



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

2011

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
TROUT CREEK SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT.

PERMIT INFORMATION

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Ken Wixom	6/27-9/4	930 ewes/lambs Term Grazing Permit
Ken Wixom	6/27-9/4	<u>120 ewes/lambs</u> Term Private Land Grazing Permit
	Total	1050 ewes/lambs

All sheep must be your own livestock.

The following brand is permitted on the allotment: **90**

GRAZING SCHEDULE

Trail the sheep to the allotment by way of the McCoy Creek Road. The sheep need to travel at least 6 miles per day while on the road. Select areas to bed the sheep while trailing to and from the allotment that have not already been used.

When the sheep reach the Williams Creek Allotment they may rest and feed on Unit 7 of that allotment in the area between the private land along Jensen Creek and the Little Box Canyon Corral. The Bitters Creek sheep bridge, spanning McCoy Creek near the mouth of Bitters Creek, is to be used to access the allotment. If there are campers located in front of the Bitters Creek Sheep Bridge the Trout Creek sheep may stay on the Williams Creek Allotment for an additional day or two before crossing the bridge.

The grazing sequence for the 2011 season is:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1 st	State Lease
Graze 2 nd	3 Lower Trout
Graze 3 rd	4 Upper Trout
Graze 4 th	1 Louse Creek
Rest	2 Bitters Peak

Ship your lambs from the Little Box Corrals. Trail the ewes out to Herman over the McCoy Creek Road. All trail time while on Forest Service land must occur within your permitted season.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

We appreciate your help in the revision of the Allotment Management Plan. The new plan will provide direction to meet the goals and objectives of good resource management.

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

Riparian Shrubs (current year's growth) 30%.

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 maintenance on the Little Box Canyon Corral. The annual maintenance of the corral will be completed prior to shipping 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. If you have a camera it would be good to take pictures. Photos should be taken of key areas of the unit at the time the livestock enter the unit and then again at the same locations at the time the livestock leave 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 roads and trails designated as open to motorized use.

The Caribou Subsection Travel Plan is currently being revised. Actions in the preferred alternative that may affect the management of your allotment include: designating an ATV trail from Trout Creek to Burns Creek and designating a non motorized trail from Trout Creek to the Bitters Creek Sheep Bridge. At this time 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. 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.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions 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/ Ken Wixom
Permittee

4/14/2011
Date

/s/ Robbert Mickelsen
ROBBERT MICKELSEN
District Ranger

4/14/2011
Date