



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sawtooth National Forest
Ketchum Ranger District

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Date: June 9, 2014

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2014 Annual Operating Instructions

For Faulkner Land and Livestock Co.; Sawtooth Sheep

Sheep and Goat Allotments

Administered by

The Ketchum Ranger District

Sawtooth National Forest

Permit # 03010; 03036

**Prepared and recommended by: Bill Whitaker, Range Management
Technician**

**Approved by: /s/ Kurt J Nelson
District Ranger**

**June 9, 2014
Date**



Annual Operating Instructions 2014

INTRODUCTION

Permittee: Faulkner Land and Livestock Co.; Sawtooth Sheep Inc.

Allotments Included: Baker Cr. S&G; Lake Cr. S&G; East Fork Wood River S&G

Permitted Numbers and Seasons:

Numbers; Head Months (HM)	Season; Head Months (HM)	Allotment	Head Months (HM)
Variable numbers and season. Not to exceed 4181 head months (HM).	06/12- 09/25	Baker Creek S&G	4181
Variable numbers and class of sheep and variable season not to exceed 2000 yearlings and 8285 head months for yearlings or 4171 HM for ewes with lambs.	06/12-10/15, Yearlings, 06/12-9/30 Ewe/lamb,	Lake Cr. S&G	8285 for yearlings 4171 for ewes with lambs
Variable numbers and class of sheep and variable season not to exceed 2000 yearlings and 6000 head months for yearlings or 3400 HM for ewes with lambs.	6/16-09/30	East Fork Wood River S&G	6000 for yearlings 3,400 for ewes with lambs

Authorized Season of Use and Numbers for 2014

Band #3 - Baker Creek Allotment (Herder and Camp Tender: Dorteo and Simon)

Numbers	Season	Allotment	Head months
1170 ewes/lambs	6/16-08/03	Baker Cr.	1885
1110 ewe	8/04-8/08 (8/04 ship Newman Corral, cull 60)		182
*1500 ewe (add 390 from Lake Creek to 1110 Baker Cr.)	8/9-8/12	Ketchum-Stanley Driveway	197
5 horse	6/16-8/08	Baker Cr.	

*Authorized use billing for the 1500 head ewe band trailing to the Smiley Creek allotment is included in the Baker Creek allotment billing.

Band #4, Lake Creek Allotment (Herder: Zenebio)

Numbers	Season	Allotment	Head Months
1160 ewes/lamb	6/18-8/06	Lake Cr.	1907
*390 ewe (to band #3)	8/07-8/08 (ship 8/07)	Ketchum-Stanley Driveway	26
710 ewe's (to East Fork allotment)	8/07-8/08	Ketchum Driveway	47
2 horse	6/18-8/08	Lake Cr.	

*Authorized use billing for 390 ewe's trailing to #3 and 710 ewe's trailing to the East Fork allotment is included in the Lake Creek allotment billing.

Band #4/9 (#4&9 combined), East Fork Allotment (Herder: Zenebio)

Numbers	Season	Allotment	Head Months
710 ewes (#4)	8/09-8/19	East Fork	542
1500 ewe's (add 790 from #9 to #4)	8/20-9/30		2071
2 horse	8/09-9/30		

BILLING

Confirmation of payment of fees through the Lock Box in San Francisco must be received prior to livestock entering the allotment. For the purpose of accountability please contact either Bill Whitaker or Robert Garcia 5 days prior to entering the allotments.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Emphasis will be placed upon once-over light use while grazing the bands on the allotments. Carefully review with your herders the **Terms and Conditions** section of this document which contains specific management standards, guidelines, conditions, and practices found in the 2003 Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as well as your Term Grazing Permit.

Reminder: All livestock feed or straw brought on to the Forest is to be certified noxious weed free.

Specific instructions or management actions, such as routing, or areas to avoid will be found in the sections of this AOI specific to the allotment and the band that uses it.

