SLICKEAR-DEER S&G ALLOTMENT
2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Boise National Forest
Mountain Home Ranger District

INTRODUCTION

The following information is direction on how livestock management is to be conducted on the Slickear-Deer Sheep and Goat (S&G) Allotment for the 2012 grazing season. The Annual Operating Instructions (~~AOI) are part of your~~ Term grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a), and you are responsible for compliance with this direction.

Situations may develop during the grazing season that could require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Monte Miller at 373-4243 or Cindy Lancaster at 587-7961, and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from your AOI. Failure to obtain prior approval could result in permit action.

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Slickear-Deer Allotment:

Allotment Name	Permitted Number and Class	Permitted Season of Use
Slickear-Deer	1100 ewe/lamb	05/26-08/30
	5 horses	05/26-08/30

For the 2012 grazing season, you are authorized to graze the Slickear-Deer Allotment as follows:

Allotment Name	Authorized Number and Class	Authorized Season of Use
Slickear-Deer	1100 ewe/lamb	5/26-08/30
	5 horses	5/26-08/30

Some flexibility will be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. The period of use is also subject to compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and Implementation Monitoring requirements as discussed below. Please review carefully the standards and guides listed.

BILLING INFORMATION

The grazing fee for the 2012 grazing season is $0.27 per head month for sheep and $1.35 per head month for horses. You will be billed based on the authorized use listed above. Confirmation of payment through the National Finance Center is required and must be received before livestock can enter National Forest System (NFS) lands. In order to meet this requirement, please ensure that bills for collection are paid by the due date indicated.

If permitted livestock are required to leave an allotment early because utilization standards have been reached, drought conditions persist or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a

credit/refund may be requested. **This request must be submitted in writing to the District Ranger by December 1, 2012.**

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

The general routing patterns for this band is depicted on the attached map. The band will be routed along this general pattern, with specific direction outlined below. The shipping date listed is tentative and will be firmed up as the summer progresses.

Sheep will trail to the allotment from lands you control south of the Moores Flat Corral. The sheep will trail past the corral, cross Moores Creek and enter the Slickear/Deer Creek Allotment at the Lime Creek Sheep Bridge.

A routing pattern map depicting the general route that sheep are to follow is included as part of these instructions. This routing pattern is general in nature, but deviations from the defined route should be discussed with Monte or Cindy. As sheep trail to the upper end of the Slickear-Deer Allotment, care should be taken to avoid burned aspen stands with regenerating aspen less than four feet tall. Lambs will be shipped from the Deer Creek Corral on approximately August 16th. Special attention to routing should be given in the head of Big Deer Creek to avoid more than once-over grazing as sheep trail to and from the northern end of the allotment. To exit the allotment, the dry band will trail down the west side of Slickear Creek, avoiding burned areas, and will exit the allotment near the Lime Creek Sheep Bridge. Trailing time is part of your permitted use for the allotment.

You must notify the Forest Service no less than five (5) days prior to livestock being placed on the allotments so that authorized livestock numbers can be verified by district range staff if the Forest Service elects to do so.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES

Close monitoring of forage utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when utilization levels are reached is critical to ensure compliance with end-of-season utilization standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in the modification of grazing management, including reductions in Head Months or permitted area.

The following standards and guidelines apply to the Slickear-Deer Allotment:

- Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.
  - Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.
  - Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions or late season pastures – 50 percent use. (RAST01, p. III-45)
- All livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. (RAST09, p. III-45)
- Sheep will be salted only at bed grounds. Salt shall be placed in containers and moved with the sheep. (RAST04, p. III-45)
- Only one night/one time use of bed grounds is allowed. (RAST05, p. III-45)

- Only open or loose sheep herding will be practiced. (RAST06, p. III-45)
- Only annual once-over sheep grazing is allowed, with the exception of designated sheep driveways. (RAST07, p. III-45)
- Bedding of sheep in plantations where trees are less than four feet in height is prohibited. (RAST08, p. III-45)
- Sheep will be routed to avoid slopes with loose soil conditions, active gullies, and snow bank areas that have low productivity, soil puddling, and compaction conditions. (RAGU08, p. III-47)
- Sheep will be routed to avoid damage to designated National Forest System trails. The permittee shall take immediate action to repair from or mitigate any damage that occurs. (REGU22, p. III-66)
- No nooning, shading or bedding within 100 yards of all streams. After watering livestock, remove them from the riparian area.
- Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of designated campgrounds, trails, trailheads or designated roads.
- Graze rather than trail to water, and do not water at the same location more than once.
- Only certified weed free feed and mulch is allowed on National Forest System Lands.

