



File code: 2210

Date: May 26, 2011

Phillips Brothers Farm and Livestock LLC
1851 West 600 North
Blackfoot, ID 83221

Dear Permittee;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Little Elk Mountain Sheep Allotment. These operating instructions are a guide for management on this allotment during the 2011 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 November 30, 2011.

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. 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 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 five (5) days prior to when your sheep will enter the Forest.**

Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Season	Starting Point
Little Elk Mountain	1000	7/3-9/5	North End-Clockwise ¹

¹ At the Request of Nathan Phillips, the grazing rotation will be changed from the historic rotation of starting on the north end one year, then south the next, to starting at the north end every year and going clockwise the first year, then counter clockwise the next. This rotation will be used for the next two years and then analyzed to how effective it is.

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.

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.
- Coordinate with the Palisades Ranger District Range staff when trailing to the Brockman corrals to avoid congestion with other bands of sheep.

You have been issued a 2010 Caribou-Targhee National Forest permit for travel off designated routes. When you carry this permit it authorizes you to travel off of designated routes for the purpose of maintaining improvements or moving camps. It does not authorize you to travel off designated routes to salt or check animals.

Wolf Recovery Management

As taken from Idaho Fish and Game web Page 2/17/11
(<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>)

Current Legal Status

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule. View the text of the [10\(j\) rule](#)

Simply put, the rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

Proper Use Standards

The Little Elk Mountain Sheep Allotment is covered under the North End Sheep EIS. Proper use standards are outlined in the tables below

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 1 Upland Forage Utilization Levels

Vegetation Component	Allowable Percent Utilization
Grasses and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35-55%
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	25-35%

Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Site specific standards and guides will be established and implemented through your AMP and AOI. Site specific monitoring of each stream will be used to determine when proper use has been reached. Once the allowable use standard is met, regardless of numbers of animals or time, livestock will be moved. Timing and intensity of use are the key elements of implementing the riparian grazing standards and guides.

Utilization will be based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 2 Riparian Utilization taken from the North End EIS

Table 3	Type of Riparian (Lotic) area		
	Functioning	Functioning-at-Risk	Non-Functioning
% Herbaceous Utilization	20-55	20-45	20-40
Stubble height	2-6 inches	3-8 inches	4-8 inches
% Bank Disturbance	25-35	20-30	15-25
% Woody Species Utilization	35-50	30-50	15-50
% Ground Cover	80	80-90	85-95

Site Specific Standards

Table 3 Riparian Utilization Standards

Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	Greenline Stubble Height utilization at end of grazing period	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Clear Cr.	Functioning	4/5/6	40/30/25

* If you were grazing Clear Creek on the Little Elk Mountain allotment early in the grazing season (June) you must leave a stubble height of four inches remaining at the Greenline. If you were grazing Clear Cr. mid season (July-mid Aug.) you would be required to leave a stubble height of five inches at the Greenline, and late in the season (mid Aug.-Oct.) you would have to leave six inches at the Greenline.

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, springs, or Forest System roads and trails. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Sheep should be encouraged to water early in the day and then moved off 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, Forest System roads and trails, and bed grounds. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.
6. Report all fires to the District Office immediately (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.

8. All improvements listed in Part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A copy has been attached to this AOI for your convenience. A delay in livestock turnout will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to livestock entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

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 November 30, 2011.** 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.

	Office	Cell
Jack Isaacs District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-4356	
Dell Transtrum Range Specialist	208) 547-1106 208) 547- 4356	208) 313- 7906

Jack L. Isaacs
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Little Elk Mountain S&G Allotment
2011**



Accepted By: /S/ Phillips Brothers Farm and Livestock LLC 5/19/11
Phillips Brothers Farm and **Date**
Livestock LLC

Approved By: /S/ Jack Isaacs 5/19/11
Jack L Isaacs **Date**
District Ranger