



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sawtooth National
Forest

Fairfield Ranger District
PO Box 189
Fairfield, Id. 83327
208-764-3202
Fax: 208-764-3211

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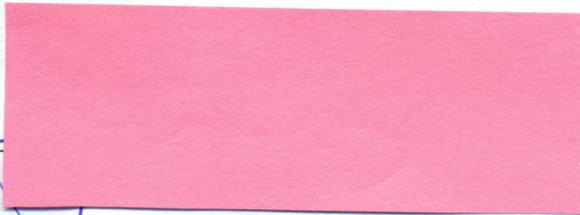
2011 Annual Operating Instructions

For the Faulkner Land & Livestock Company and Sawtooth Sheep Company
Sheep and Goat Allotments
administered by the
Fairfield Ranger District - Sawtooth National Forest

Permit #: 5110 & 3031

Prepared & Recommended by: John Shelly, Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted by:



6/10/11
Date

Approved by:

John H Shelly
District Ranger

6/10/2011
Date

This document will serve as the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for your grazing operation on the Fairfield Ranger District (District) during the 2011 grazing season. Most of the following items were discussed at our annual meeting and will guide the management of your Sawtooth National Forest - Fairfield Ranger District permitted sheep this 2011 grazing season.



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Allotment Management & Grazing Strategy - The following tables display by band the planned numbers, periods of use, and the allotment sequence of grazing.

LAMB BAND #1 - Herder & Camp Tender: George Q. & Jacinto

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 975 ewes/lambs | 6/01-7/04 | N. Fk. Lime Creek Allotment |
| 975 ewes/lambs | 7/05-7/17 | Kelly Creek Allotment |
| (cull 75 ewes) | (7/18 ship lambs) | Kelly Creek Corral |
| 900 drys | 7/18-7/19 | Kelly Creek Allotment |
| 900 drys | 7/20-8/11 | Jumbo Mtn. Allotment |
| 900 drys | 8/12-8/22 | Big Water Allotment |
| 900 drys | 8/23-8/25 | Skeleton Creek Allotment |
| 1300 drys (add 400 from #6) | 8/26-9/15 | Skeleton Creek Allotment |
| 1300 drys | 9/16-9/26 | Bridge Creek Allotment |
| 1300 drys | 9/27-9/28 | SFk Boise River Driveway |
| 1300 drys | 9/29-9/30 | Little Smoky Driveway |
| 2 horses and 3 mules | 6/01-9/30 | Faulkner L&L |

This band will be trailed to the National Forest. Sheep may be counted before they enter the NFk Lime Creek Allotment or at the Kelly Creek shipping corral. Access the NFk Lime Creek Allotment via the SFk Lime Creek bridge near the mouth of Slicear Creek. After crossing SFk Lime Creek, route this band in a northeasterly direction to enter the NFk of Lime Creek drainage. Grazing may occur on either side of this drainage. **Be sure to avoid areas that have not recovered much from recent prescribed fires.** When this band reaches the upper part of the NFk Allotment, graze between the EFk and WFk of Kelly Creek before shipping at the Kelly Creek corral. After shipping lambs, cross over the river bridge near Baumgardner to access Weeks Gulch on the Jumbo Mtn. Allotment. Avoid leafy spurge infestations during this time because we do not want to transport viable weed seeds attached to wool or within manure. Next graze the upper portion of the Big Water Allotment and then the WFk of the Skeleton Creek drainage. Then graze down to the EFk/WFk Skeleton Creek confluence where this band will merge with 400 drys from Band #6. Then graze up the west side of the EFk of Skeleton Creek to the head of Skunk Creek drainage where this band will access the Bridge Creek Allotment. After grazing the upper portions of Bridge Creek Allotment exit down Bridge Creek drainage and trail the sheep south, up and over Fleck Summit, up Little Smoky road, Five Points Creek, and down Owens Creek to exit the National Forest.

LAMB BAND #2 - Herder & Camp Tender: Zacharias & Augustine Q.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 990 ewes/lambs | 6/15-7/20 | Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment |
| (cull 70 ewes) | (7/21 ship lambs) | Ear Creek Corral |
| 920 drys | 7/21-8/31 | Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment |
| 1400 drys (add 400 from #6) | 9/01-9/30 | Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment |
| 2 horses and 3 mules | 6/15-9/30 | Sawtooth Sheep Company |

This band will graze the Bremner/Middle Fork Allotment and will ship at the Ear Creek corral situated on State of Idaho land. Enter the east/west stringer of BLM administered land in lower Ear Creek and graze westerly across the landscape covering the lower reaches of Nettle, Polson, and Roanhide Creeks that are tributaries to the SFk of Lime Creek. Then swing back to the north

toward Browns Gulch, crossing Cold Springs Ridge before entering lower to mid-Stewart, Cooper, Salt Log, Bremner, and SFk Lime Creek drainages on the way to ship at the Ear Creek corral.

