

# Annual Operating Instructions Sheep and Goat Allotment

For the  
Teton Basin Ranger District  
Idaho/Wyoming  
Driggs, Idaho

2011

Caribou- Targhee National Forest  
Intermountain Region

**Annual Operating Instructions  
SIDDOWNAY SHEEP COMPANY**

Elk Flat S&G Allotment

2011

PLEASE CONTACT US FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

**Permit Information**

<b>Permitted Livestock</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>
1200 Ewes/Lambs	6/26– 9/25
5 head of horses	6/26 – 9/25

The Elk Flat Sheep and Goat Allotment is a newly conformed allotment composed of five different allotments being combined; the Red Mountain, Twin Creek, Horseshoe, Mahogany, and Canyon Allotments.

The band will continue to graze the Elk Flat Allotment with a variable period of use system consisting of three units. The sheep will start on the Canyon Unit. The sheep will graze Calamity Creek and both forks of Canyon Creek before moving towards Elk Flat. The sheep will use the remainder of the Twin Creek Unit. Then use the Red Mountain Unit. Rest the area of the Red Mountain Unit south and east of Holter Creek. Avoid grazing the Red Creek and Corral Creek drainages from the sheep driveway 050 trail to the top of the East Ridge (Teton River Drainage) due to preparations for Red Creek Prescribed burn. Once the sheep cross Holter Creek follow the sheep driveway to Pine Creek Pass. Lambs will be shipped from Pine Creek Pass in the fall. The ewes may then be trailed out along the sheep driveway. All trail time must occur within your permitted season.

Sheep are no longer authorized in the Drake Creek Drainage as this is the Westside C&H Allotment.

The sheep driveway crosses and borders most of the allotment. We would like the resident herd to not graze or camp along the driveway. Please, camp and bed off main trail. Lambs will be shipped from Pine Creek Pass in the fall.

Rotation	Units
1 <sup>st</sup> Graze	Canyon Creek
2 <sup>nd</sup> Graze	Calamity Creek
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graze	Elk Flat
4 <sup>th</sup> Graze	Red Mountain

**COMPLIANCE**

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

## **GRAZING STANDARDS**

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan Standards are as follows:

1. Within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ):
  - a. At least four inches of stubble must remain along the hydric greenline (HGL) at the end of the grazing period. The HGL is the first permanent vegetation next to the waters edge.
  - b. Away from the HGL, at least three inches of stubble will be left on the key riparian species at the end of the grazing period.
2. No more than 30 percent use of the current year's growth is allowed on the woody riparian vegetation (i.e., willows)
3. Allowable use on grasses and forbs in the uplands is 45 percent (dry weight); on upland shrubs (i.e., mountain mahogany) it is 35 percent of the current year's growth.

Once these use rates are reached the sheep will have to be moved to the next unit or they may be required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season. As you know this can be a concern due to the possibility of a below normal moisture summer ahead. Please consider how you may be able to accommodate your livestock on alternate feed sources if they are required to leave the Forest Prior to the end of the grazing season.

## **OWNERSHIP**

Sheep grazed under the Term Grazing Permit, must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

## **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Fences and water developments will be maintained prior to Sheep entering the allotment. The Sheep access trails that were constructed through thick stands of brush and trees should be maintained to ensure sheep may utilize available forage in the uplands to lessen the use in the riparian areas.

We would like to review the allotment with you this summer to assess the needs of range improvements and overall management of the allotment. The authorized officer will contact you with a meeting date.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping in the control of noxious weeds. Remember, all livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest has to be certified weed free. We will be treating weeds again this season. Please report to us any new weed patches we have not been treating in the past.

## **MOTORIZED ACCESS**

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan restricts motorized travel to designated routes only. For administrative purposes, grazing permittee(s) will be issued a permit to travel cross-country to