IMPROVEMENTS

Your Term Grazing Permit contains a complete list of range improvements associated with the Slickear-Deer Allotment. Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on each allotment. Failure to do so is a violation of your term grazing permit and is subject to permit action. In the event improvements cannot be practically maintained to standard, you should notify this office so we can identify them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Authorization has been given by these Annual Operating Instructions for a small modification of the Deer Creek Corrals to improve the handling of livestock as long as it is confined to the existing boundaries of the corral.

Non-functioning range improvements need to be brought to standard, or arrangements made with district range personnel to have them removed. Abandonment of improvements is not acceptable – if developments are not functioning and are no longer needed, they must be removed. If they are in a location that does not allow for removal, these non-functioning improvements still need to allow for bird and small mammal escape. Metal troughs need to have holes cut in them large enough to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them or be tipped over so that they do not hold water. Tires also need to have holes cut in them, or be popped loose from their cement bottom and propped up slightly on edge, to allow birds and small mammals to escape from them. If none of these options are feasible, a wildlife escape ramp needs to be installed and maintained in the trough.

HERDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

There is a three-day limit for occupancy of each herder camp location. Ensure that camps are kept clean and moved frequently. Pack stock should be picketed, hobbled or highlined when at camp.

Designated roads and trails used for trailing of sheep and saddle stock must be cleared and restored to their original condition immediately after use.

The Forest Service recommends that the following procedures be implemented each grazing season:

1. Keep camp meat in coolers and not hung.
2. Burn, bury, or pack out food leftovers, bones, garbage etc. including food not consumed by dogs accompanying the herders.
3. Bury or remove sheep and saddle stock carcasses from the area where they will not serve as an attractant to predators.
4. Never leave campfires unattended. To meet Forest Service requirements, camp stoves must be fitted with a spark arrestor screen with 3/8 inch or smaller mesh. Employees must be kept informed of the current fire situation and the permittee's fire prevention responsibility. The Forest Service will advise the permittee when special fire restriction orders become effective.

Permittee monitoring of utilization levels is not mandatory, but is highly advised since permittees will be held accountable for any failures to meet end-of-season compliance monitoring.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Enclosed is a Year-end Grazing Report for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2012 grazing season for the Slickear-Deer Allotment. You need to record the date and number of sheep and horses turned onto the allotment, the number and date they are removed from the allotment, and estimate the time and cost of management actions, including livestock herding and improvement maintenance, associated with the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvements. **This report should be returned to the Forest Service's Mountain Home Ranger District office no later than December 1, 2012.**

INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING

Range personnel may require you to delay your entry date on the Slickear-Deer Allotment based on range readiness inspections that they have completed. You will be notified as soon as possible if your turn-on date is delayed.

Range personnel may conduct utilization monitoring and improvement inspections periodically on your allotments.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is responsible for wolf management in Idaho. The Regional Wildlife Wolf Biologist for the Fish and Game is Jennifer Struthers. Any questions you may have regarding wolf management should be directed to her. She can be reached at 208-465-8465.

If you suspect a wolf depredation has occurred on your livestock, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services) should be contacted as soon as possible. The local Wildlife Services contact for this area is Jered Hedelius. He can be reached at (208) 681-8756 or (208) 934-4354 (Central District Office). In the event that you cannot reach Jered, Todd Grimm should be contacted at 208-378-5077.

OTHER

When livestock carcasses are located near campgrounds, roads, trails or water reasonable and appropriate action must be taken to remove any carcasses. The permittee will contact the District Ranger or her representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate for each site specific instance. Although the Forest Service recognizes that disposal of carcasses is not always feasible in many situations there are a number of reasonable options available for the disposal of single or multiple carcasses. In most cases, carcasses should be moved at least 100 yards from campgrounds, roads, trails or water. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.

The Forest Service's Motor Vehicle Use Rule is in place on the Mountain Home Ranger District. Public motorized, wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated on the current year's Motorized Vehicle Use Map. This AOI authorizes you and your employees to use wheeled motor vehicles off of designated routes for administrative use within your allotments for livestock management purposes. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Use of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes is **not** included in this authorization. Use of heavy equipment will need to be requested through and approved by the District Ranger on a case-by-case basis.

Permittee	**Date**
District Ranger	**Date**