Baker Creek Sheep Allotment

As you are aware much of the Baker Creek drainage and a small portion of the headwaters of the Fox Creek drainage near Fox Peak burned last year in the Beaver Creek fire. These burned areas are to be avoided by the sheep (reference AOI map). The areas that burned in the East Fork of Baker Creek (approximately west half), the South Fork of Baker Creek and Alden Gulch were estimated to provide approximately 10 days of grazing in this area for the Baker Creek band. The Beaver Creek fire also burned the area that the band from the Fairfield Ranger District trails through to ship at the Newman Creek corrals on the Baker Creek allotment. Consequently, the band from the Fairfield District will remain on the Fairfield District this year and will not be trailing to the Newman Creek corrals. This change will allow the Baker Creek lamb band to use areas generally grazed by the dry band after shipping providing additional grazing area for the lamb band to replace the burned areas that this band generally uses in the Alden Gulch, and the South and East Forks of Warm Springs Creeks.

The grazing rotation on the Baker Creek allotment shall be as follows:

A ewe/lamb band of 1170 ewes (Band #3) will enter the allotment at Adams Gulch on June 16. The band will trail across the Adams Gulch drainage and use the lower portions of the Adams Gulch and Fox Creek Units first (Hulean Meadows area north to Oregon Gulch, excluding Adams Gulch). **The Adams Gulch drainage is to be used only for trailing in order to access**

other portions of the allotment. When the band trails across Adams Gulch the herder will route the sheep such that they access the Hulean Meadows area by following the Forest boundary just east of the Adams Gulch trailhead. Grazing northerly, the band will use the lower slopes above Hulean Meadows, Fox Creek, and the Chocolate Gulch drainages to Oregon Gulch. When the band reaches the Oregon Gulch drainage it will cross Oregon Gulch near the trailhead and trail through the old Oregon Gulch Cattle and Horse Allotment. The trailing route through this allotment should be well above the Oregon Gulch riparian area. After trailing through the old cattle allotment, the band will then graze up Oregon Gulch to the East Fork of Baker Creek. The band will graze the un-burned easterly portion of the East Fork of Baker Creek drainage to the headwaters of Kendal Gulch. When these drainages are grazed to standard the band will graze down the Easley Creek drainage to the Newman Creek drainage and graze the Newman Creek and Buccal Gulch drainages previous to shipping at the Newman Creek corrals on approximately August 4. If needed to maintain “once over” grazing standards this band may also graze north-westerly across Logged Gulch, Dooley Creek, and the Anderson Creek drainages to the lower portions of Prairie Creek below the Prairie Creek trailhead.

After shipping, from 8/5-8/8, 1110 dry ewes will graze previously un-grazed portions of the Newman Creek, Buccal Gulch and lower Baker Creek drainage that were skipped earlier by the lamb band for this purpose. On 8/9 the 1110 dry ewes from the Baker Creek band will combine with 390 dry ewes from the Lake Creek band to form a combined 1500-head dry band and will use the Ketchum-Stanley Driveway to trail to the Smiley Creek allotment from 8/9-8/12. The band will enter the Smiley Creek allotment on 8/13. The Range Staff on the Sawtooth National Recreation Area will provide grazing instructions for the Smiley Creek allotment.

- **Be sure to emphasize to your herders that areas that burned last year are closed to grazing pending recovery (reference AOI map).** A small portion of the headwaters of the Fox Creek drainage also burned last year near Fox Peak. Please inform your herders of this and be sure that routing is adjusted to avoid these burned areas as well as those in the South and East Fork of Baker Creek, and Alden Gulch (reference attached map).
- **The trough in Alden Gulch was destroyed last year from the Beaver Creek fire and needs replacement. Please coordinate with my range staff so that a new trough can be installed.**
- **Mountain bike events called “Local Stoker Rides” are planned again this year on June 28. Your sheep may be proximal to the trails and roads that these events are being held. Ride #1 will involve Fox Peak to Adam’s Gulch trails via the East Fork of Baker Creek road. Ride #2 will involve the Fox Creek and Hulean Meadows trails. Please inform your herders of these events and have them take precautions to help avoid any possible conflicts with the sheep, guard dogs and the event participants.**
- **There will be a great deal of new trail construction and road decommissioning occurring in the Galena Lodge area this year. Most of this activity will occur between the Cherry Creek and Horse Creek drainages. Please inform your herders**

and avoid the new trails, construction activity, and road decommissioning areas as much as possible when the band trails thru this area.

