



CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

2016

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

GRAND BLOWOUT SHEEP ALLOTMENT

PLEASE CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Grand Canyon Unit

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Authorized Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
	June 20 th to September 10 th	1000 ewes and their offspring less than 6 months old

All sheep must be your owned livestock and branded with the brand as displayed in your Term Grazing permit:

The plan for the 2016 grazing season is; truck the sheep to East Table Creek to unload utilizing the graveled loop that you used in past seasons. As soon as the sheep are unloaded they should be moved across East Table Creek and begin grazing the slopes toward Pole Canyon.

Grazing Schedule:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
First	#3 East Table
Second	#2 South Cabin
Third	#1 West Table

The Blowout Unit will be rested this season.

At the end of the grazing season portable corrals may be set up at the East Table Creek Loop site, in the same location as you have used in the past. The corrals should be erected no longer than necessary to ship the herd.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

The Grand Blowout Allotment involves two components, the Grand Canyon Unit and the Blowout Unit. Previously these two areas were managed as separate allotments. Each allotment was grazed by 1000 head of sheep. The two allotments have now been combined. Currently the Current Deadman Allotment is also used in conjunction with Grand Blowout Allotment. Two bands of 1,000 head of sheep graze the three areas (Blowout, Grand Canyon, and Current-Deadman). The three areas rotate through a rest rotation scheduled where two are grazed each season and one area rested. This system has proven to work well and leaves each entire area to be rested every third year. To improve our record keeping and better explain how this system works we are considering once again splitting the grand blow out allotment into two separate allotments with stipulations that each allotment is to only be grazed two out of three years.

September 10 is on Saturday this year. Try to avoid shipping on the weekend. Let us know the exact date when the fall shipping will occur. We will need to coordinate with the Bridger-Teton Forest for use of the East Table Creek Loop area. Schedule your trucks so to unload and ship on a week day instead of a weekend so to reduce conflicts with recreation use of the loop area.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has closed National Forest Land adjacent to the river and highway to overnight camping except for in the developed campgrounds. The District Ranger for the Jackson District has previously agreed to allow you to camp at the mouth of East Table Creek (the outfitter camp) for two or three days in the spring after the sheep are unloaded. Move the camp away from the highway area within that time period. It was also agreed to allow you to park your herder trailer on the forest during the period of time your sheep are grazing the Grand Canyon Allotment. The campsite is ¼ mile down river from Station Creek. Keep the campsite in orderly condition, clear of trash and not overused by your pack and saddle stock. The green metal gate on the access road to the campsite should be closed and locked once your camp is inside. Leave the gate closed and locked when you leave at the end of the grazing season.

A food storage order is in effect on this allotment. A copy of the order has been included in your grazing folder. You herders must comply with this order while on the allotment.

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 (current year's growth)	35%

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).

Herdling

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 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Motorized Access

Other than the trail heads at East Table and Station Creek there is no motorized access within this allotment.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Please notify us of any new weed infestations so they can be treated before they become a problem on the allotment. We appreciate your help in past years in the control of noxious weeds. Please continue to assist with weed treatment on the allotment. We will be coordinating any weed treatment on this allotment with the Bridger –Teton National Forest.

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. Wolves in Wyoming are managed by the USFWS **and are protected under the Endangered Species Act**. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact US Fish and Wildlife Service. 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 requires a change 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.

These instructions have 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.