

**2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**PERMITTEE:** El Tejon Sheep Company

**PERMIT #:** 60119; expires 12/31/2020

**ALLOTMENT(s):** Jack Creek S&G, Snow Canyon S&G, Whiterock S&G, Blue Jacket S&G, East Blue Jacket S&G, Columbia Basin S&G, and Cobb Creek CU

The following are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Jack Creek S&G, Snow Canyon S&G, Whiterock S&G, Bluejacket S&G, Columbia Basin S&G, and Bluejacket S&G grazing allotment(s) as discussed on February 28, 2012. The permitted use stated in your Term Grazing Permit is listed below along with authorized use for the 2012 grazing season. The scheduled dates of use are flexible, but it is the permittees responsibility to notify the Forest Officer a minimum of five days prior to turnout, and a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made to the dates stated below. The District Ranger must approve any changes made in this planned use. Upon payment of fees, you are authorized to graze as follows:

**JACK CREEK S&G and SNOW CANYON S&G  
PERMITTED USE**

Allotment	Numbers/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Jack Creek S&G	1200 ewe/lamb*	7/1-9/30	3630 or 4537*
Snow Canyon S&G	1200 ewe/lamb*	6/10-9/30	4458 or 5573*

\*Each band of sheep will be limited to not more than 1200 ewes with lambs or 1500 dry sheep as per page 12, Part 3 of Term Grazing Permit.

**JACK CREEK S&G and SNOW CANYON S&G  
AUTHORIZED USE**

Allotment	Numbers/Class	Unit	Season of Use	Head Months
**Jack Creek S&G	900 e/l 1500 drys	Early Use Area #2	6/10-6/30	1361 (6/10-7/25)
		Jack Creek	7/1-9/30	3304 (7/26-9/30)
**Snow Canyon S&G	900 e/l 1500 drys	Early Use Area #1	6/16-6/30	1184 (6/10-7/25)
		Snow Canyon	7/1-9/30	3304 (7/26-9/30)

\*According to an Amendment to the Allotment Management Plan, the three early use areas are to be used in a rest rotation system. **Areas #1** and **#2** will be used this spring and **Area #3** will be rested. The rested unit will be used for holding bands late in the grazing season when the sheep come into the corrals for shipping. Actual turn on dates will depend on range readiness.

\*\***Note:** All lambs will ship approximately 7/25 and on approximately 7/26, 600 dry sheep will added to each band totaling 1500 drys for both bands from 7/26-9/30.

**COLUMBIA BASIN S&G, WHITEROCK S&G, BLUEJACKET S&G,  
EAST BLUEJACKET S&G, and COBB CREEK CU  
PERMITTED USE**

Allotment	Numbers/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Whiterock and Bluejacket S&G	1200 ewes/lambs or 1500 dry ewes	6/20-10/10	4458 or 5573
Columbia Basin & East Bluejacket S&G	1200 ewes/lambs or 1500 dry ewes	6/20-10/10	4458 or 5573
*Cobb Creek CU	*To be grazed in conjunction with Whiterock S&G, Blue Jacket, S&G, East Blue Jacket S&G, and Columbia Basin S&G as needed during the grazing season; not to exceed 1200 e/l or 1500 drys from 06/20 to 10/10.		



**COLUMBIA BASIN S&G, WHITEROCK S&G, BLUEJACKET S&G and  
EAST BLUEJACKET S&G TEMPORARY GRAZING  
AUTHORIZED USE**

<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Numbers/Class</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Season of Use</b>	<b>Head Months</b>
Columbia Basin & East Bluejacket S&G	1500 drys	n/a	6/15-10/5	5573
Whiterock and Bluejacket S&G	1500 drys	n/a	6/15-10/5	5573
*Cobb Creek CU	*To be grazed in conjunction with Whiterock S&G, Blue Jacket, S&G, East Blue Jacket S&G, and Columbia Basin S&G as needed during the grazing season; not to exceed 1200 e/l or 1500 drys from 06/20 to 10/10.			

Actual turn on dates will depend on range readiness.

**PERMITTED LIVESTOCK BRAND(s):**



**2012 ROTATION SCHEDULE:**

**Jack Creek S&G and Snow Canyon S&G grazing rotation:**

*\*No sheep or shepherd camps will be located anywhere in the reclaimed Big Springs mine area (south of Northfork road), including but not limited to the Sammy Creek dump. Shepherders will keep all sheep above the trail/driveway for the entire summer.*

- **Jack Creek S&G band rotation:** Sheep will graze upper/north corner of allotment after lambs are shipped around 7/25 to keep sheep out of North Fork drainage and to avoid conflicts with cattle operations in the Bull Run C&H allotment. This system was successful in the past and will be repeated in 2012.
- **Snow Canyon S&G band rotation:** Sheep will graze the southeast of Snow Canyon then the west side of the allotment to ship lambs on approximately 7/25, then after shipping sheep will graze to Marsh Creek at the north end of the allotment. This system will be implemented again for 2012.

