
2014 Annual Operating Instructions

For the Faulkner Land & Livestock Company and Sawtooth Sheep Company

Sheep and Goat Allotments

administered by

the Fairfield Ranger District

Sawtooth National Forest

Permit #: 5110 & 3031

Prepared & Recommended by: Renee Kehler, Rangeland Management Specialist

Reviewed by: John Faulkner
Permittee

6/6/14
Date

Approved by: Renee Kehler (Acting)
District Ranger

6/17/14
Date

This document will serve as the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for your sheep grazing operation on the Fairfield Ranger District during the 2014 grazing season. Most of the following instructions were discussed at our April 30th meeting and will guide the management of your Sawtooth NF Fairfield Ranger District permitted sheep in 2014. The following tables display by

band, the planned numbers, periods of use, and the allotment sequence of grazing.

LAMB BAND #1 - Herder & Camp Tender: George & Jaun

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1170 ewes/lambs | 6/01-7/15 | N.Fk.Lime Creek Allotment |
| 1170 ewes/lambs | 7/16-7/20 | Kelly Creek Allotment |
| (cull 70 ewes) | (7/21 ship lambs) | Kelly Creek Corral |
| 1100 dries | 7/21-8/05 | Big Water Allotment |
| 1100 dries | 8/06-8/15 | Jumbo Mtn. Allotment |
| 1100 dries (merge with 400 #8 dries) | 8/16-9/07 | Skeleton Creek Allotment |
| 2 horses and 3 mules | 6/01-9/07 | Faulkner L&L |

This band will be trailed to the National Forest. Sheep may be counted before they enter the NFk. Lime Creek Allotment or at the Kelly Creek shipping corral. Access the NFk. Lime Creek Allotment via the Hunter Creek road. After crossing SFk Lime Creek this band will be on the NFk. Lime Creek Allotment. To take advantage of the most rangeland area, graze both the east and west sides of the NF of Lime Creek while generally heading in a northerly direction towards the head of NF Lime Creek. Remember to only graze the most capable areas and to inform your herder to avoid fragile areas that are susceptible to excessive soil disturbance. When the band reaches the upper portion of this allotment atop the SF Boise River watershed divide, start grazing the unburned portion of upper Virginia Gulch down to the mouth of Virginia Gulch and then turn easterly along the south side of the SF Boise River towards the mouth of Kelly Creek where lambs will be shipped at the Kelly Creek shipping corral.

After shipping, cross over the river bridge near Baumgartner Campground to access portions of Little and Big Water drainages and then Weeks Gulch and Burnt Log Creek on the Jumbo Mtn. Allotment. Avoid grazing through patches of leafy spurge during this time because the seed is ripe and we do not want to transport viable seeds attached to wool or within manure. Next, start grazing the upper portion of Narrow Creek (WFk.) down to the EF/WF Skeleton Creek confluence before heading up the EFk of Skeleton Creek. The 1110 head **Dry Band #1** will merge on the Bridge Creek Allotment with 390 more dries from **Band #8** to form (1500 head) **Dry Band #1/8**. After grazing the Bridge Creek allotment head in a southerly direction down the SF Boise River and Little Smoky Driveway to exit the National Forest over Couch Summit.

LAMB BAND #2 - Herder & Camp Tender: Augustine & ??

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1170 ewes/lambs | 6/10-7/23 | Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment |
| (cull 60 ewes) | (7/24 ship lambs) | Ear Creek Corral |
| 1110 dries | 7/24-9/10 | Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment |
| 1500 dries (add 390 from #6) | 9/11-9/25 | Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment |
| 2 horses and 3 mules | 6/10-9/25 | Sawtooth Sheep Company |

This band will graze the Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment and will ship at the Ear Creek corral situated on State of Idaho land. Enter the east/west stringer of BLM administered land in lower Ear Creek and graze westerly across the landscape covering the lower reaches of Nettle, Polson, and Roanhide Creeks that are tributaries to the SFk of Lime Creek. Then swing back to the north toward Browns Gulch, crossing Cold Springs Ridge before entering lower to mid-Stewart, Cooper, Salt Log, Bremner, and SFk Lime Creek drainages to ship at Ear Creek corral.

