



**File Code:** 2210

**Date:** March 18, 2010

Jeff Roche  
19205 N. 6000 W.  
Garland, UT 84312

Dear Jeff;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Lanes and Lander Creek Sheep Allotments. These operating instructions are a guide for management on these allotments during the 2010 grazing season. We have also included your Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by **September 30, 2010**.

As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

### Grazing Schedule

The 2010 order of rotation is outlined in this section. The grazing system is a deferred rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted dependant on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. **Please contact us 5 days prior to when your sheep will enter the Forest.**

Table 1. Permitted Numbers

Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Season	Rotation
Lanes Creek	800	800	7/1-9/15	Clockwise
Lander Creek	800	800	7/1-9/15	Clockwise

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. If riparian or upland monitoring shows that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will need to be moved. The Forest Service officer in charge of your allotment must approve any extension to the grazing season. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**



### Special Instructions

This year 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 accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

- Numerous timber plantations are located on the Lander Creek Allotment. The plantations will be monitored for grazing impacts. There are no closed plantations within this allotment; however, no salting or bedding is allowed and only once-over-light grazing is permitted.
- **No sheep grazing is allowed along the Lander Trail and the "Crow's Nest" (end of the Lanes Creek Road).**
- Last year the Lander Creek band mixed in with the South Fork of Tincup Band; please take all necessary steps to keep this from happening again. As a result the bed grounds on the ridge between the two allotments were used more than once, if this happens again this year you will receive a "notice of non-compliance" for not complying with these instructions and not following the standards outlined in your term grazing permit.

### Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Three measurements are commonly used to monitor livestock grazing impacts in riparian areas. They include stubble height, woody utilization, and key species utilization. Allowable disturbance levels will be tailored to each stream. The measurements and how they will be taken are listed below:

1. Stubble height is the height of standing herbaceous vegetation at the time of measurement. Some species may not naturally grow to the allowed stubble height. Natural conditions such as drought may also reduce some plants growth. If these situations are extreme, the stubble height measurement may not be used. The measurement is the average height of the plant and is measured at the green line (adjacent to the water) and on the floodplain.
2. Woody species utilization is the use of the annual growth of woody species within the riparian area (willows, aspen, dogwood, etc.) by livestock and wildlife. Emphasis will be placed on measuring the individual plants closest to the stream bank. Utilization is measured by counting the number of leaders browsed (new shoots) as compared to the number of the leaders not browsed.
3. Key species utilization is the percent of key species grazed in the affected riparian area. Key species that will be monitored include beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), smallwing sedge (*Carex microptera*), and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*). Sampling methods will include utilization cages, Photographic Guide for Key Riparian Graminoids (INT-GTR-308), and ocular estimates using Region 4 Key Forage Plant Method (FSH 2209.21).

Table 2. Riparian Grazing Standards

Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	AIZ Stubble Height at end of grazing period	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Lander Creek	Functioning	4	65/55/45
Lanes Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	5	55/45/35
Stump Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	5	55/45/35
Flat Valley Creek	Functioning-at-Risk	5	55/45/35
Brown's Canyon Creek	Functioning	4	65/55/45

**Upland Utilization Guidelines**

Utilization of upland vegetation is based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Use should be measured on key grass species such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.).

Table 3 Upland Forage Utilization Standards

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

**Wolf Recovery Management:**

The wolf is considered a big game animal and is protected under Idaho Code 36-1107(b and c). The following is posted on the Idaho Fish and Game web site.

(<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>)

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.

### **District Trailing Guidelines**

- When trailing, sheep must use Forest Service system roads where feasible.
- Trailing while on National Forest System land will be counted as part of a permittee's permitted days.
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the permitted allotment.
- Do not overnight sheep in the same location where an earlier band of sheep bedded.

#### **For the Henry Cut-off Driveway:**

- a. You must notify the District office that you are trailing across the Henry Cut-off driveway at least 24 hours in advance.
- b. Before sheep can be bedded overnight on the Henry Cut-off and/or Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, Forest Service approval is needed.
- c. Avoid bedding the sheep in the vicinity of the troughs, the switch-back cut-off, the summit, or north of the summit.
- d. While trailing across the Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, stay south of Tincup Highway. Near the substation, the trail will return to the highway.

### **Permittee Responsibilities**

1. "Once-over" grazing and open herding is to be practiced on all allotments.
2. Sheep are to bed in new locations each night. Sheep should be encouraged to bed in places other than ridges.
3. Sheep should not be allowed to bed near streams, ponds, or springs. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Sheep should be encouraged to water early in the day and then move away from water.
4. Ensure the herder leaves a sanitary and clean campsite.

5. Salt should be placed in areas away from water, riparian areas, forest plantations, ridges, shade-up areas, roads, and bed grounds. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.
6. Report all fires to the District Office as soon as possible (208) 547-4356.
7. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free". If you are found to be using uncertified hay or straw, a violation notice and/or permit action may be taken.

**Forms to be Completed**

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by September 30, 2010.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

**Compliance**

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with part 1, Item 3, and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	<b>Office</b>	<b>Cell</b>
<b>Jack Isaacs District Ranger</b>	208) 547-4356	
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1108	208) 313-7328
<b>Garth Nelson</b>	208) 547-1113	208) 313-7910

Sincerely,

Jack L. Isaacs  
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions  
Soda Springs Ranger District  
Lanes Cr. & Lander Cr. S&G Allotments  
2010**



**Accepted By:**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jeff Roche** **Date**

**Approved By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jack L Isaacs** **Date**  
**District Ranger**