After shipping lambs, continue grazing east of MFk Lime Creek above trail #55 starting at Bremner Creek, then crossing upper Salt Log, Stewart, and Cooper drainages. Next graze the head of MFk Lime Creek, Deer Park, and Iron Mountain Creek drainages before merging with 400 drys from Band #6 that will trail over Boardman Pass. Continue grazing in a southerly direction west of MFk Lime Creek towards Hunter Creek. Avoid impacting roads, trails, erodible soils, steep slopes, and especially areas that have not recovered from past fires. Exit the allotment via the Hunter Creek road and do not overnight on the Hunter Creek Allotment. This band and the East Fork dry band have been billed to Sawtooth Sheep Company.

LAMB BAND #3 - Herder & Camp Tender: Mariano & Felix

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 800 ewes/lambs | 6/15-7/24 | Baker Creek Allotment |
| (cull 60 ewes) | (7/25 ship lambs) | Newman Creek Corral |
| 740 drys | 7/25-7/27 | Baker Creek Allotment |
| 300 drys (trail to #4 @ Lake Crk) | 7/28-7/31 | Ketchum Driveway |
| 440 drys (add to #5 on 8/09) | 7/28-8/08 | Baker Creek Allotment |
| 5 horses | 6/15-8/08 | Faulkner L&L |

The Ketchum Ranger District will provide the use instructions for Band #3 on the Baker Creek Allotment. After shipping, 300 drys will be trailed to merge with 900 Band #4 drys that are waiting at Lake Creek before Dry Band #3/4 trails to the East Fork Allotment. The Smiley Creek Allotment dry band will be formed by adding the remaining Band #3 drys (440) to Band #5 drys (900) to form Dry Band #3/5 (1340).

LAMB BAND #5 - Herder & Camp Tender: Simon & Dorateo

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 960 ewes/lambs | 6/17-6/20 | Willow/Little Smoky Driveway |
| 960 ewes/lambs | 6/21-7/18 | Lick Creek Allotment |
| 960 ewes/lambs | 7/19-7/31 | Big Peak Allotment |
| 960 ewes/lambs | 8/01-8/07 | Baker Creek Allotment |
| (cull 60 ewes) | (8/08 ship lambs) | Newman Creek Corral |
| 900 drys | 8/08 | Baker Creek Allotment |
| 1340 drys (trail to Smiley Creek) | 8/09-8/12 | Ketchum/Stanley Driveway |
| 2 horses and 3 mules | 6/17-8/12 | Faulkner L&L |

The Anchustegui and Plateau Farms bands of sheep will also be entering the Sawtooth NF at Cherry Creek so you will need to coordinate with them to avoid mixing. There will be about two miles of route overlap with Anchustegui and more than twice that distance with Plateau Farms. Your band will cross Willow Creek near the Buttercup Creek overnight spot. You are authorized to trim brush to make your crossing easier. Up to four overnight stops will be allowed on your way to the Lick Creek Allotment. The first stop should be just north of Buttercup Creek and the next three stops will be along Little Smoky Creek. There may be an active wolf pack in the area of Willow Creek or Little Smoky Creek.

Only thirteen days of grazing are authorized across the entire Big Peak Allotment. This should be accomplished without exceeding the light-once-over grazing standard. To avoid impacting the steep slopes and fragile soils, herd this band slowly and carefully when crossing the steep high elevation areas between Wfk Big Peak Creek and Baker Creek drainages. After this band enters the Baker Creek drainage, it will be herded down to the Baker Creek trailhead before continuing along the Baker Creek road to the Newman Creek corral. After both Baker Creek Allotment bands have shipped lambs, dry Band #3/5 consisting of 1340 ewes will be formed and trailed north over Galena Summit to the Salmon River watershed where it will begin grazing on the Smiley Creek Allotment. Grazing instructions pertaining to the Baker Creek Allotment and the Ketchum/Stanley sheep driveway will be issued by the Ketchum Ranger District.