After shipping lambs, continue grazing east of Middle Fork Lime Creek above trail #55 starting at Bremner Creek, then crossing upper Salt Log, Stewart, and Cooper Creek drainages. Next graze the head of MFk. Lime Creek, Deer Park, and Iron Mountain Creek drainages before merging with the 390 **Band #6** drys that will trail over Boardman Pass in late August. The remaining 430 drys from **Band #6** will be trailed or trucked off the National Forest. Continue to graze west of MFk Lime Creek in a southerly direction towards Hunter Creek. Avoid impacting roads, trails, erodible soils, steep slopes, and especially areas that have not recovered from past fires. Exit the allotment via the Hunter Creek road and do not overnight on the Hunter Creek Allotment. This band and your Ketchum Ranger District (KRD) East Fork dry band are permitted to Sawtooth Sheep Company and have been billed accordingly.

LAMB BAND #3 - Herder & Camp Tender: Dorteo & Clementario

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1170 ewes/lambs (cull 60 ewes) | 6/16-8/03 (8/04 ship lambs) | Baker Creek Allotment Newman Creek Corral |
| 1110 drys (wait for #4 drys) | 8/04-8/08 | Baker Creek Allotment |
| 2 horses & 3 mules | 6/16-8/08 | Faulkner L&L |

The Ketchum Ranger District will provide the use instructions for **Band #3** on the Baker Creek Allotment. After shipping and before trailing to Smiley Creek over the K/S Driveway, 1110 **Band #3** drys will wait to merge with 390 **Band #4** drys that are coming over from Lake Creek. The Smiley Creek Allotment **Dry Band #3/4** band will start trailing to Smiley Creek Allotment on 8/09.

LAMB BAND #4 - Herder: Edgar/Zenebio

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1160 ewes/lambs (cull 60 ewes) | 6/18-8/06 (8/07 ship lambs) | Lake Creek Allotment Lake Creek Corral |
| 390 drys (trail to meet #3 drys) | 8/07-8/08 | Ketchum Driveway (trail N to #3) |
| 2 horses | 6/18-8/08 | <u>Faulkner L&L (billing above)</u> <u>Sawtooth Sheep Co. (billing below)</u> |
| 710 drys (trail to EFk) | 8/07-8/08 | Ketchum Driveway (trail S to EF) |
| 710 drys (trail to EFk) | 8/09-8/19 | East Fork Allotment |

DRY BAND #4/9 - Herder: Zenebio

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1500 drys (add 790 from #9) | 8/20-9/30 | East Fork Allotment |
| 2 horses | 8/07-9/30 | |

The Ketchum Ranger District will provide the use instructions for **Band #4**. After these 710 **Band #4** drys arrive at the East Fork Allotment, they become permitted to Sawtooth Sheep Company. In the middle of August about 790 more drys will be added to **Band #4** from **Band #9** that normally do not graze on National Forest. Driveway use and East Fork Allotment instructions for dry **Band #4/9** will also be issued by the Ketchum Ranger District.

DRY BAND #3/4 - Herder & Camp Tender: Dorteo & Clementario

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1500 drys (add 390 drys from #4) | 8/09-8/12 | Ketchum Driveway (trail to Smiley) |
| 1500 drys | 8/13-10/11 | Smiley Creek Allotment |
| 1500 drys (trail to Ketchum) | 10/12-10/16 | Ketchum/Stanley Driveway |

2 horses & 3 mules 8/09-10/16 Faulkner L&L

Sheep will be trailed from the Baker Creek Allotment to the Smiley Creek Allotment starting on 8/09. After grazing the Smiley Creek Allotment this band will again cross the K/S Driveway to head back to Ketchum and off National Forest. The SNRA will provide allotment and driveway use instructions. There may be special instruction pertaining to the potential of spreading spotted knapweed seed on the driveway in the area south of Galena Summit.

