

**File Code:** 2210  
**Date:** 5-2011

Fred W. Hunzeker & Sons & Dennis Hunzeker  
 c/o Dennis Hunzeker  
 1041 Bench Road  
 Montpelier, ID 83254

Dear Dennis;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bennington Canyon, Dunn Canyon, Rattlesnake, and Pole/Draney Sheep Allotments. These instructions are guidelines for managing your 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 Montpelier Ranger District by November 30, 2011.**

### I. Grazing Schedule

Fred Hunzeker and Sons are the Term Permit holders on the allotments listed below in Table 1. Permitted numbers and season of use are also shown in the table. Failure to follow these numbers and dates could result in permit action.

**Table 1: Permitted Livestock**

Allotment	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers for 2011	Season of Use	Class	Rotation
Bennington/Dunns Canyon	1080	810 25% Suspension	6/26- 9/22**	Ewe/Lamb	
Rattlesnake Canyon/Red Pine	1000	900	5/20- 9/27**	Ewe/Lamb	
Dunns Canyon/Red Pine	1050	945	6/23- 9/26**	Ewe/Lamb	
Pole/Draney	1020	918	6/27- 9/20**	Ewe/Lamb	Counter-Clockwise
Total	4150	3573			

\*\* The on date may change due to range readiness. Off dates may change if proper use standards have been met.



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. Any extension to the grazing season must be approved by the Forest Service officer in charge of your allotment. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

Bennington Canyon, Dunns Canyon, Rattlesnake Canyon and Red Pine allotments will be managed as 3 allotments. The west side of the Red Pine Allotment will be used with Rattlesnake Canyon. Dunns Canyon will be used with Red Pine to the north and east. The Bennington Canyon allotment will use the upper right hand fork of Georgetown Canyon and Upper Dunns Canyon. The Red Pine Allotment will be combined into the existing allotments to allow flexibility to the current permittee's operation.

The dates in Table 1 are agreed to only if the range is ready by turn out and utilization standards are not being exceeded prior to the off date. As is specified throughout this document, you may be instructed to remove livestock from the allotments if utilization standards are being exceeded, regardless of the cause. Such things as wildfire, drought, or trespass use on the allotments could be cause for a change in permitted season.

## **II. Non-use**

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.

## **III. Special Terms and Conditions**

The Montpelier and Soda Springs Ranger District staff will be contacting you to **count your sheep onto the forest in 2011**. We would like you to keep this in mind and if you feel there is an appropriate time and place that would fit into your operation please let us know. The sheep will have to be corralled in some manner and let out to enable an accurate count.

## **IV. Grazing Rotations**

Generally, loose herding and once-over grazing will be practiced. Bed grounds, shade-up areas, and salting locations will 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.

The lower elevations on the Montpelier allotments have deer and elk winter range. There is critical winter range identified on the Rattlesnake Allotment along the western front. Monitor your allotment closely to ensure that allowable forage utilization is not exceeded.

The aspen regeneration units located on Fox Flat are within the Montpelier Elk Valley Cattle Allotment. These units are not to be grazed and sheep will not be allowed to bed in the units.

Because two bands (and three bands on light snow years) will trail over the same country, a maximum number of trailing days for each band is specified. For each band, trailing time between private land in Banks Valley to the mouth of Gertch Hollow will not exceed 2 days (time spent on Forest).

### **Rattlesnake Canyon/Red Pine**

The south facing and low lying areas will be used early to target dyers woad in the early stages of growth. The sheep will trail from private land up through Gertch Hollow and travel the ridge north to the head of Dunns Canyon. From the head of Dunns Canyon they will trail to the bottom of Dunns Canyon. Total trailing-on days from the mouth of Gertch to and out of the bottom of Dunns is 4 days. Sheep will graze south from Dunns Canyon to Rowley Canyon. 100 acres of private land is used along the boundary, but is not tied to the permit. In heavy snow years it may be necessary to truck the sheep to this location and begin grazing as the high ridges may be covered with impassable drifts. The sheep will trail to Left Hand Fork and up Little Rolph Canyon to the Forest Boundary. Sheep will graze the Red Pine spring area, Big Canyon, and then, graze north to Jones Canyon and Rattlesnake Basin. The sheep will graze south along the eastern boundary of the Rattlesnake Allotment. The sheep will trail home from Left Hand Fork and up Dunns or Right Hand Fork. Then down Gertch Hollow. Trailing - off the allotment from lower Right Hand Fork to the mouth of Gertch Hollow is limited to 3 days. Again, days trailing count as season of use and are not in addition too. It is possible this rotation may be reversed in alternate years. Water will need to be hauled at some locations.