DRY BAND #3/5 - Herder & Camp Tender: Mariano & Felix

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1340 ewe/lamb | 8/13-10/15 | Smiley Creek Allotment |
| 1340 ewe/lamb (trail off SNF) | 10/16-10/20 | Ketchum/Stanley Driveway |
| 2 horses & 3 mules | 8/13-10/20 | Faulkner L&L |

Sheep will be trailed from the Baker Creek Allotment to the Smiley Creek Allotment starting on 8/12. This dry band will remain on the Smiley Creek Allotment until 10/15 when they will begin trailing off Forest. Contact the SNRA to receive allotment and driveway use instructions. There may be special driveway use instruction pertaining to the potential of spreading spotted knapweed.

LAMB BAND #4 - Herder: Zenebio

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 980 ewes/lambs | 6/17-7/31 | Lake Creek Allotment |
| (cull 80 ewes) | (8/01 ship lambs) | Lake Creek Corral |
| 1200 drys (add 300 from #3) | 8/01-8/02 | Lake Creek Allotment |
| 1200 drys (trail to Efk) | 8/03-8/05 | Ketchum Driveway |
| 2 horses | 6/17-8/05 | Faulkner L&L |
| 1200 drys | 8/06-10/05 | East Fork Allotment |
| 2 horses | 8/06-10/05 | Sawtooth Sheep Company |

The Ketchum Ranger District will provide the use instructions for Band #4. Band #3 drys will trail to Lake Creek Allotment from the Baker Creek Allotment to merge with Band #4 drys. This combined Dry Band #3/4 will then trail to the East Fork Allotment. After arriving at the East Fork Allotment, this dry band becomes permitted to the Sawtooth Sheep Company. Allotment and driveway use instructions for dry Band #3/4 must be approved by the Ketchum Ranger District.

LAMB BAND #6 - Herder & Camp Tender: Jose & Wilbur (Ivan)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 940 ewes/lambs | 6/10-6/19 | Soldier Creek C&H Allotment |
| 940 ewes/lambs | 6/20-8/14 | Salt/Bowns Allotment |
| (cull 60 ewes) | (8/15 ship lambs) | Salt Creek Corral |
| 880 drys | 8/15-8/22 | Salt/Bowns Allotment |
| 400 drys (trail & graze to #1) | 8/23-8/25 | Boardman Allotment |
| 480 drys (trail & graze to #2) | 8/23-8/31 | Boardman Allotment |
| 2 horses | 6/10-8/31 | Faulkner L&L |

Sheep will be counted at the corral one mile east of Fairfield. Time spent on National Forest starts when you cross the NF boundary via the road to Wells Summit. **For directions on the Salt Bowns Allotment refer to the Band #6 routing map. Remember to avoid fragile snowbank areas and to only graze areas once-over and lightly.**

After shipping at the Salt Creek corral, route 480 drys to Boardman Creek Allotment where they will trail over Boardman Pass to merge with Band #2 drys in upper Iron Mountain Creek drainage. The other 400 drys will be trailed northerly down the ridge west of Miller Creek on their way to cross the SFk Boise River bridge at the mouth of Boardman Creek. Then trail up Skeleton Creek to merge with Band #1 drys near the EFk/WFk Skeleton Creek confluence.

Lamb Bands 7 & 8 will not graze on the Sawtooth National Forest (SNF) during the 2011 grazing season and **Lamb Band #9** will only be on the SNF to make the connection between the BNF Yuba River and Cayuse Allotments. Remember to avoid burned areas that have not yet recovered. The Mountain Home District will formulate and issue detailed instructions (AOI) for grazing on the Boise NF. The Mountain Home District will also do the billing for grazing on the Featherville, Cayuse, and Yuba River Allotments.

BNF LAMB BAND #7 - Herder & Camp Tender: Arturo & Edgar

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 930 ewes/lambs | 6/10-6/23 | BNF Featherville Allotment |
| (cull 50 ewes) | (8/18 ship lambs) | Burnt Creek Corral |
| 880 drys | 8/18-8/23 | BNF Featherville Allotment |
| 1430 drys (add 550 from #8) | 8/24-9/30 | BNF Featherville Allotment |
| 2 horse and 3 mules | 6/10-9/30 | BNF Stock |

BNF LAMB BAND #8 - Herder & Camp Tender: Durarte & Obilio

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 800 ewes/lambs | 6/10-8/23 | BNF Featherville Allotment |
| (cull 50 ewes) | (8/24 ship lambs) | Trinity Corral |
| 200 drys (550 to #7 on 8/24) | 8/24-8/30 | BNF Featherville Allotment |
| 2 horse and 3 mules | 6/10-8/30 | BNF Stock |

