Franklin Basin Sheep Allotment
Annual Operating Instructions
2012

I. Permitted Livestock:

	Permitted	Nonuse
Permittee: Burt and Michelle Kunzler	1200	0

Kind: Sheep
Class: Ewe/Lamb
Period of use: July 1 through September 30

II. Grazing Management:

As a reminder:

1. During the 2012 grazing season closely monitor upland and riparian utilization. Forage utilization standards must not be exceeded and sheep must be moved off the area and/or the allotment prior to exceeding utilization standards.
2. After weaning, ewes should not be allowed to stay close to the corrals as excessive trailing back and forth contributes to soil disturbance and excessive use of forage. Only one shipping corral will be used for both bands. A temporary corral can be set up at Young's old corral site. An additional site will be determined this summer.

Generally, loose herding and once-over grazing, alternating clock wise and counter clock wise directions on a yearly basis should be practiced. Utilization of the uplands following once over grazing practices should not exceed standards shown in Table 3 below. 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. Twice watering in Hillyard Drainage will be allowed.

Common use will continue between the Bear Lake Cattle Allotment, Franklin Basin Allotment and the Logan River Sheep Allotments. 100 to 150 pairs will travel into the Franklin Basin area approximately August 1. The cattlemen intend to gather small groups and bring them over Danish Pass or Corral Hollow. Cattle should not be "dropped in Corral Hollow", but continue to be trailed into the basin. Riding should keep cattle distributed and low in the canyons. The Franklin Basin sheep will graze on the ridge west of Egan Basin, the ridge to the northeast of the basin and then trail along the top of the basin into Snowslide Canyon and the North Fork of St. Charles. The sheep may water two days in Upper Egan Basin but must not bed by the ponds. Generally the sheep will graze the ridges. The sheep should not graze in Gibson Basin; however use is permitted around Hidden Lake. Some use may occur in the Sinks area, this area is less defined as it is steep, brushy and lacks water. Allotment utilization standards apply to these areas regardless of use by cattle, sheep or combination. Once standards are met then it is time to move.

III. Grazing Standards and Guides:

The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 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. Stubble heights on riparian areas will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (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

From the CNF Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (2005).

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 Grazing Implementation Guide dated 12/28/2005. 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.

Table 2: Franklin Basin S&G Riparian Forage Utilization Site-Specific Standards from the Grazing Implementation Guide

Stream	Rating	Forage Utilization Standard*
Franklin Basin	Functional-at-Risk	3”/4”/5” AIZ-Stubble Height
Hillyard Drainage	Functional-at-Risk	3”/4”/5” AIZ-Stubble Height

- The three categories refer to the time of season the livestock are in riparian areas (early/mid/late summer).

Table 3: Upland utilization Standards

Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area
	Non winter Range
Grass and Herbaceous Species (%dry weight)	55
Shrubs(%annual leader growth)	35

There is no designated winter range on the allotment.

The Revised Forest Plan (2003) has been implemented and the above forage utilization

standards will be adhered to. These standards are used to indicate when sheep should be moved to the next unit or removed from 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 production, 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, your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year's fee.

IV. Range Improvement Responsibility:
All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your allotments 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. Often late snowmelt prevents getting to the allotment by July 1st. Maintenance should be completed as soon thereafter.

V. Range Improvements Projects:
There are no scheduled improvement projects on the allotment for 2012. Any needed improvements, which in your judgment would improve management of the allotment, should be discussed with the Range Management Staff at the Montpelier Ranger District.

The tall forb restoration project continues on the allotment. The goal of the project is to establish native tall forbs in sites that are currently dominated by tarweed. This plot will be protected by a woven wire fence, which will be maintained by the Forest Service.

VI. Special Instructions:

- Please review the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- **Please inform the Montpelier Ranger District (208-847-0375), especially during entry date, of a convenient time and place to enable an accurate count of livestock to be made.**
- 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. Camps should be equipped with a shovel and axe for putting out campfires.
- Sheep will be trucked on and off the allotment.

VII. Wolf Status:
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.

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wolves/?getPage=167

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Idaho State Office - Toll-free at: 877-661-1908

To report suspected wolf depredations on livestock or pets, contact

USDA Wildlife Services: Toll-free at: 866-487-3297 or 208-378-5077

VIII. Special Instructions:

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 accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

- **Actual Use Forms must be returned by November 30th, 2012following the grazing season. Failure to do so may result in Permit Action.**

IX. 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. Failure to do so will result in a violation notice and/or permit action.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office	Cell
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-8935	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-4356 (208) 547-1108	(208) 313- 7328
Jane Rushane Range Specialist	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939	(208) 313- 5683

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Permittee(s) Date District Ranger Date