



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

2011

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**SOUTH FORK of BEAR CREEK SHEEP
ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

PERMIT INFORMATION

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Hampton Ford Properties LLC	July 1 st to September 20 th	1127 ewes/lambs

All sheep must be your own livestock.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment:



GRAZING SCHEDULE

Due to the prescribed fire the following rotation will be used for the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

Truck the sheep to the allotment and unload them along the Brockman Road.

The grazing sequence for the 2011 season is:

Graze 1 st	The portion of Unit 1 South of Bear Creek.
Graze 2 nd	The portion of Unit 2 South of Bear Creek and the portion of Unit 2 East of Lone Pine Ridge.
Graze 3 rd	Unit 4
Graze 4 th	Unit 3
Rest	Areas of Units 1 and 2 West of Lone Pine Ridge and North of Bear Creek

At the end of the season follow the Brockman Road to the corral to ship your sheep.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Portions of the allotment were burned last fall as part of the Fall Creek Aspen Project. These areas will be rested for the next two growing seasons. If monitoring shows adequate recovery of the burned areas you will be allowed to use them in 2013. The area east of Lone Pine Ridge will receive prescribed fire treatments later as implementation of the project continues.

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

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. Keep camps clean while they are occupied.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

Range Improvements

You are responsible for your share of the maintenance on the Brockman Corral. Continue to coordinate with other corral users as to when you intend to use the corral. The annual maintenance of the corral will be completed as needed while preparing to ship lambs.

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. Motorized vehicles are only allowed on the designated roads and trails.

The Skyline and South Bear Creek Roads will be graveled this summer. Expect heavy truck traffic throught the summer.

The Caribou Subsection Travel Plan is currently being revised. Actions in the preferred alternative that may effect the management of your allotment include designating the South Fork Bear Creek and Little Elk Mountain trails as single track motorized use only. ATVs would not be allowed on these trails. No decisions have been made on the revision. If you have comments related to the travel plan submit them to the Palisades District Ranger.

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. Canada thistle, musk thistle and spotted knapweed are the only known noxious weeds on the South Fork

of Bear Creek Allotment. Musk thistle and spotted knapweed occur only in a few locations on the allotment making them a high priority to control. Musk thistle and knapweed can be treated by cutting plants at the root prior to setting seed. 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. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS). A news release with contact information from the USF&WS has been included in your grazing folder. 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.

Aspen Improvement

The District has prepared a plan to improve the aspen forest type in the upper portions of the Fall Creek and Bear Creek drainages. The project objective is for stimulation of aspen within a 24,277 acre landscape. This project includes all of this allotment. The project activities will include cutting conifer, prescribed fire and root cutting with a tractor or dozer. Areas of the allotment which receive prescribed fire treatments will require rest from livestock grazing for two growing seasons. Treatment on the allotment continued last fall with prescribed fire treatments.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions, information and contact numbers relating to wolf depredations 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 be the guide for this allotment for the 2011 grazing season.

/s/ Blake Goring
Permittee

4-20-2011
Date

/s/ Robbert Mickelsen
ROBBERT MICKELSEN
District Ranger

4-27-2011
Date