



File Code: 2210

Date: 2016

Dear Permittee;

These annual operating instructions are for the **Fossil Canyon** and **South Sulphur** Sheep allotments. These operating instructions are a guide for management on these allotments during the 2016 grazing season.

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	Season of Use	Permitted No.	Authorized	Unit Rotation
Fossil Canyon	5/20-9/15	1250	1250	Counter-Clockwise
South Sulphur	6/16-8/31	800	800	Counter-Clockwise

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 or riparian 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

This AOI 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.

Wolf 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.

Grazing Management Standards and Guides

In 2003 the Revised Forest Plan(RFP) for the Caribou National Forest was signed. As a result of the *2003 Caribou RFP*); the following grazing management standards for uplands and riparian areas are now in effect. Your livestock must be removed from a pasture (unit) when the grazing management standards and guides are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The grazing management standards and guides will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Site specific standards will be identified in the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and AOI.

The following grazing standards and guides will be used as a guide in grazing your allotments. When these standards are followed ecological conditions should progress toward the Desired Future Conditions described in Chapter 3, *2003 Caribou RFP*.

A. Upland Grazing Standards and Guides

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 *Caribou RFP*. Site specific standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will be addressed in the AOI and Allotment Management Plan (AMP). When establishing the standards and guides for the uplands on the allotment will follow directions set forth in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Upland Forage Utilization Standards and Guides

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area	
	Critical Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species* (% dry weight)	35	55
Shrubs* (Annual leader growth)	10	35

* Key species that would be monitored are Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)

Riparian Grazing Standards and Guidelines

Table 2 below, shall be used for riparian grazing until more site-specific standards are implemented on the allotment using the most current Caribou Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide. Site specific standards and guides will be established and implemented through your AMP and AOI.

Table 2 Riparian Grazing Standards

Parameter	Location Measured	Condition of Riparian (Lotic) Area		
		Properly Functioning Condition	Functioning at Risk	Non-Functioning
% Herbaceous Species Utilization*	Greenline	45%	35%	30%
	In AIZ	55%	45%	35%
% Woody Spp Utilization	-	45%	40%	30%
Stubble Height*	Greenline	4 inches	6 inches	6 inches
%Bank Disturbance	Cumulative	30%	25%	20%

* Residual stubble height are intended for riparian dependent species only such as Nebraska sedge. Percent utilization criteria are intended for use on non-riparian dependent species such as Kentucky bluegrass and red-top.

Site specific monitoring of each stream will be used to determine when proper use has been reached. Once the allowable use standard is met, regardless of numbers of animals or time, livestock will be moved. Timing and intensity of use are the key elements of implementing the riparian grazing standards and guides.

Utilization 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.

Proper Functioning Condition Rating (Table 4)	
South Sulphur Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk

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.
- 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.
- While trailing to and from your allotments, make every effort to cross other sheep and cattle allotments as quickly as possible.

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 moved off 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. While trailing to and from your allotments, sheep will be kept on established roadways.
7. Report all fires to the District Office as soon as possible (208) 547-4356.
8. 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.
9. All improvements must meet Forest Service Standards. A copy has been attached to this AOI for your convenience. 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

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.
- Level troughs and reset when needed.

- Wildlife escape ramps should be installed on all troughs.

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

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

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) 547-4356
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-4356
Jake Biar Range Specialist	208) 547-1113
Colby Jacobson Range Specialist	208) 547-1106