

**FEATHERVILLE, YUBA RIVER and CAYUSE CREEK
S&G ALLOTMENTS
AMENDED – 6/19/2012
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 Featherville, Yuba River and Cayuse Creek Sheep and Goat (S&G) Allotments for the 2012 grazing season. The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are part of your Term grazing Permits 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, district range staff, 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 your allotments:

Allotment Name	Permitted Number and Class	Permitted Season of Use
Featherville	2950 ewe/lamb	05/20-08/20
	3750 ewes	08/21-09/30
	5 horses	05/20-09/30
Yuba River	900 ewe/lamb	06/16-08/15
	1650 ewes	08/16-10/15
	7 horses	06/16-10/15
Cayuse Creek (temporary)	1000 ewe/lamb	06/07-06/25

The Featherville Allotment has a variable numbers and season permit, which permits a total of 7834 sheep Head Months (HMs) for the period of use.

For the 2012 grazing season, you are authorized to graze your allotments as outlined below. In addition, because your herders will spend most of the summer packing and not using camp wagons, you are authorized 5 head of horses per band this grazing season.

Allotment Name	Authorized Number and Class	Authorized Season of Use	
Featherville	800 ewe/lamb	06/05-08/23	
	750 ewes	08/24-09/01	
	5 horses	06/05-9/01	
	764 ewe/lamb	06/07-08/29	
	744 ewes	08/30-09/01	
	5 horses	06/07-09/01	
	1494 ewes	09/02-09/30	
	5 horses	09/02-09/30	
	Cayuse Creek (temporary)	550 ewe/lamb	06/07-06/28
		5 horses	06/07-06/28
Yuba River	550 ewe/lamb	07/04-08/04	
	5 horses	07/04-08/04	

In 2010, you were issued a Notice of Cancellation on the Featherville Allotment, permanently cancelling 20 percent of your permitted HMs due to repeated permit violations. In 2011 an additional 20 percent of your permitted HMs were cancelled due to repeated permit violations. This reduces your permitted HMs on the Featherville allotment to 7834. Your current authorized use is approximately 5933 HMs, or 76 percent of your permitted use on the Featherville allotment.

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 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 your bands are depicted on the attached maps. The bands will be routed along these general patterns, with specific direction outlined below. Deviations of more than ½ mile from either side of the defined route should be discussed

with Monte or Cindy. The shipping dates listed are tentative and will be firmed up as the summer progresses.

Band #7 will enter the Dog Creek pasture no sooner than June 5^{20th} in the Cannon Gulch area. This band will graze through Bird Gulch, Towne Creek and upper Tally Baker Creek areas toward the House Mountain allotment. Following the route depicted on the attached map the band will graze through the Myrtle Creek, Meadow Creek and No Name Creek areas arriving at the Burnt Creek Corral on approximately August 23. Lambs will be shipped at that time and approximately 50 head of ewes will be culled. Care should be taken to avoid the House Mountain Closure Area, as depicted on the routing map. Also, as delineated in the attached routing patterns, you are authorized to use a portion of the vacant House Mountain allotment this season with this band.

Once the lambs are shipped, the dry ewes will continue to graze in a northerly direction and will route around the west side of the Rainbow Basin (Trinity) Closure Area within the Smith Creek allotment. Boundaries of this closure area are depicted in the routing map. Sheep are to avoid the North Star Lakes for watering. The band will graze easterly and northerly to combine with Band #8 in the head of Lostman Creek within the Lostman pasture. As delineated in the attached routing patterns, you are also authorized to use this portion of the vacant Smith Creek allotment this season with this band.

Band #8 will trail to the Grouse Creek pasture no sooner than June 7 and will graze the Grouse Creek and Casey Gulch pastures for approximately four weeks. They will then graze to the Clarks Gulch area where they will enter the Bear Creek pasture. The band will graze the Cow Creek, Spring Creek, and Johnson Fork areas working their way to the Campo Creek and Whiskey Jack Creek areas toward the Trinity corral. The approximate shipping date for this band is August 29. Approximately 20 head of ewes will be culled at this time.