BNF LAMB BAND #9 - Herder & Camp Tender: Augustine #1 & Freddi

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 700 ewes/lambs | 6/10-6/23 | BNF Cayuse Allotment |
| <u>700 ewes/lambs</u> | <u>6/24-7/07</u> | <u>SNF Shake Creek Allotment</u> |
| 700 ewes/lambs | 7/08-8/30 | BNF Yuba River Allotment |
| (cull 50 ewes) | (8/31 ship lambs) | Rocky Bar Corral (BNF) |
| 850 drys (add 200 from #8) | 8/31-9/30 | BNF Featherville Allotment |
| 2 horse and 3 mules | 6/10-9/30 | BNF Stock |

BUCKING BAND - Herder: Kenny

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 160 bucks | 6/16-7/20 | Lick Creek Buck Pasture |
| 20 bucks | 7/21-8/05 | Lick Creek Buck Pasture |
| 1 horse | 6/16-8/05 | Lick Creek Buck Pasture |

PERMIT COMPLIANCE

Reporting

The information you provide to us must be complete, accurate, and legible. At the spring meeting we discussed the reporting requirements. When sheep camps are re-supplied by your employee, he will need to obtain actual use information from the herder/camp tender at that time. The requested information will be for the time span from the last report to the present or date the new information is retrieved. It should be translated to English and turned into John Shelly. You can simply fill in the blanks of a printed form or its computer version and personally hand it in or emailed it back to us. If you desire, you can also stop by the office to get help to filling it out. The appropriate fax number is 764-3211 and the computer email address is (jshelly@fs.fed.us).

We need to know dates of entry into each new allotment or major drainage, noteworthy changes in sheep numbers, occupied camp with dates of occupancy, periods of use within specific drainages, and maintenance of range facilities (fences, water troughs, corrals). If a group of sheep are removed or lost during the season, we want to know the number, time period, and suspected location where this occurred. Please notify us of significant losses from predators such as wolves and poisonous plants, herding problems (whether they are logistical or related to unforeseen circumstances), conflicts with other Forest users, and any other grazing related information you feel is worthy of reporting. Remember, significant changes to this AOI must be approved by the Forest Service ahead of time and the change must be reflected in your reported information.

At the end of October you should plan to meet with District range staff to complete a post-season review. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain missing or the remainder of this year's unreported information, identify grazing successes or failures, exchange resource concerns, interpret or review previous actual use reports for completeness and legibility, and discuss reasons why this AOI did not work as intended.

Range Improvement Responsibilities

All structural range improvements (fences, bridges, corrals, and water developments) are the responsibility of the permittee and must be maintained prior to the intended use. Livestock may be held off or removed from the allotment if maintenance is not completed. We would like you to assess the maintenance needs of the Deer Park (Sec.7), Deer Mtn. (Sec.14), Skunk Creek (Sec. 19), Little Skeleton Creek, and Upper Lick Creek (Sec.33) sheep troughs. The FS may be able to participate with you in acquiring the needed repair parts and delivering them to each site.

Herd management - Each band must have at least one herder to control sheep. Refer to the forthcoming allotment maps for specific areas where sheep should not be grazed or trailed; also review the content under **Terms & Conditions** for site-specific grazing limitations.

Generally, we are more concerned about soil displacement caused by sheep than the amount of forage they consume. Light-once-over grazing, resembling 20 percent use of current year's forage, is the main way we gauge proper grazing use on your sheep allotments. This practice can be achieved by spreading the sheep out and slowly grazing them across the landscape. If the routing areas we have identified do not meet the foraging needs of your sheep, that implies the area lacks protective cover, is susceptible to erosion, and is probably too fragile to be grazed.

After August 15th use only designated stream crossings where bull trout habitat has been specified by the Forest Service. Stream crossings will be delineated on Smoky Dome and Skeleton Creeks for **Dry Band #s 1 & 6**, both before and after they merge into one larger band.

Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) for Sheep Grazing

These permit T&Cs are needed to move toward or to achieve the desired conditions, goals, and objectives for vegetation, wildlife, fish, riparian, soil and water resources described by the Sawtooth Forest Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan or FP). Except for *Guidelines*, the following *FP Standards* and permit T&Cs are binding limitations placed on your management actions. *FP Guidelines* represent preferred or advisable courses of action that are generally expected to be carried out.

