

Allotments:

Third Fork, Little Fork, Trapper Creek Trout Creek and Badger Mountain S&G's and Fall-Swanty C&H

The following letter will document your meeting with Sid J. Lopez on April 17, 2015, and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 summer grazing season for the Pickett Sheep Co. The District Ranger must approve any changes to this AOI.

The grazing system on this allotment is deferred rotation. The scheduled dates of use are flexible but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the below dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Season of Use	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
Third Fork S&G	1000 e/l	6/1 – 10/30	738 e/l	6/1 – 11/14
Little Fork S&G	500 e/l	6/1 – 10/30		
Trapper Creek S&G	800 e/l	6/1 – 8/5	636 e/l	6/1 – 11/14
Trout Creek S&G	(400) e/l	8/6 – 11/14		
Trout Creek S&G	1200 e/l	6/10 – 11/14	900 dries	6/10 – 11/14
Badger S&G	1500 ewes	6/10 – 8/5	967 e/l	6/10 – 11/14
Badger S&G	(260) ewes	8/6 – 11/14		
Badger S&G	(1340) ewes	8/6 – 11/14		
Fall-Swanty C&H	140 c/c	7/10 – 10/30	140 c/c	7/10 – 10/30

Note: Parts of the Little Fork S&G allotment are used in rotation with the Third Fork S&G allotment as well as parts of the Trout Creek S&G. Parts of the Trout Creek S&G are used in rotation with the Badger S&G.

2015 ROTATION SCHEDULE

Badger Mountain S&G

This Band will begin on the Flatiron side and move south toward Big Willow and then north through Cold Spring Canyon, around Badger Mountain and back to Hudson Ridge (2015-2016).

Third Fork S&G

This Band will enter from the north end through the extreme western portion of the Coal Pit C&H allotment cow range to Cotton Ridge and then on to the rough side of Martindale Canyon and then on to the Trail Canyon area and finish up on the Little Fork area.

Trapper Creek Allotment only (cont.)

- b. The identified trailing route for the Trapper Creek S&G allotment in 2015 will be as follows: Beginning at the gate in T14S, R21E, Sec. 15 SW on the Forest Boundary then proceeding in a westerly direction towards the Fourmile Spring in Section 16. From this point the sheep will move up out of the bottom in a westerly direction onto the benches that cross Sections 17 and 18 in T14S, R21E following somewhat the old jeep trail towards North Water Spring. The sheep will move through the gate in the SE corner of Section 13, T14S, R20E and proceed to the North Water Spring to water.
- c. Sheep will not be bedded within the potential interaction area.
- d. Two herders and several guard dogs will be in place while trailing between the Forest Boundary and Fourmile Spring.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: These lands are owned by the United States Government and managed by the USDA Forest Service for the benefit of all the citizens. Grazing of livestock is an important use of the lands, but campers, hunters, fisherman, woodcutters and others are equally important. Some people do not like the conflict of livestock grazing on the government lands at all and want them removed. As the person responsible for the day to day management of the sheep, your actions are very important in keeping good relations with the public and following those instructions so sheep may continue to graze here as they have for many years. You will encounter other Forest users. Please treat them with courtesy and friendliness. Remember that many people are afraid of dogs. They are particularly uncomfortable with people who carry firearms, and may not understand that your rifle serves the purpose of protecting the sheep from predators.

Your conduct with these people will have a direct impact upon how they view sheep grazing on the Forest. At the same time, you should be aware that many people have never seen bands of sheep or their herders and are delighted to see them. They often want to take pictures or learn more about the sheep and the herders.

COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). The scheduled dates of use are flexible, but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made in the below dates. Other 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, the District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on the forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds.

If you need assistance determining use levels or locating key areas, please contact Peter. All riparian areas on the allotments are considered key areas.

RIPARIAN SITES: Maximum 45% use of grasses, rushes and sedges or a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

UPLAND SITES: Early season or season long pastures 40% use of key species. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures 50% use of key species mountain brome, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, squirreltail.

IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in part three of your grazing permit must be maintained before cattle enter the allotments. The maintenance standards listed in part three of your term permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements. The Deadline Corral which was removed in 2014 by FS volunteers is scheduled for reconstruction either in the fall of 2015 or the following spring. As you're doing water trough maintenance, please install wildlife ramps in all troughs that currently don't have them.

PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads and trails. Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. In situations where terrain does not allow proper placement of salt, please contact Peter, and he will determine a suitable location with your input.

REQUIRED REPORTING:

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Please return the forms following the 2015 grazing season by November 30, 2015.

MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS:

Allotment map has been attached to your AOI. The scheduled dates of use are flexible, but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made to the below dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience non-use is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the non-use request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience non-use may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years, in any ten year period.

If you have any questions or concerns about this grazing season, please call Peter Gula at (208) 677-8290.

**Trapper Creek S&G Allotment
Cassia Division
Minidoka Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest**

 Allotment/Pasture Boundary