### **Bennington/Dunns Canyon**

The sheep will begin grazing up Gertch Hollow and along the ridge toward Dunns Canyon. Upper Dunns Canyon and Upper Right Hand Fork will be used by this band. The armchair trough in Dunns Canyon and the Upper troughs in Right Hand Fork will be used. The sheep will remain mostly on the Bennington Allotment. Trailing-off the allotment from Joes Gap to the mouth of Gertch Hollow is limited to 2 days.

### **Dunns Canyon/Red Pine**

Sheep will trail from Gertch Hollow and along the ridge to lower Dunns Canyon and lower Right Hand Fork, then up to Left Hand Fork to Cold Spring and using the allotment to the north and east. Trailing-on from Gertch to lower Right Hand Fork will not exceed 3 days. Sheep will trail back home via Dunns Canyon or Right Hand Fork. Trailing-off the allotment from lower Right Hand Fork to the mouth of Gertch Hollow is limited to 3 days.

### **Pole/Draney**

A deferred system of grazing, although desirable, is not practiced on this allotment. Under this plan the sheep enter at the southeast side of the allotment and graze the lower country on the east side of the allotment. They then cross the road and graze above the active mine and work their way into the high country. The allotment is grazed in a counter-clockwise direction and they leave from the same point where they entered the allotment. If a deferred system were used the high country would not be ready when it was grazed clockwise and the low range would be less palatable by the time they reached it, even if the sheep started in a different area.

## V. Grazing Standards and Guides

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP) and the Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and two 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.

### 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*), small wing 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 Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights from GIG (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

The standards in Table 2 above are the riparian forage utilization standards that will be applied.

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 latest Grazing Implementation Guide. 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.

**Upland Utilization Guidelines**

Table 3. Upland Forage Utilization Levels

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	10	20	35

Big Game critical winter range occurs on your allotments. The standards in Table 3 above are the upland forage utilization standards that will be applied to all of your allotments.

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. **Key grass species** include Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*). There is critical winter range identified on the Rattlesnake Allotment along the western front. In those areas designated as critical winter range within the Rattlesnake Allotment use on the uplands cannot exceed 35%, these areas are on the front range of the allotment.

As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of the livestock from the allotment will occur. If livestock are removed from the Forest early (at the request of the South Zone Range Staff – Kevin Parker, Jane Rushane, and Garth Nelson), your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year’s fee. This must be requested by you in your actual use form.

**VI. Range Improvement Maintenance**

The permittee is responsible for maintaining the improvements on the allotments to standards specified in your Term Grazing Permit-Part 3.

**Water Development Maintenance Standards**

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.

- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

#### Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced, clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Level troughs and reset when needed.
- Wildlife escape ramps should be installed on all troughs. Contact the District for ramps.

#### Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

### **VII. Range Improvement Projects**

There are many improvement projects that could be completed on the allotments. These should be prioritized and completed as funding becomes available.

- Construct a new set of sheep troughs on the east side of Left-Hand Fork Georgetown Canyon road; water to be piped from Shale spring to the Hawks Roost turnoff. Shale spring trough will remain functional.
- Head box needs cleaned out and possibly move Armchair spring troughs below trail to obtain more slope for gravity flow.
- Improve troughs above Montpelier Creek and fence spring - Campchair troughs (CCC era).
- Troughs could be placed in Joes Gap.

### **VIII. Trailing and Trucking:**

Any private, state or other public lands should only be crossed with permission of those Landowners.

- Sheep could either trail on, or be trucked to the allotments.
- When trailing sheep must use Forest Service system roads where applicable.
- Trailing while on National Forest System land will be counted as part of the permitted days.
- All overnight stops on Forest land while trailing to or from the allotment will be counted against the permitted days.
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the allotment.
- Do not overnight sheep in the same location where a previous band of sheep has stayed that year.

