

Stauffer Canyon Sheep Allotment
Annual Operating Instructions
2011

I. Livestock Management:

	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Nonuse</u>
Permittee: Burt Kunzler	1120	0
Kunzler Sheep & Cattle LLC		
Kind: Sheep		
Class: Ewe/Lamb		
Period of Use: June 26 through September 15		

II. Grazing Management:

Generally, loose herding and utilization of the uplands following once over grazing practices should be followed. Bed grounds, shade-up areas, and salting locations should not be used more than once during the grazing season. After sheep have watered, they should be encouraged to move off the riparian area before being allowed to noon bed. Do not allow sheep to noon bed near water. Do not place salt by designated Forest Service trails, roads or within the riparian areas of creeks, springs and ponds. Do not salt in the same location twice.

As a reminder: the 2006 Stauffer Canyon Allotment Management Plan identifies Sherman Peak as a closed area to maintain watershed protection. The Management Plan states: *The east slope of Sherman Peak is a critical watershed, and will remain closed to livestock grazing. The ridge runs along the east side of the allotment boundary. The closure encompasses a strip of range one-eighth mile wide along the allotment boundary from one-fourth mile south of Sherman Peak to a point three-fourths of a mile north of the peak.* Do not graze or bed the sheep within this closed area.

III. Grazing Standards and Guides:

The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in the Tables below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

From the CNF Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (2005).

If it is determined that bank disturbance/alteration, greenline stubble height or woody/shrubby species utilization should replace the utilization triggers listed above it will be addressed in the site specific standards below. Riparian site specific standards will be established when a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the Grazing Implementation Guide dated 12/28/2005. If a site specific PFC rating has not been conducted on a riparian area standards for the area will be established by the Range Specialist on the allotment.

Table below outlines utilization standards to follow for riparian browse species (i.e. dogwood, willows) and stubble height.

Stream	Rating	AIZ Stubble Height*
Skinner Creek	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4"
North Stauffer	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4"
Co-op Creek	Proper Functioning Condition	2/3/4"
Eight Mile Creek	Functioning at Risk	3/4/5"
Upper Meadow Creek	Non-Functioning	4/5/6"

Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide, 2002

*The three categories refers to the time of season the livestock are in riparian areas (e.g. early/mid/late summer).

Meadow Creek is rated non functional, however most of the negative impacts to the stream begin below the Stauffer Canyon Allotment boundary due to road placement and channelization of the creek.

Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non winter Range
Grass and Herbaceous Species (%dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs(%annual leader growth)	10	20	35

The Stauffer allotment has elk and deer winter range along the front range of Co-op, Skinner and North Stauffer creeks. There is no critical winter range.

IV. Range Improvement Maintenance:

The permittee is responsible for maintaining the improvements on the allotment to standards specified in your term grazing permit-Part 3.

V. Range Improvement Projects:

Any needed improvements, which in your judgment would improve management of the allotment, should be discussed with the Range Management Staff at the Montpelier Ranger District.

VI. Trailing and or Trucking:

Livestock may be trailed or trucked to the Forest; however, permission may have to be obtained from adjacent private landowners and other public land managing agencies. Eightmile canyon receives heavy recreation use, to avoid conflicts when trucking sheep on to the allotment, weekends should be avoided if possible. The temporary corral site

will continue to be used. The site is located at the junction of Meadow Creek Road and Sherman Peak Road.

VII. Special Instructions:

- ❖ Please review the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- ❖ Please inform the Montpelier Ranger District (208-847-0375), especially during entry date, of a convenient time and place to enable an accurate count of livestock to be made.
- ❖ Be certain that your herder is aware of all unit and allotment boundaries, and that sheep are kept in the proper areas.
- ❖ Areas around sheep camps should be kept clean and trash packed out.
- ❖ Salt bags must be packed out.
- ❖ Leaving campfires unattended could result in a wildfire hazard. Camps should be equipped with a shovel and axe for putting out campfires.

VIII. Wolf Management:

Wolves in Idaho are no longer under the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act.

On May 5, 2011, wolf management in all of Idaho reverted to state management under state code [36-1107](#) and [Idaho's 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan](#). [PDF, 662 KB]

Simply put, the law says wolves molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals may be disposed of by livestock or domestic animal owners, their employees, agents and animal damage control personnel. No permit from Fish and Game is necessary. The incident must be reported to the Fish and Game director within 72 hours, with additional reasonable time allowed if access to the site where taken is limited. Wolves so taken shall remain the property of the state.

Livestock and domestic animal owners may take all nonlethal steps they deem necessary to protect their property. A permit must be obtained from the director to control wolves not molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals. Control is also permitted by owners, their employees and agents pursuant to the Idaho department of fish and game harvest rules. "Molesting" means the actions of a wolf that are annoying, disturbing or persecuting, especially with hostile intent or injurious effect, or chasing, driving, flushing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, or stalking or lying in wait for, livestock or domestic animals.

IX. Certified Weed Free Hay:

Weed Free Hay Order is in effect. If hay is needed while on the forest: Certified Weed free hay and other forages are required on the Forest and must be identified as such with a State and/or County tag. Failure to do so will result in a violation

notice and/or permit action.

X. Special Instructions:

All AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

- **Actual Use Forms must be returned by November 30st following the grazing season. Failure to do so may result in Permit Action.**

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office	Cell
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-8935	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-4356 (208) 547-1108	(208)313-7328
Jane Rushane Range Specialist	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939	(208) 313- 5683

/s/ Burt Kunzler
Permittee(s) Signature

5/18/2011
Date

/s/ Dennis Duehren
District Ranger Signature

5/23/2011
Date