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

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Dear Permittee;

These are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Diamond/Boulder Sheep Allotment. 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 depending 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	Permitted Numbers	Authorized	Season	Rotation
Henry Cutoff	1200	1080	6/21-6/30	Once-over
Diamond/Boulder	1200	1080	7/1-9/10	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 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

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 accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

Do not use the Lander Trail near Terrace Canyon, and no sheep should bed on Diamond Flat.

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.

Proper Use Guidelines

Proper use guidelines for your allotments follow the standards set forth in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan (RFP) or site specific standards will be established using the Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG) as opportunities allow.

Upland Utilization Guidelines

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 *RFP*. Site specific standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will be addressed in these instructions if they are available. When establishing the standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment Table 1 will be used.

Table 1. Upland Forage Utilization – (RFP)

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

There is "winter range" on the Diamond/Boulder allotment.

Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Table 2. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ from GIG)

Season of Use	**Properly Functioning Condition (% /Stubble Height)**	**Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate)**	**Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (% /Stubble Height)**	**Non Functioning (States C & D) (% /Stubble Height)**

		(% /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

(65/2) The first number represents the percent of total weight of key species. The second number represents the height of standing riparian vegetation at the time of measurement.

If it is determined that bank disturbance/alteration, greenline stubble height or woody/shrubby species utilization should replace the utilization triggers listed above it will be addressed in the site specific standards below. Riparian site specific standards will be established when a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the latest Grazing Implementation Guide. If there is not a PFC rating for a stream standards from the Caribou Revised Forest Plan (RFP) will be used.

Utilization measurements will be based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 3. Riparian Utilization Standards (determined using the GIG)

Stream	Stream Condition Rating	AIZ Stubble Height	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Corrailsen Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	4/5/6	40/30/25
Browns Cyn. Cr.	Functioning	2/3/4	65/55/45
Flat Valley Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Stump Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (high)	3/4/5	55/45/35
Boulder Cr. *	Functioning	3/4/5	55/45/35
N. Fk. Bacon Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	4/5/6	40/30/25

*Streams with sensitive species or other factors (303_d listed) requiring standards to be bumped down one resiliency level.

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.
- Specific trailing and overnight instructions, while on the Forest, will be included in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the permitted allotment.

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 move away from 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. 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, a violation notice and/or 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 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

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 should be cleaned.

Spring boxes

- 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.
- 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 braces.
- Wildlife escape ramps should be installed on all troughs.

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) 547-1101
Kevin Parker **Supervisory Range Specialist**	208)547-1108
Colby Jacobson **Range Specialist**	208) 547-1106