- **We realize that it may not be entirely possible to avoid crossing areas that have been previously grazed when moving the bands about the allotment. You are authorized to trail across areas that were previously grazed in order to access unused portions of the allotment. Time spent trailing across previously used areas will be limited as much as possible. Careful planning and routing the sheep should be used to minimize this practice.**
- **Continue to avoid the spring area in Oregon Gulch that inspections have indicated is not meeting resource objectives (reference the attached map).**
- **Please have your herder continue to avoid the “hollyhock area” in the Fox Creek drainage as we discussed at this year’s spring meeting. The area is identified on the AOI map.**
- **Continue to avoid the steep south facing aspects immediately above the system trail in the Fox Creek drainage (reference attached map). Alternate routing used by your band last year was effective in avoiding this area last year.**
- **The Adams Gulch drainage is closed to grazing. Limited trailing across this drainage is authorized at the beginning of the season as described in this AOI.**
- **The areas in the immediate vicinity of the summer home areas in the Newman Creek and Baker Creek drainages are closed to grazing.**
- **When shipping at the Newman Creek corral, the sheep are to be trailed immediately into the corral. They are to be held in the corral until all sorting is complete. The dry band will be trailed well away from the corral area (1/4 mile) before watering or grazing.**

Lake Creek Sheep Allotment

Lamb band #4 consisting of 1160 ewes will enter the Lake Cr. allotment via the Ketchum-Stanley driveway on 06/18. This band will use the Lake Creek Unit first this year. This is the first year of a two year deferment cycle on this allotment. The band will enter the allotment from the Ketchum driveway and graze up the Lake Creek drainage to its headwaters near the Eagle Creek and Lake Creek drainage divide. After the Lake Creek drainage is grazed to standard the band will cross into the Eagle Creek drainage from the headwaters of Lake Creek and graze to the drainage bottom in Eagle Creek near Neal Canyon. The band will then graze up Eagle Creek crossing back into the Lake Creek drainage at the headwaters of Taylor Gulch in preparation for shipping. The Taylor Gulch drainage will be used primarily as an access route from the Eagle Creek drainage to the shipping area in Lake Creek. When trailing through the Taylor Gulch drainage the band will remain high well above the upper portions of the Taylor

Gulch riparian area and dropping into the lower portions of Taylor Gulch near the end of the Taylor Gulch road (reference allotment map). The band may water one time in Taylor Gulch below the end of the road to the mouth of Taylor Gulch. Above the trailhead, Taylor Gulch will not be grazed or used for water. The band will ship on approximately 8/07. On 8/7-8/8, 710 ewes will trail to the East Fork allotment via the Ketchum driveway entering the East Fork Allotment on 8/9. In addition on 8/7, 390 ewes will be trailed northerly from 8/7-8/8 following the Ketchum-Stanley driveway (driveway) to combine with the Baker Creek dry band (1110 ewes) on 8/9 to form a 1500 combined dry band. This combined band will continue trailing to the Smiley Creek allotment via the driveway entering the Smiley Creek allotment on 8/13.

- **The aspen stands just below the Lake Creek pond will be avoided, as heavy bedding and use have greatly impacted ground cover and regeneration. The remaining stands along the north facing toe slopes in Lake Creek should be used very lightly.**
- **As discussed previously in this AOI, Taylor Gulch will be primarily used as a route between the Eagle Creek and Lake Creek drainages. The drainage bottoms and riparian areas will be avoided upstream from the end of the road in Taylor Gulch.**
- **Plan on looking at potential trough locations in the lower portions of Lake Creek associated with the Lake Creek pipeline with my range staff this year.**

East Fork Sheep Allotment

On approximately 8/9 a 710 head dry band from the Lake Cr. allotment will enter the East Fork allotment at Hook Draw. After grazing Hook Draw to standard the band will trail back down the Cove Creek road to enter the East Fork allotment below Spring Canyon. The band will then graze easterly using the side drainages away from the main East Fork of the Big Wood River. Much of the area immediately adjacent to the East Fork of Wood River should be left for the band as it grazes back down the drainage preparing to leave the allotment. The band will leave the allotment on 9/30.