LAMB BAND #5 - Herder & Camp Tender: Simon & Carlos

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1050 ewes/lambs | 6/17-6/18 | Willow/Little Smoky Driveway |
| 1050 ewes/lambs | 6/19-7/21 | Liberal Allotment |
| 1050 ewes/lambs | 7/22-8/02 | Big Peak Allotment |
| 1050 ewes/lambs | 8/03-8/13 | Lick Creek Allotment |
| (cull 50 ewes) | (8/14 ship lambs) | Lick Creek (temporary) Corral |
| 1000 dries | 8/14-8/31 | Lick Creek Allotment |
| 1000 dries (trail over Couch) | 9/01-9/03 | Little Smoky Driveway |
| 2 horses and 3 mules | 6/17-9/03 | Faulkner L&L |

Because an Anchustegui band of sheep may also be entering the Sawtooth NF at Cherry Creek you will need to coordinate with him to avoid mixing. There will be about two miles of route overlap with Anchustegui. Climb out of the Willow Creek drainage as soon as it is feasible where the slope is not so steep.

Enter the Big Peak Allotment up the EF tributary then route sheep across the ridge into the WF of Big Peak. Only twelve days of grazing are authorized on the entire Big Peak Allotment. Do not exceed light-once-over grazing use. Avoid crossing steep slopes and fragile soils. Where alpine/whitebark pine vegetation occurs, herd sheep slowly and carefully. These areas exist along the high elevation ridges separating the EF Big Peak Creek, WF Big Peak Creek, and Baker Creek drainages. No ridge top bedding is allowed within or adjacent to whitebark pine.

Exit the Big Peak Allotment in a southerly direction from Long Tom drainage, crossing the main stem of Big Peak Creek continuing further south to the top of the ridge that borders Lick Creek Allotment. After this band enters the Lick Creek Allotment, it will generally be herded down slope in a southwesterly direction to ship lambs near the Lick Creek trailhead which is adjacent to Faulkner's Lick Creek Special Use range facility. After shipping the lambs in mid August the remaining 1000 dry ewes will stay on the Lick Creek Allotment until they are trailed off National Forest over Couch Summit in the first part of September.

LAMB BAND #6 - Herder & Camp Tender: Rudolfo & John R.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 870 ewes/lambs | 6/07-6/15 | Wardrop C&H Allotment |
| 870 ewes/lambs | 6/16-8/17 | Salt/Bowns Allotment |
| (cull 50 ewes) | (8/18 ship lambs) | Salt Creek Corral |
| 820 dries | 8/18-8/24 | Salt/Bowns Allotment |
| 820 dries (trail over B.Pass) | 8/25-8/28 | Boardman Allotment |
| 820 dries (join Dry Band #2) | 8/29-9/30 | Bremner/MF Lime Allotment |
| 2 horses | 6/07-9/30 | Faulkner L&L |

Sheep may be counted at the corral one mile east of Fairfield. Time spent on National Forest starts when you arrive at the NF boundary on the road to Wells Summit. Graze the Wardrop Allotment the same as you have in the recent past. Once on the Salt/ Bowns Allotment the directions are to graze the same as last year, westerly and below the main Salt/Bowns road, then easterly above this main road to ship at the Salt Creek corral. A routing map will be provided on request. Remember to avoid fragile snowbank areas and to only graze areas once-over and lightly.

After shipping at the Salt Creek corral, route drys to Boardman Creek where the sheep will be routed in a northerly direction over Boardman Pass to merge 390 dry ewes with **Band #2**. Dry **Band #2** becomes **Dry Band #2/6** at this time. Dry **Band #2/6** will finish by grazing in a southwesterly direction on the west side of the Middle Fork of Lime Creek. The other half of **Dry Band #6** or 425 dry ewes will be trailed off NF after they reach the Ear Creek corral area.

LAMB BAND #7 - Herder & Camp Tender: Arturo & Son

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 750 ewes/lambs (cull 40 ewes) | 6/01-9/02 (9/03 ship lambs) | BNF Featherville Allotment Rock Bar Corral |
| 710 drys | 9/03-9/30 | BNF Featherville Allotment |
| 2 horse and 3 mules | 6/01-9/30 | BNF Stock |

Lamb **Band #7** will not graze on the Sawtooth National Forest (SNF) during the 2014 grazing season. Due to recent fires, Lamb **Band #8** will spend some of the time grazing on the Boise National Forest (BNF) but it will ship lambs on the SNF at the SFk Boise River corral where it merges with dry **Band #1** before heading to graze the Bridge Creek Allotment. The Mountain Home Ranger District (MHRD) will formulate and issue detailed instructions (AOI) for grazing **Bands #7 & #8** while they are on the BNF. The MHRD will also do the billing for all grazing that occurs on the Featherville, Cayuse, and Yuba River Allotments.

