

**Annual Operating Instructions
Sheep and Goat Allotments**

**For the
Teton Basin Ranger District
Idaho/Wyoming
Driggs, Idaho**

2013

**Caribou- Targhee National Forest
Intermountain Region**

**Annual Operating Instructions
Elk Flat S&G Allotment
J.C. Siddoway
2013**

PLEASE CONTACT US FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Permit Information

Permitted Livestock	Season of Use
1200 Ewes and Lambs / Elk Flat	6/26 – 9/25
5 head of horses	6/26 – 9/25
Authorized Livestock	Season of Use
1200 Ewes and Lambs / Elk Flat	6/26 – 9/25
5 head of horses	6/26 – 9/25

Rotation	Units
1 st Graze	Canyon
2 nd Graze	Elk Flat
3 rd Graze	Twin Creek
4 th Graze	Red mountain
Rest No grazing in Rx burn. Jay Pence	Red Mountain prescribed burn area The area South and East of Holter Creek

The Elk Flat Sheep and Goat Allotment is a newly formed allotment composed of five different allotments being combined; Red Mountain, Twin Creek, Horseshoe, Mahogany, and Canyon Allotments.

The Elk Flat band of sheep will continue to graze the allotment with a variable period of use system. The allotment consists of 36,399.4 acres (NRM Database) and is divided into four separate pastures. The sheep will begin grazing in Canyon Creek. Graze both forks of Canyon Creek and Calamity Creek before moving to Elk Flat. The sheep will then use the Twin Creek Unit. **No grazing is allowed below the private in holdings in the Horseshoe drainage due to an Aspen regeneration project.** Sheep seldom to never graze this portion of the allotment. Red Mountain Unit not in the prescribed burn area. Then take alternate route to Pine Pass and ship the lambs in the fall. Then trail ewes out designated routes to private fall pastures. All trail time must occur within your permitted season.

Sheep are no longer authorized to enter the Drake Creek Drainage as this is the Westside C&H Allotment.

The driveway crosses and borders most of the allotment. The resident herd is not to graze or camp along the driveway. Please, camp and bed off main trail.

The Forest Service is currently planning and conditioning the Red Mountain Pasture for a prescribed burn and is being rested south and east of Holter Creek. The Sheep driveway crosses much of the prescribe burn area, from Holter Creek to Piney Pass. This area is now closed to the

trailing of livestock on the Sheep Driveway. There is a section of land below the trail that could be used for trailing or an alternate route will be designated.

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is a yearly agreement that is part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, item 8 (a). It is a working document, and situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

GRAZING STANDARDS

The revised Targhee Forest Plan Standards are as follows:

1. Within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ):
 - a. At least four inches of stubble must remain along the hydric greenline (HGL) at the end of the grazing period. The HGL is the first permanent vegetation next to the water's edge.
 - b. Away from the HGL, at least three inches of stubble will be left on the key riparian species at the end of the grazing period.
2. No more than 30 percent use of the current year's growth is allowed on the woody riparian vegetation (i.e., willows)
3. Allowable use on grasses and forbs in the uplands is 45 percent (dry weight); on upland shrubs (i.e., mountain mahogany) it is 35 percent of the current year's growth.

Once these use rates are reached the sheep will have to be moved to the next unit or they may be required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season. As you know this can be a concern due to the possibility of a below normal moisture summer ahead. Please consider how you may be able to accommodate your livestock on alternate feed sources if they are required to leave the Forest Prior to the end of the grazing season.

OWNERSHIP

Sheep grazed under the Term Grazing Permit, must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Fences and water developments will be maintained prior to sheep entering the allotment. The sheep access trails that were constructed through thick stands of brush and trees should be maintained to ensure sheep may utilize available forage in the uplands to lessen the use in the riparian areas.

We would like to review the allotment with you this summer to assess the needs of range improvements and overall management of the allotment. The authorized officer will contact you with a meeting date.