On approximately 8/20, a 790 head dry band (#9) will be trucked to the East Fork allotment and combine with the 710 head band to form a 1500 head dry band. This combined band will continue the grazing rotation previously described.

- **The band should be well dispersed as it grazes through each side canyon and passage will be once over. Plan the routes accordingly to best utilize the upland forage while minimizing impacts to the narrow riparian corridors.**
- **The trough in the canyon above the BLM should be inspected for functionality, and then used one time.**
- **Big and Little Basin in the Hyndman drainage will continue to be excluded from grazing use.**

- **When entering the allotment at Hook Draw the band will water on the private property you have leased rather than at the spring on the BLM at the mouth of Driveway Gulch.**

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). **Procedures for modifying this AOI:** Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

REPORTING

The permittee is required to provide timely and complete actual use information to the Forest Officer in charge upon request. Use of calendars, maps, or actual use forms provided will be utilized to record dates for turning out, shipping, leaving the allotment, as well as location and number of days of use of each camp and or prominent drainage (those identified on maps).

We need to know dates of entry into each new allotment or major drainage, noteworthy change in sheep numbers, occupied camp or band locations with dates of occupancy, periods of use within specific drainages, and maintenance of range facilities. Please notify us of significant losses, from predators or poisonous plants, herding problems (logistical or due to unforeseen circumstances), conflicts with other Forest users, and any other grazing related information you feel is worth reporting.

Weekly reporting for trail information updates will suffice as actual use reporting with the addition of any notable changes in numbers of mature sheep. Not reporting to my range staff: (1) weekly sheep locations; and (2) intended routing patterns could prompt non-compliance procedures. Please phone my range staff Bill Whitaker (208-622-0080) or otherwise provide this information no later than Wednesday of each week. If my range staff is not available leave the information on his phone, e-mail, or provide written information to the front desk personnel at the Ketchum District office.

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

Inspections will be made within each allotment to monitor grazing use and insure compliance with the direction set forth within the AOI. Standard monitoring will include visual inspections, photo points, and rapid assessments to estimate use and ground cover. Monitoring as identified in the Baker Creek Allotment Management Plan will continue. On the Baker Creek allotment preliminary assessments and monitoring of the effects of the Beaver Creek fire had on watershed conditions and recovery will continue this year.

COOPERATION

Once again this year we will work in partnership with Blaine County, the Idaho Department of Fish & Game and the Defenders of Wildlife (Suzanne Stone 208-424-9385) in fostering a non-lethal approach to preventing sheep and wolf mortality. Emphasis will be on the Ketchum Ranger District, the Sawtooth National recreation Area, and other areas within Blaine County south of Galena Summit. Coordination will be important. Adjustments can be made to routing or bedding as the need arises, to head off problems. Meetings will be scheduled as necessary to assess how things are going or prevent potential problems.

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending flocks, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to Jerome Hansen at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Regional Office in Jerome, Idaho (208-324-4359) or John Rachel at the Fish and Game office in Boise Idaho (208-334-3700): Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208-378-5077); or local Wildlife Service's contacts. Permittee's should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

In order to reduce the potential for depredation, the Forest Service recommends that the following procedures be implemented each grazing season:

Keep camp meat in coolers, and not hung.

Burn, bury, or pack out food leftovers, bones, garbage etc. including food not consumed by dogs accompanying the herders.

Bury or remove sheep and saddle stock carcasses from the area where they will not serve as an attractant to predators. The intent of this recommendation is not to require removal of carcasses from the allotment, but to remove them out of areas currently being grazed of areas soon to be grazed.

Work with IDF&G and Wildlife Services in implementing other effective preventative actions to reduce the risk of depredation.

Contact the range staff at the Ketchum Ranger District (208-622-5371) for local Wildlife Service's contact information.