LAMB BAND #8 - Herder & Camp Tender: Teodoro & Zacharias

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 850 ewes/lambs 6/11-6/30 | 6/05-6/10 SNF Shake Creek Allotment | SNF Marsh Creek 850 ewes/lambs |
| *2 horse and 3 mules | 6/05-6/30 | SNF Stock |
| 850 ewes/lambs | 7/01-8/25 | BNF Yuba River Allotment |
| *2 horse and 3 mules | 7/01-8/25 | BNF Stock |
| 850 ewes/lambs (cull 50 ewes and add 400 to #1) | 8/26-9/07 (9/08 ship lambs) | Bear Creek Allotment SFk Boise River Corral |
| 1500 drys (merge 1100 from #1) | 9/08-9/30 | Bridge Creek Allotment |
| 1500 drys | 10/01-10/05 | SF Boies River Driveway |
| *2 horse and 3 mules | 8/26-10/05 | SNF Stock |

Lamb **Band #8** will exit the BNF Yuba River Alotment and graze down Bear Creek to ship lambs at the SFk Boise River corral. After shipping, 400 drys from **Dry Band #8** will merge with 1100 drys from **Dry Band #1** before heading to Bridge Creek Allotment where it will finish the season. The extra 400 drys from **Dry Band #8** will be trucked off Forest at this time. If approved, **Dry Band #1/8** may be sheared adjacent to the Lick Creek Buck Pasture special use

cabin and corral. **Dry Band #1/8** will exit the National Forest heading south on Little Smoky Road, up Five Points Creek trail and then down Owens Creek to the NF boundary.

BUCKING BAND – Herder: Hipolito

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 150 bucks | 6/20-7/31 | Lick Creek Buck Pasture |
| 50 bucks | 8/01-8/20 | Lick Creek Buck Pasture |
| 1 horse | 6/20-8/20 | Lick Creek Buck Pasture |

The location for feeding grain and salt has changed to inside of the corral instead of where it has been just outside of the corral. This change should decrease the previous ground disturbing impact of feeding these supplements. We appreciate the improvements you made to the corral. It looks great! We will decide whether or not to develop trough water inside the corral after we decide if it is actually needed.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE

Reporting

The information you provide to us must be complete, accurate, and legible. At this year's spring meeting we discussed the reporting requirements. When sheep camps are re-supplied by your employees, obtain actual use information from the herder/camp tender at that time. The requested information will be for the time span from the last report to the present or date the new information is retrieved. It should be translated to English and turned into Renee Kehler. You can simply fill in the blanks on a printed form or its computer version and personally hand it in or emailed it back to us. If you desire, you can also stop by the office to get help filling it out. Our fax number is 764-3211 and the email address is rkehler@fs.fed.us.

We need to know dates of entry into each allotment or major drainage, noteworthy changes in sheep numbers, occupied camp locations with dates of occupancy, periods of use within specific drainages, and maintenance of range facilities such as water troughs and corrals. If a group of sheep are removed or lost, we want to know the number, time period, and suspected location where this occurred. Please notify us of significant losses from predators such as wolves and poisonous plants, herding problems (whether they are logistical or related to unforeseen circumstances), conflicts with any other Forest users, and any other grazing related information you feel is worthy of reporting. Remember, significant changes to this AOI must be approved by the Forest Service ahead of time and changes must be reflected in your reported information.

At the end of October you should plan to meet with District range staff to complete a post-season review. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain missing or the remainder of this year's unreported information, identify grazing successes or failures, exchange resource concerns, interpret or review previous actual use reports for completeness and legibility, and discuss reasons why these operating instructions did not work as intended.

Range Improvement Responsibilities

Structural range improvements such as fences, bridges, corrals, and water developments that are listed in Part 3 of your TGP are the responsibility of the permittee and must be maintained prior to the intended use. Livestock may be held off or removed from the allotment if assigned maintenance has not been completed. This year we would like you to assess the maintenance needs of the Deer Park (Sec.7), Deer Mtn. (Sec.14), Skunk Creek (Sec. 19), Little Skeleton

Creek, and Upper Lick Creek (Sec.33) sheep troughs. The FS may be able to participate with you in acquiring the needed repair parts and possibly delivering them to each site.

