rd to September 17 th	1200 ewes and their offspring less than 6 months old

All sheep must be your own livestock.

GRAZING SCHEDULE

Trail to the allotment using the **Original** Bear Creek Driveway. You may trail on the road where it runs along the driveway. From the forest boundary at Brockman the sheep will be allowed four overnight stays along the driveway when enroute to Home Ridge-Red Peak Allotment. The location of the first three overnight stays will be on the Lone Pine Allotment. The last overnight stay will be along Fourth of July Ridge on the Golden Gate Allotment.

The grazing sequence for the 2016 season is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	Home Ridge
Graze 2nd	Dead Horse
Graze 3rd	Bear Creek
REST	Red Peak

Trail the sheep back to the Brockman Corrals using the **Rerouted** Bear Creek Driveway to ship lambs. The sheep will be allowed three overnight stays along the driveway between the allotment and the Corral Unit of the Lone Pine Allotment. Overnight the sheep along the driveway on the Golden Gate and Lone Pine Allotments. From the Corral Unit of the Lone Pine Allotment herd the sheep along the Brockman Road to the corral. All trail time must occur within your permitted season.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

When trailing to your allotment or from your allotment to the corral, be sure to have your sheep cross Corral Creek on the bridge on Brockman road. The Brockman, Commissary Ridge and Skyline Roads may be used for trailing sheep on while next to the Driveway. Sheep often travel faster on the roads and have fewer impacts to the resources as the roads are hardened and designed for use.

The Fourth of July Ridge trail and the portion of the Sheep Driveway Trail from Fourth of July Ridge to its intersection with Commissary Road have been maintained to be safe for vehicles 50 inches wide or less.

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).

Herding

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. 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 Brockman 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 while preparing to ship lambs.

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.

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.