*\*For both Jack Creek and Snow Canyon allotments, the possibility of implementing a deferred rotation system with clockwise/counterclockwise rotations will be investigated by field trips into the allotments and discussions between the Range Management Specialist and the El Tejon manager.*

**Columbia Basin S&G and East Bluejacket S&G grazing rotation:**

Columbia Basin S&G and East Bluejacket S&G will be grazed in a clockwise direction as one allotment from 6/15-10/5.

**Columbia Basin and East Bluejacket Band Rotation:** The grazing rotation will be in a clockwise direction. Sheep will enter the allotment and move up the East side and then to the top of Alder Gulch and up the West side of Columiba Creek and will then enter the Columbia Basin S&G Allotment.

Once sheep enter Columbia Basin, they will graze below the ridge of the Pennsylvania Hill area (\*avoiding the Lewis' Buckwheat site). Sheep will then graze across the tops of Hutch Creek, Timber Gulch, Alexander Creek, and Maggie Gulch. When up high near Pennsylvania Hill ridge, do not allow sheep or shepherder camps on the top of the ridge where a sensitive plant, Lewis' Buckwheat (see map) is located. *\*A sensitive plant, Lewis' buckwheat is located from the electronic site near Pennsylvania Hill east down the ridge in various areas. Sheep should not graze, be bedded, or trailed through these locations.*

**Whiterock S&G and Bluejacket S&G grazing rotation:**

Whiterock and Bluejacket S&G will be grazed in a clockwise direction as one allotment from 6/15-10/5. Sheep must be kept above the IL Ranch/Doby George private land.

**Whiterock S&G and Bluejacket S&G band rotation:** Turn on will be in the southeast corner of the allotment. Sheep may be trailed near the Forest boundary to reach this southeast corner if necessary. Grazing will be across the top half of Willard Canyon, Edgemont Canyon, Whiterock Canyon, Cottonwood Canyon, Storff Creek, and the South side of Silver Creek, then sheep will enter the Bluejacket S&G allotment.

Once sheep enter Bluejacket S&G, the sheep will graze down the west side of Blue Jacket Creek, then sheep will graze down Sheradin Gulch.

**Cobb Creek CU grazing rotation:** To be grazed in conjunction with Whiterock S&G, Blue Jacket, S&G, East Blue Jacket S&G, and Columbia Basin S&G as needed during the grazing season; not to exceed 1200 e/l or 1500 drys from 06/20 to 10/10.

Sheep will be grazed in a clockwise direction after being trailed to the Cobb Creek allotment. Turn out in the top of Banty Gulch, graze down the upper half of Banty Gulch, up the upper third of Lime Creek, down the upper third of Van Duzer Creek and up the upper half of Cobb Creek. Trail sheep off the allotment.

**COMPLIANCE:**

Upon signature, these Annual Operating Instructions supplement and are part of your Term Grazing Permit #60119 consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements. Please review your Term Grazing Permit prior to the 2012 grazing season and ask questions if any portion of these documents is unclear. Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some parts of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

Your compliance with this instruction is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and this instruction will result in permit action which can include suspension or cancellation of part or all of your Term Grazing Permit.

All livestock must be removed from National Forest system lands within 72 hours of notification and controlled to prevent re-entry.

**BILLING:**

Grazing fees for 2012 are \$.27 per head month and the unauthorized use fee is \$.45 per head month.

**DUE DATE:**

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder, the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting a minimum of 35 days prior to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

If you are required to delay turnout or leave the allotment early, you may request and be given credit against the next year’s bill for collection for the unused head months. Requests need to be received by the end of the current years grazing season. The permittee will not be eligible for a credit if credit applications and grazing use records are received after December 31.

Extensions of the authorized and paid for grazing season, if desired, must be requested at least 21 days in advance of the off date to allow time for inspection, billing and subsequent payment of additional grazing fees.

Livestock remaining on the National Forest System lands after the end of the authorized grazing season must be billed for at the unauthorized use rate, and may be cause for action to be taken against the grazing permit.

**LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT:**

Grazing System: Seasonlong

**STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:**

Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). Please review the following Utilization Standards table(s) obtained from your permit prior to turning out as the use level stated is the maximum utilization allowed for the planned season of use.

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your livestock to the next unit in your rotation or off the allotment when allowable use has been reached. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. If you need assistance determining use levels or identifying key areas, please do not hesitate to contact Annie Dixon.

