



## SHEEP CREEK C&H 2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

These are your annual operating instructions and are part of your term grazing permit, as specified in part 2, item 8(a), and Part 3, (management practices) item 2.

**Permitted Number and season of use:**

Mary C. Cooper Family Trust      571 c/c      6/6 - 10/15

**Authorized use:**

Mary C. Cooper Family Trust      571 c/c      6/6 - 10/15

<b>ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT</b>		
Deferred Rotation Grazing System		
<b>Grazing Rotation</b>	<b>Move Dates</b>	<b>Special Instructions</b>
Dry Park      West Patterson	06/16 – 06/14	Cleanly move livestock through all pastures.
	East of Dry Park Draw	
	West of Dry Park Draw	
Lower Ute      Mud Lake	6/15 – 6/22	Sub-units cannot be calculated in the GRI score. However, you are doing a good job utilizing these sub-units. Please continue your excellent management of the allotment.
	Rice Point	
	Emerson's	
	East Patterson	
Reade Hill      Lower Red	6/23 – 7/23	
	Main Reade Hill	
	Lone Cedar	
Upper Ute      Forks of Creek	7/24 – 8/11	
	Bottom of Cottonwood	
	Pine Ridge	
Poison      Sheep Creek Basin	8/12 – 9/25	
	Butcher Knife	
	Cottonwood Basin	
	Raspberry	
	Lonesome	
Red Canyon      Kelly Creek	9/26 – 10/15	
	Wild Steer	
	Lower Salt Knoll	
	Upper Salt Bench	



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<b>RUNNING GRI SCORES</b>		
<b>Grazing Rotation</b>	<b>2013 GRI Score</b>	<b>2014 GRI Score</b>
Dry Park	+3	+2
Lower Ute	+3	+2
Upper Ute	0	+1
Reade Hill	+2	0
Poison	0	0
Red Canyon	-1	+3

Do not allow livestock to stay later than dates scheduled or change pasture rotations within this instruction at any time, unless authorized through amendment of this document. If forage conditions show greater than 50% utilization, you will move your livestock prior to the dates listed. If you feel that you need to stay in a pasture longer, or you feel there is a need to change the pasture rotations, you will need to make a request to your Rangeland Management Specialist. Any request to stay must be made prior to your exit date. No extension will be approved unless documentation shows that overall rangeland management objectives can be met with extended use in that pasture or use area.

Livestock management in 2015 will focus on the following:

- Do not salt in Aspen Timber Sale areas where regeneration is occurring. Ride to move livestock outside of the sale units when livestock are found to be utilizing aspen saplings.
- Continue to use electric fence along highway 90 and the motorcycle trail. Ride aggressively here to keep livestock on the Sheep Creek allotment.
- Again, good job on the GRI and rotation schedule, keep it up!

Range conditions, livestock distribution, compliance with annual operating instructions, forage utilization, etc. may be inspected during the summer field season. Cattle counts may also be conducted at any time as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(f) of your permit.

**Monitoring and Administration:** All permittees are required to keep Actual Use and Fence Maintenance records. In addition, you are required to utilize the Grazing Response Index for this allotment. An informational instruction sheet is included with this Annual Operating Instruction. If you require training on how to use the Grazing Response Index, please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist Brian Hoefling at 970-327-4261. These records will be requested by the administering office at the end of the grazing season.

For reference the target is a neutral GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are “Fair” or greater. The target is a positive GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are “Poor”.



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**Range Improvements:** Maintenance of allotment boundary fences will be completed prior to turning out on the allotment. Maintenance of all other assigned range improvements must be completed prior to turning out in that unit. Maintenance will be completed according to the specifications outlined in part 3 of the term grazing permit. Reconstruction or construction of range improvements will not occur without a signed and approved permit modification, and cultural resource survey, where needed. ATV's may be used to assist in fence maintenance activities. Using ATV's or UTV's for salting or moving livestock is not authorized other than on established designated routes.

**Salting:** Salt will be placed no closer than 1/4 mile to all water sources, roads, trails, timber regeneration areas, meadows, or other key areas where forage utilization is of concern.

**Grazing Fee:** \$1.69/HM.

This figure is calculated according to a formula established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and has continued under a Presidential Executive Order issued in 1986. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per head month and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level. The formula considers three main factors – the average annual change in beef prices, leasing rates for the grazing on private land in 11 western states, and the cost of livestock production.

*/s/ Judy Schutza*  
JUDY SCHUTZA  
District Ranger