Herd management - Each band must have at least one herder to control sheep. Request map if needed for specific areas where sheep should not be grazed or trailed. Also review your Term Grazing Permit content under **Terms & Conditions** for site-specific grazing limitations.

Generally, we are more concerned about soil displacement caused by sheep than we are about the amount of forage they consume. Light-once-over grazing, resembling 20 percent use of forage, is the easiest way to obtain proper grazing use on your sheep allotments. This practice can be achieved by spreading the sheep out and slowly grazing them across the landscape. If the routing areas we have discussed or identified do not meet the foraging needs of your sheep, that implies the area lacks protective cover, is susceptible to erosion, and is probably too fragile to be grazed, therefore you will need to discuss these situations with us to get them corrected for the future.

After August 15th use only designated stream crossing sites in areas where bull trout habitat has been designated on the ground or provided maps. Designated stream crossings will be delineated for Dry Bands #s 6 & 8. **Dry Band # 6** – Smoky Dome Creek bridge and Boardman Creek (site of the old sheep bridge). **Dry Band # 8** – Goat Creek and lower Bear Creek. Crossing lower Bass Creek and Perkins Creek are not authorized.

Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) for Sheep Grazing

The following permit T&Cs need to be achieved to move toward or 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 (Forest Plan or FP). Except for *Guidelines*, the following *FP Standards* and permit T&Cs are binding limitations placed on your management actions. *FP Guidelines* represent preferred or advisable courses of action that are generally expected to be carried out.

SHEEP HERDING

1. The permittee or ranch manager will provide sufficient herders to obtain proper distribution and management of sheep on the allotments as required by the Term Grazing Permit, Annual Operating Instructions, or Allotment Management Plan.
2. The permittee is responsible for insuring that herders understand and follow the Annual Operating Instructions and the terms & conditions specified in the Term Grazing Permit.
3. Graze rather than trail to water and only water once at each stream location. No watering will be allowed from lakes that are identified as closed to livestock.
4. Do not allow sheep to be shaded or bedded within 100 yards of all streams/water sources.
5. Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of campgrounds, trails, trailheads or maintained roads.
6. ***FP Standard:*** Practice open/loose herding and minimize the use of herding dogs.
7. ***FP Standard:*** Only once-over grazing is allowed with few exceptions such as designated sheep driveways, travel routes, or where specifically authorized.
8. ***FP Standard:*** Only one night/one time use of bedgrounds is allowed on the Fairfield and Ketchum Ranger Districts and Sawtooth National Recreation Area. (north end SNF)
9. ***FP Standard:*** Livestock salting is prohibited in riparian areas, under trees, or within 200 yards of water, trails, or maintained roads. Sheep will be salted only at bed grounds or

salt will be placed in containers and moved with the sheep. Salting on tarps and in hollow logs meet the criteria for salting in containers.

10. **FP Guideline:** Route sheep to avoid steep slopes with loose soils, snowfields, and highly erodible areas that exhibit or appear to be susceptible to forming rills or gullies.
11. During shipping operations, sheep will be confined within the corral as soon as they arrive and will remain within the corral until all handling is completed. Before and after shipping, sheep will not be allowed to graze, shade, or bed within 1/4 mile of the corral.

SHEEP CAMPS

1. Each camp will be kept clean. All litter and unburnable material from fire pits will be hauled away and disposed of off-Forest. Human waste must be buried if it is within 100 feet from water. The use of detergent in streams is prohibited.
2. Only historic and existing herder camps are approved for use. New camp locations must be approved by a Forest Service employee.
3. 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 to the next camp.
4. Herder camp use will not exceed 5 days / location unless prior FS permission is obtained.
5. Tying pack or saddle stock to trees at camp is prohibited. Pack and saddle stock kept at camp must be high-lined, picketed or hobbled.