It was discussed that you could truck the sheep over to private ground and then enter the allotment north of Rowley Canyon. The remaining bands will enter at a later date and trailing should be possible.

Getting sheep to the Bennington Allotment involves trailing through the south end of the Montpelier-Elk Valley Cattle Allotment for approximately 1 to 2 days both going to and coming from the Bennington Allotment. This crossing is permitted, however days on the Cattle Allotment count toward your permitted days on the Allotments.

### **Specific to Pole/Draney Allotment**

Sheep are not allowed to graze or trail through Whiskey Flat on the Montpelier District. You will be allowed to cross the mine dump to get your sheep to the allotment, please continue working with Smokey Canyon mine staff to avoid conflicts. They are not to rest, water, or graze; just move through.

Failure to follow management requirements, grazing permit modifications, or annual operating instructions can result in suspension or cancellation of your Term Grazing Permit. Please refer to your Term Grazing Permit, Part 1, Section 3, Part 2, Section 8 (a-h).

### **IX. Special Instructions:**

- Within the Rattlesnake Basin Timber Sale, specific units are to be avoided to allow for seedling regeneration. Units 102, 103, 106, 412 and 417 were planted in the fall of 2006 with young seedlings. Sheep are not allowed in these units; even trailing could cause damage to young seedlings. These units are not protected by a fence. A map is included of the plantation units. Sheep watering is limited to five days at the ponds in Rattlesnake Basin. Hauling water will be required within Jones' Canyon and Rattlesnake Basin area for use of available forage.
- Red Pine Spring - efforts should be made to move the sheep away from the water after drinking so they will not bed in the riparian area. When utilization standards are met, it is time to move on to a different water source. Riparian guidelines require a 4 inch stubble height remaining at early-season (6 inch if used late season) to remain in compliance. If this area has been grazed prior to the sheep arriving and utilization is at or below standards, then move on to a different water source and inform the Montpelier District of your observations.
- Do not bed or shade up sheep next to the Georgetown Municipal Spring in the Right Hand fork of Georgetown Canyon. This area is enclosed by a fence and is not to be used as a corral.
- Please notify the District 3 days in advance when the sheep need water from the Summit View Campground. Sheep are not allowed to graze in the Summit View Camp Ground. The fence surrounding the Campground is not adequate to keep the sheep out. Diligent herding is required when sheep are near the Campground.

- Past utilization of the Gertch Hollow troughs has been unacceptable. Use of these troughs is limited to the bands trailing on and off the forest and use by the Bennington Canyon band. Given the maximum trailing time permitted, the troughs should only be used a total of 11 days (2 bands trailing on and 3 bands trailing off and 7 days use by the Bennington band).
- 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 and the herder may be cited. Camp must be equipped with a shovel and axe for putting out campfires.
- **Actual Use Forms must be returned by November 30<sup>st</sup> following the grazing season. Failure to do so may result in Permit Action.**
- 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.

#### **X. Multiple-use Coordination Requirements:**

- Livestock will be carefully managed to avoid and reduce conflicts with other resources and uses.
- Recreation occurs as hunting, hiking and ATV use on all of your allotments.
- Work will continue on the Georgetown Canyon road. The road will be relocated out of the stream channel. Culverts will be removed to restore fish passage. A bypass road will be constructed so travel will not be disrupted.

#### **XI. Wolf Recovery 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.

**XII. 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.** Those needing a source of this feed may contact the Forest Service Office for a list of suppliers.

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>Dennis Duehren District Ranger</b>	208) 847-0735	
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1108	208)313-7328
<b>Garth Nelson Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1113	208) 313-7910
<b>Jane Rushane Range Specialist</b>	208) 847-0375 208) 847-8939	208) 313- 5683

Sincerely,

Dennis Duehren  
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions  
Bennington Canyon, Dunn Canyon,  
Rattlesnake and Pole/Draney Sheep Allotments  
2011**



**Accepted By:** /s/ Dennis Hunzeker  
**Dennis Hunzeker** **Date**

**Accepted By:** /s/ Jack L. Isaacs  
**Jack L. Isaacs** **Date**  
**Soda Springs District Ranger**

**Approved By:** /s/ Dennis Duehren  
**Dennis Duehren** **Date**  
**Montpelier District Ranger**