The Forest Service recognizes that Faulkner Land and Livestock and Sawtooth Sheep and the Idaho Department of Fish & Game have developed a "Best Management Practice for Separation between Domestic Sheep and Bighorn Sheep" agreement because of the potential for conflict between wild sheep and domestics. In addition to BMP's agreed to in that agreement, we also require the herders conduct regular visual checks for bighorn sheep near the domestic sheep bands throughout the day. We also require that the herder make the appropriate contact with the Forest Service or Idaho Department of Fish & Game when a Bighorn sheep sighting is reported on or within a minimum of one mile of the Baker Creek, Lake Creek or East fork allotments.

The potential of conflicts between grazing, such as guard dogs and the general public recreating on the district is especially high on the Baker Creek and Lake Creek allotments due to the proximity of several high use recreation trails, roads, and busy trailheads. The herder will need to be attentive with the sheep and guard dogs to reduce conflicts while in these areas, especially if in close proximity to system trails or roads. The trailheads and major trails will be posted informing the public that sheep are in the area. The herder will be given additional signs that

will be moved with the sheep and placed at strategic locations more proximal to the sheep in order to inform the public of the presence of sheep and guard dogs.

We are again requiring that you provide weekly updates on sheep band locations to Bill Whitaker by Wednesday noon so that we are able to update the weekly on-line recreation trail report. This trail report along with signing to inform the public that sheep are in the area has proven successful in preventing conflicts with recreational use of the trails.

DROUGHT

This season is shaping up to be a **very dry year** with below average precipitation. Drought conditions will be monitored as the season progresses. Grazing will be managed on an allotment by allotment basis focusing on water availability and soil disturbance. This year's water content in the snowpack is well below average and dry spring conditions are a concern. Due to low water content in the snowpack and dry conditions may require livestock to leave the allotments early this year for resource protection. We recommend planning for this possibility.

The dry spring conditions have increased the potential for wildfire and this year may be similar to last season or worse. Consequently implementation of fire restrictions will be likely and we will notify you if restrictions are put in effect.

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and Grazing Permit Terms and Conditions for Sheep Grazing

Following are the Terms and Conditions applicable to sheep grazing that must be followed while grazing on the Ketchum Ranger District.

These permit terms and conditions are needed to move toward or to achieve the desired conditions, goals, and objectives for vegetation, wildlife, fish, riparian, soil and water resources described by the Sawtooth Forest Land & Resource Management Plan. Other than *Guidelines*, the following Terms & Conditions are binding limitations placed on management actions. *Guidelines* represent preferred or advisable courses of action that are generally expected to be carried out.

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines:

- **Only one night/one time use of bed grounds is allowed. (standard).**
- **Only open or loose sheep herding will be practiced except where site-specific vegetation management (e.g., noxious weed control or reforestation) is needed. (standard)**
- **Only annual once-over sheep grazing will be allowed, with the exception of designated sheep driveways, travel routes, or where specifically authorized. (standard)**
- **Livestock salting will be prohibited in RCA's (riparian conservation areas). Sheep will be salted only at bed grounds. Salt will be placed in containers and moved with the sheep. Tarps and hollowed logs meet the criteria for salting in containers. (standard)**

- **Only certified noxious weed-free hay, straw, or feed is allowed on National Forest Systems lands. (standard)**
- **Earth-disturbing equipment used on National Forest System lands- such as cats, graders, and front-loaders-shall be cleaned to remove all visible plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds. Cleaning shall occur prior to entry onto the project area and again upon leaving the project area, if the project area has noxious weed infestations. (standard)**
- **New, reconstructed, or replaced livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. (standard, refrence part Three of the Term Grazing Permit under maintenance of structural range improvments)**
- **On all lands outside of designated travelways, motorized use shall be prohibited unless otherwise authorized. (standard)**
- **Damage to or loss of Forest System trails from timber harvest, livestock grazing, road construction, mining, special uses, and prescribed fire activities should be repaired or mitigated by the appropriate party. (guideline)**
- **Sheep should be routed to avoid slopes with loose soil conditions, active gullies, and snowbank areas that have low productivity, soil puddling, and compaction conditions. (guideline, generally site specific in the AOI)**