The dry band will then graze toward the head of Lostman Creek area where it will combine with Band #7. This dry band will then graze northerly and easterly through the Lostman drainage and back towards the Bear Creek, Horse Ranch Mountain, Wide West and Red Warrior areas where the band will exit the allotment north of Lincoln Creek, down FS road 156 to FS Hwy 61 to private land. Care should be taken to ensure that sheep do not cross bull trout streams (shown in red) of greater than 2 meters in width after August 15.

Band #9 will enter the Cayuse Creek allotment no sooner than June 7 from private fields in the Featherville area trailing up FS Hwy 61 and FS road 135 to the allotment boundary. This band will graze in a northeasterly direction for approximately 3 weeks utilizing the Cayuse Creek, Little Cayuse Creek and Three Forks Creek area as depicted on the attached routing map. Plantation locations in the Barker Fire area are depicted on the routing map for the Cayuse Creek allotment. Please ensure that sheep avoid these areas and are routed around these plantations. This band will exit the Cayuse allotment, Boise National Forest, at the boundary to the northeast in section 17. This band will enter the Sawtooth National Forest for a short time following the pack trail grazing northeast

along the top portion of West Fork Shake Creek, Shake Creek and Haypress Creek toward the southern boundary of the Yuba River allotment. Sheep will enter the Yuba River allotment, Boise National Forest, on the ridge between Haypress Creek and Trail Creek following the pack trail north down Trail Creek to section 22 and then graze easterly to the Grouse Creek drainage. The sheep will graze southeast up Grouse Creek following the pack trail to Senator Creek. The band will follow Senator Creek to the ridge and exit the Yuba River allotment, Boise National Forest, to enter the Sawtooth National Forest at the head of Heather Creek.

In 2010, you received a Notice of Non-compliance on the Featherville Allotment for salting within riparian areas and failure to follow routing patterns identified in the AOI (see Notice of Non-compliance dated 10/15/2010). Remedy for these violations include ensuring that salting of all bands occurs outside RCAs and in containers and routing patterns identified for all bands in your AOI. Failure to adhere to these instructions could result in additional action on your term grazing permit.

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 utilization levels and diligent removal of livestock when they 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 your allotments:

- 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.
- Livestock grazing in the Trinity Lakes Recreation Area and in the Rainbow Basin Lakes area is prohibited.

To protect critical bull trout habitat prior to August 15, herders and camp tenders should not modify woody vegetation within riparian habitats. This includes but is not limited to, chopping out willow, alder or other tree or shrub species growing on streambanks. Sheep should be crossed in areas that can be easily accessed and are clear of obstructions such as downed trees or large rotting logs.

After August 15, sheep should be herded well away from streams containing bull trout spawning and rearing habitat. These streams are identified in red on your routing pattern maps. These streams include all perennial portions of Wagontown Creek and Dog Creek. On the Featherville allotment, these streams include Feather River from Rocky Bar downstream, Trinity Creek, Rainbow Creek, West Parks Creek and Parks Creek downstream from their intersection with Forest System Road 183 (Wagontown Loop), East Fork and the main stem of Roaring River, the first one-half mile of Scotch Creek, Buck Creek and its unnamed tributary and Bald Mountain Creek and its unnamed tributary. On the Cayuse Creek allotment, these streams include the first three-quarter mile of Boiler Grade, Elk Creek and the East Fork Elk Creek.

The following proper use standards and guidelines, based on INFISH guidelines and consultation requirements for threatened bull trout and Canada lynx shall apply to the Featherville and Cayuse Creek allotments.

- Forage utilization of forbs and grasses will be limited to 30% or less. Utilization of woody species will be limited to 30% or less of available new growth. (Exceptions to these standards may be applied to site-specific vegetation management actions where sheep are used to control noxious weeds, provide site preparation for plantations, reduce brush competition in plantations, etc. when so designated by the District Ranger.)

IMPROVEMENTS

Your Term Grazing Permit contains a complete list of range improvements associated with the Featherville Allotment. Please note that all range improvements must be maintained to a proper functioning condition before livestock are placed on the 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.

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.

HERDER OR PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

There is a three day limit for herder camps. 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 your allotments. 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 any of your allotments 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.

A gate has been placed at the 183A/183A7 road junction, implementing a full-time road closure. You are authorized to use existing roads behind the locked gate for livestock management. A key can be picked up at the Mountain Home Ranger District Office to allow access behind the gate. The gate should be kept locked at all times and the key must be returned to the office prior to September 25.

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
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District Ranger	Date
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