**ALLOTMENT: JACK CREEK S&G**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Boyd Creek Chicken Creek E. Fork Mill Creek Mill Creek Dorsey Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III	Coffin Creek Schoonover Creek Springs & Seeps	Desirable grasses and sedges	55%
Uplands	All Units	Desirable grasses and forbs	60%
Upland Browse	All Units	Desirable Shrubs	50%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows/Shrubs	35%

**ALLOTMENT: SNOW CANYON S&G**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II Riparian	Snow Canyon Marsh Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III Riparian	Springs & Seeps	Desirable grasses and sedges	55%
Class IV Riparian	China Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	55%
Uplands	All Units	Desirable grasses and forbs	60%
Upland Browse	All Units	Desirable shrubs	50%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows/Shrubs	35%

**ALLOTMENT: COLUMBIA BASIN S&G**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class I	Columbia Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III	Banty Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class IV	Spring Creek Timber Gulch Hutch Creek Twin Creek Sheep Creek Deer Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class V	Alexander Creek Maggie Gulch	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, chokecherry, and bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

**ALLOTMENT: WHITEROCK S&G**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class III	Silver Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class IV	Storff Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class V	Cottonwood Creek Whiterock Canyon Echo Canyon Edgemont Canyon Willard Canyon	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and Bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

**ALLOTMENT: BLUEJACKET S&G**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Blue Jacket Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III	California Gulch	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class V	Sheridan Gulch	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and Bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

**ALLOTMENT: EAST BLUEJACKET S&G**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class I	Columbia Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class II	Blue Jacket Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Class III	Alder Gulch	Desirable Grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and Bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

**ALLOTMENT: COBB CREEK CU**

	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Lime Creek Van Duzer Creek Cobb Creek	Desirable grasses and sedges	35%
Uplands	All Units	Forbs	35%
Upland Browse	All Units	Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry, and Bitterbrush	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%

**RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:**

Range improvements listed in your permit must be maintained to the standards identified in part three of your Term Grazing Permit prior to livestock entering the allotment(s). Improvements used in common will be maintained before either permittee is scheduled to turn-on. If the allotment is in non-use status, the permittee is still responsible for assigned improvement maintenance.

Please be aware that it is necessary to plan projects with at least one-year lead-time to allow for the required documentation and clearances. Please work with the Rangeland Management Specialist to develop a schedule for large projects.

**PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Herder management practices:** The permittee is responsible to ensure the herders understand the standards, guidelines, and herding practices outlined in the grazing permit and the direction outlined in these instructions. All trailing will be within the approved season of use, be along varied routes, and kept to a minimum.

Graze the allotment using open herding in a once over pattern. Do not bed or noon sheep in aspen stands, or in the same place more than once during the grazing season. Do not bed or noon sheep within 100 yards from water or meadows. Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile from water, meadows, trails and roads used by the public.

Herder's camps must be kept clean at all times. All garbage and debris associated with managing your sheep on the National Forest must be removed. Dead sheep must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads and trails. If your herders spot a wild fire please report it to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Elko at (775) 748-4000.

**Salt and Supplement Placement:** Place salt or supplement at least ¼ mile from water sources and away from trailheads, roads, and key areas. Place salt in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. Salt will be removed from areas where maximum allowable use levels have

been reached or at the end of the grazing season. Salt fed in loose form shall be contained in an approved receptacle that will keep it from spilling onto the ground. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Forest Officer, salt or supplement shall be removed from a pasture when the livestock are removed.

**Noxious Weeds/Invasive Species:** By USDA order 04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw, or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as noxious weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of noxious weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as noxious weed free.

If livestock are being fed hay prior to coming on to the Forest, please see to it that they are fed weed free hay at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

Any equipment used in the transport of livestock, including horse trailers and stock trucks, should be washed before coming onto the allotment if they have been used in areas where noxious weeds are present.

Your assistance in locating noxious weed sites and reporting them to your Forest Officer is greatly appreciated. If you are able and willing to assist in treating noxious weeds, please work with your Forest Officer to determine how best to help.

**REQUIRED REPORTING:**

Enclosed is a Grazing Use Record for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the dates livestock spend on the allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs/maintenance costs, etc. The grazing use record should be submitted to the district office by December 31, 2012.

**NONUSE:**

As a reminder, requests for nonuse of term grazing permits for personal convenience must be made annually by the permittee in writing sufficiently in advance of the start of the permitted grazing season (normally 30 days). Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

As the term permit holder, you are responsible for the maintenance on all assigned improvements on your permitted allotments during the nonuse period.

**MAPS, FORMS, & ATTACHMENTS:**

You will find attached to your AOI a Grazing Use Record and we will provide you with an updated allotment map(s) as they become available.

**NOTICE:**

The permittee will provide the Mountain City Ranger District with notification of any changes or deviation he or she wishes to make in these Annual Operating Instructions. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of the allotment, we would like to hear from you. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions on the allotment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding management, please do not hesitate to contact Annie Dixon at (775)778-6166.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rangeland Management Specialist Date

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee Date

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Ranger Date

Enclosures: Grazing Use Record, Bill for Collection