FIRE

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

OTHER

1. **FP Standard:** Permittees are responsible for removing sheep caused rubble on all roads and trails and for repairing damaged tread surfaces along with cut and fill slopes to their condition prior to the arrival of sheep. You are responsible for making immediate repairs!
2. **FP Standard:** Only certified noxious weed-free feed is allowed on National Forest lands. Processed feeds such as alfalfa cubes and pellets are considered weed-free.
3. Promptly remove or bury sheep that have died within 200 yards or within view of administrative sites, system roads and trails, corrals, or sources of water. Some exceptions could apply to this term/condition if you notify the District Ranger that you want or need to request a variance due to extenuating circumstances.
4. Contain or control guard dogs when other Forest users or their pets are nearby.
5. All predator control will be in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations.
6. Record and report grazing information according to this AOI and when requested by the District Ranger or his representative.

RECOMMENDED WOLF AVOIDANCE PRECAUTIONS

- 1) Do not hang camp meat, keep it in containers.

- 2) Burn or pack out food leftovers, garbage etc. including food not consumed by your dogs.
- 3) Contact the IDF&G and Wildlife Services to implement effective preventative predator control actions to reduce the risk of depredation.

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending flocks, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to the Region 3/4 Fish and Game wolf biologist Jennifer Struthers at (208 989-8902); USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208 373-1630). Continue to work with your normal Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

Areas Closed To Grazing or Areas with Site-Specific Grazing Limitations including suggested corrective actions, are listed as items 1-7 below. Most all of these areas can be referenced on allotment maps.

1. The cirque basins and connected ridges near Goat Lake and the headwater areas of Bass and Perkons Creeks are closed to sheep grazing to protect mountain goat habitat.
2. The Salt Creek riparian area downstream of the sheep corral needs to be avoided.
3. The Smoky Dome Creek riparian zone is closed to sheep grazing. The only approve crossing of Smoky Dome Creek is by using the road bridge.
4. The high elevation north slope snowbank areas above the main road located at the head of upper West Fork Salt Creek must be avoided. Only graze adjacent areas lightly and once-over.
5. Some stream reaches will be closed to grazing beginning August 15th to protect aquatic habitat associated with bull trout. Sheep will be allowed to cross these streams only where the crossing is designated on a map or on the ground. Otherwise, after August 15th, grazing must take place away from these larger streams and watering will be restricted to the smaller tributaries that feed into them.
6. Portions of the NF Lime Creek Allotment that have not recovered adequately from the effects of burning are still closed.
7. Lamb Band #1 will be allowed to graze through small infestations of leafy spurge before shipping at Kelly Creek corral. Avoid leafy spurge patches that are encountered after shipping. Please report newly discovered leafy spurge infestations to the Forest Service.

Further grazing limitations or closures may be implemented during the grazing season based on resource conditions, fire danger, drought, permittee non-compliance, or other unforeseeable circumstances. If such limits or closures are instructed to you, they will be treated as part of this AOI. Standards for livestock management or forage utilization must be met in all areas of your allotments. You will need to exit an allotment or use area if standards cannot be met due to problems or circumstances beyond your control.

Drought

Grazing will be managed during drought conditions on an allotment-by-allotment basis to maintain soil and vegetation resource conditions. The circumstances created by drought make it even more important to accomplish adequate herding and proper livestock distribution.

Fire

Your cooperation with the FS in the event of wildfire on the NF or surrounding lands is essential to implement successful fire suppression operations. Incident management operations take priority

over activities of Forest users; therefore, fire suppression activities on the Forest or surrounding lands may dictate allotment management. In the event or threat of fire, you could be directed to remove your livestock from the Sawtooth National Forest.

Noxious Weeds

Your cooperation on noxious weed management is greatly appreciated. Only certified weed-free feed is allowed on the SNF. A FS Intermountain region-wide weed-free hay order is in effect. In addition to the certified weed-free clause in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, the weed-free hay order stipulates that you must “have each individual bale or container identified as weed-free, or have original and current evidence of weed-free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as weed-free.” The Camas County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) [Ph. 208-764-3512] and the Upper SF Boise River CWMA may enforce restrictions with regard to noxious weeds. You should contact one of these weed control entities to keep informed of current restrictions. Occurrence of noxious weeds or other non-native invasive species should be relayed to or directly reported to Renee Kehler.

Enclosures: Activity (diaries), pocket calendars, and Band Use Recording report form. Routing maps will be supplied on request