



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

**2016**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
SOUTH ELK SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

**CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
	6/26 to 9/20	1200 ewes and their offspring less than 6 months old

**GRAZING SCHEDULE**

For the 2016 season truck the sheep to the highway turnout at Red Creek. Begin grazing the allotment in the following order:

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<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1 <sup>st</sup>	Red Creek
Trail across the South Indian Cottonwood Allotment	
Graze 2 <sup>rd</sup>	Big Basin
Graze 3 <sup>th</sup>	Corral Basin
Graze 4 <sup>th</sup>	Overall Basin and East Fork of South Elk
Graze 5 <sup>th</sup>	Cody Mountain
Graze 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cow Pasture
Graze 7 <sup>th</sup>	Smokey Hollow
<b>REST</b>	<b>Slide Canyon &amp; Blind Canyon</b>

After the sheep finish grazing Smokey Hollow, follow the sheep driveway to the corrals at Pine Creek Pass. No more than eight days will be allowed to move from the Smokey Hollow unit to Pine Creek Pass. Be sure to have the sheep use areas that have not been used by the Palisades herd. After the lambs are shipped trail the ewes off of the forest on the sheep driveway.

**ALL TRAIL TIME MUST OCCUR WITHIN YOUR PERMITTED SEASON**

## ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Due to the lack of available herders the South Elk Allotment was rested last season.

### 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%

#### Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

- A. The 30% utilization levels of current year's growth for key woody plant species.
- B. 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

The Red Creek and Blind Canyon Units of this allotment are under the Food Storage Order administered by the Bridger Teton National Forest. Be sure to have your employees comply with the order while managing the sheep on these units. Encourage them to comply with the order when grazing the remainder of the allotment as well. 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. The Bridger-Teton National Forest has implemented a special order for food storage and sanitation that must be followed while on the Red Creek and Blind Canyon Units. The purpose of the order is to minimize adverse interactions between bears and humans. A copy of the order is included in your folder.

#### Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 200 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

#### 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.

#### 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. There is a small leafy spurge patch on the allotment near the mouth of South Elk Creek. Spending a little time treating an infestation that consists only of a few plants may prevent larger infestations from damaging your range in the future. 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. 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.

#### Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

### **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 direct management for this allotment for the 2016 grazing season.