SHEEP HERDING:

- 1. The permittee or herd manager will provide sufficient riders or herders to obtain proper distribution, protection, and management of sheep on the allotment as required by the Rangeland Project Decision (RPD)/Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).**
- 2. Do not allow sheep to be shaded or bedded within 100 yards of all streams. If this is not resonable due to topography ensure that the sheep are as far back as possible from the streambank.**
- 3. Graze no closer than 200 yards from all lakes or ponds specified as closed to sheep grazing in Part 3 or your Term Grazing Permit. This may not apply on all allotments. Check Part 3 on your Term Grazing Permit.**
- 4. Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of designated campgrounds, trails, trail heads, or maintained roads.**
- 5. Graze rather than trail to water, and water at different locations each time.**
- 6. The permittee is required to provide a copy of the Annual Opering Instructions to each herder, and to ensure each herder understands the written contents.**

OTHER

- 7. Permittees are responsible for cleaning or repairing system roads and trails damaged by sheep to the condition existing prior to trailing. Immediate action is required. (standard)**
- 8. All predator control will be in accordance with the approved Predator Control Plan and Federal and State laws and regulations.**
- 9. Promptly remove or bury any sheep that have died within 100 yards or in sight of administrative sites, system roads or trails, corrals or sources of water.**
- 10. Before and after shipping, sheep will not be allowed to graze, shade, or bed within one-quarter mile of the corral. Exception: After leaving the corral, the sheep will be allowed to water one time before departing the immediate area.**
- 11. Control guard dogs when other Forest users or pets are near by.**

SHEEP CAMPS

- 12. Each camp will be kept clean. All litter and unburned material from fire pits will be hauled away and disposed of off-Forest. Human waste must be buried if it is within 150 feet from water. The use of detergent in streams is prohibited.**
- 13. Only existing herder camps are approved for use. New camp locations must be approved by a Forest Service officer.**
- 14. Camps will be kept in primitive condition. No improvements will be allowed. If a new fire pit is constructed, dismantled it and restore the area before moving your camp.**
- 15. Herder camp use will not exceed 5 days per location unless prior permission is obtained from a Forest officer. Camps should be located to avoid conflict with other Forest users**
- 16. At camp, pack and saddle stock will be high-lined, picketed or hobbled. Tying pack or saddle stock to trees at camp is prohibited.**
- 17. Holding pens, corrals, or mangers used for riding stock will be cleaned up when camp is moved.**

FIRE

- 18. Employees must be kept informed of the current fire danger, situation, and the permittee's fire prevention responsibility. The Forest Service will advise the permittee when special fire restrictions become effective.**
- 19. Exhaust from camp stoves must be filtered through a spark arrestor screen with 3/8 inch (or smaller) mesh.**
- 20. Never leave campfires unattended.**
- 21. Possession of an adequate shovel and bucket for fire control is required at camps.**

WOLF Guidelines

22. The permittee will be contacted immediately when the district becomes aware of wolves in an area. Possible re-routing of the band may be agreed on between the permittee and the District Ranger.

23. At camp, meat will be kept in containers to avoid attracting wolves.

24. Food wastes will be burned, buried, or packed out with other camp refuse.

25. Preventive measures should be coordinated with Idaho Fish and Game.

26. Only bed sheep down for one night per bed ground under normal circumstances. When there is wolf activity in the area and fladry is used to minimize predation, bed grounds may be used for more than one night. Bed ground site selection needs to be discussed with the Range Management Specialist in this situation.

IMPROVEMENTS

27. The permittee is responsible for the maintenance of structural range improvements as delineated on Part 3 of your Term grazing Permit. These improvements will be maintained prior to placing sheep on the allotment. Please refer to your permit for the specific maintenance standards for structural range improvements.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kurt J. Nelson

KURT J. NELSON

Ketchum District Ranger

Enclosures: Spanish Annual Operating
Instructions, Allotment Maps