SHEEP HERDING

1. The permittee or manager will provide sufficient herders to obtain proper distribution and management of sheep on the allotments as required by the Term Grazing Permit, Annual Operating Instructions, or Allotment Management Plan.
2. The permittee is responsible for insuring that herders understand and follow the Annual Operating Instructions and the terms & conditions specified in the Term Grazing Permit.
3. Graze rather than trail to water and only water once at each stream location. No watering will be allowed in lakes that are identified as closed to livestock.
4. After watering from streams, do not allow sheep to be shaded or bedded within 100 yards of flowing water.
5. Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of campgrounds, trails, trailheads or maintained roads.
6. ***FP Standard:*** Practice open or loose herding and minimize the use of herding dogs.
7. ***FP Standard:*** Only once-over grazing is allowed with the exception of designated sheep driveways, travel routes, or where specifically authorized.
8. ***FP Standard:*** Only one night/one time use of bedgrounds is allowed on the Fairfield Ranger District, Ketchum Ranger District, and Sawtooth National Recreation Area.
9. ***FP Standard:*** Livestock salting is prohibited in riparian areas, under trees, or within 200 yards of water, trails, or maintained roads. Supply salt at bed grounds and place it in reusable containers that can be moved with the sheep. Tarps and hollowed out logs meet the criteria for salting in containers.
10. ***FP Guideline:*** Route sheep to avoid steep slopes with loose soils, snowbanks, snowfields, and rills or gullies.
11. During shipping operations, sheep will be confined within the corral as soon as they arrive and will remain within the corral until all handling is completed. Before and after shipping, sheep will not be allowed to graze, shade, or bed within one quarter mile of the corral.

SHEEP CAMPS

12. Each camp will be kept clean. All litter and unburnable material from fire pits will be hauled away and disposed of off-Forest. Human waste must be buried if it is within 150 feet from water. The use of detergent in streams is prohibited.
13. Only historic and existing herder camps are approved for use. New camp locations must be approved by a Forest Service officer.
14. Camps will be kept in primitive condition. No permanent improvements will be allowed. If a new fire pit is constructed, dismantled it and restore the area before moving camp.

15. Herder camp use will not exceed 5 days per location unless prior permission is obtained from a Forest officer.
16. Tying pack or saddle stock to trees at camp is prohibited. To keep pack and saddle stock at camp they must be high-lined, picketed or hobbled.

FIRE

17. Employees must be kept informed of the current fire danger and the permittee's fire prevention responsibility. The Forest Service will advise the permittee when special fire restrictions become effective.
18. Exhaust from camp stoves must be filtered through a spark arrestor screen with 3/8 inch (or smaller) mesh.
19. Never leave campfires unattended.
20. Possession of an adequate shovel and bucket is required to control campfires.

OTHER

21. **FP Standard:** Permittees are responsible for removing sheep caused debris on all roads and trails and for repairing tread surfaces along with cut and fill slopes to the condition prior to sheep arrival. Immediate action is required!
22. **FP Standard:** Only certified noxious weed-free feed is allowed on National Forest lands. Processed feeds such as alfalfa cubes and pellets are considered weed-free.
23. Promptly remove or bury sheep that have died within 100 yards or within view of administrative sites, system roads and trails, corrals, or sources of water. Notify the District Ranger if you want or need to request permission to deviate from this standard.
24. Contain or control guard dogs when other Forest users or their pets are nearby.
25. All predator control will be in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations.
26. Record and report grazing information according to this AOI and when requested by the District Ranger or his representative.

WOLF PRECAUTIONS

The Forest Service recommends that the following procedures be implemented:

- 1) Do not hang camp meat, keep it in containers.
- 2) Burn, bury, or pack out food leftovers, bones, garbage etc. including food not consumed by your dogs.

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending flocks, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to Steve Nadeau at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Headquarters Office in Boise, Idaho (208 334-3700); Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208 378-5077). Continue to work with your normal Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

Areas Closed To Grazing or Areas with Site-Specific Grazing Limitations including suggested corrective actions, are listed as items 1-9 below. Most of these areas can be referenced on the allotment maps we will supply.

1. The Salt Creek riparian area downstream of the sheep corral needs to be avoided.
2. The high elevation north slope snowbank areas above the main road located at the head of upper West Fork Salt Creek must be avoided. Only graze adjacent areas lightly and once-over. These areas will be marked on your map.