

2008 Annual Operating Instructions
 Lake Fork, Fall/Brush Creek
 and Victor Loon S&G Allotments
 McCall Ranger District
 Payette National Forest

These annual operating instructions are for implementing grazing management activities on the Lake Fork, Fall/ Brush Creek and Victor Loon S&G allotments for the 2008 grazing season. This plan was developed with participation of the livestock permittee on February 26, 2008. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock permittee who participated in development of this plan are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. Frank Shirts	Permittee
2. Shane Jeffries	McCall District Ranger
3. Rick Belnap	Idaho Dept. of Lands
4. Pete Grinde	Range Specialist
5. Brian McMorris	Range Specialist
6. Scott Corkill	Idaho Dept. of Lands

These instructions are a guideline for grazing management. Any changes in management from these instructions require approval by the Forest Service prior to implementation. Refer to Part 2 of your term grazing permit for general terms and conditions that apply to these operating instructions. Also included and incorporated with these Annual Operating Instructions are maps indicating areas opened and closed to grazing.

Grazing fees must be paid prior to livestock entering the National Forest. The New Meadows District Office must receive confirmation from Lockbox that payment has been made prior to sheep entering the Forest.

2008 AUTHORIZED USE

<u>PERMITTEE</u>	<u>ALLOTMENT</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
Frank Shirts	Fall/Brush Creek	800 ewe/lambs	7/1- 9/5
	Lake Fork	817 ewe/lambs	7/1- 9/5
	Victor Loon	1500 dry ewes	9/6- 10/10
		14 packstock	7/1- 9/5
		10 packstock	9/6-10/10

TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

The District Ranger may modify the season of use and livestock numbers permitted on any given year. The season of use is especially dependent upon weather conditions (annual precipitation) which influences annual forage production and range readiness. The District Ranger's authority to modify term grazing permitted use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (b)&(c) of your permit.

Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness. Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp, but not saturated, and should be firm to avoid excessive compaction due to livestock. Grass species must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and out of the boot stage. Range personnel will check for range readiness and contact Frank Shirts as to the date sheep may enter the Forest. All animals must be off the National Forest by October 10, 2008.

GRAZING PRESCRIPTION AND LIVESTOCK ROTATIONS

The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the resource needs of the soils and vegetation. Fisheries Biologists have completed a Biological Assessment on this grazing activity. The known or potential problem areas have been identified along with the respective mitigation measures designed to eliminate each adverse effect.

Resources to monitor

Responsibility

No sheep use in Secesh River drainage east of Ruby Creek.

District Range personnel and Permittee

High mountain lakes are closed to grazing and bedding.

District Range personnel and Permittee

Bull trout spawning beds. Use recreation trail creek crossings only on Loon Creek in the Victor Loon allotment.

District Range personnel and Permittee

Allowable Use Standards

The following allowable use criteria are to be followed for all grazing activities.

1. Sheep are to move to the next unit or leave the allotment after 30% use on suitable range is reached. This is equivalent to once over grazing by a band of sheep. When the permittee observes proper use standards being reached, the livestock will be moved to the next grazing area or off the Forest and the permittee will notify the Forest Service.
2. Sheep watering is limited to one time per location.
3. One night per bed site.

Salting Requirements

Salting is restricted to the following:

1. No less than .25 mile from water, and not to be placed in meadow bottoms
2. Only at bed grounds.
3. Contained and not placed directly on the ground.
4. Unconsumed salt will be removed from the site.

Other Management Requirements

If dipping of sheep becomes necessary, the permittee will contact the District Range personnel to determine an appropriate site. The permittee will implement a closed system and haul all effluent off National Forest System lands.

Sheep are not authorized to bed or salt on Forest Service trails.

Livestock Rotations

The rotation schedule and maps show an outline of grazing for the 2008 grazing season.

Fall/BrushCreek Allotment

Livestock will be trucked to State land adjacent to the allotment. After the sheep have grazed the State lands they will move onto National Forest System lands. They will enter the allotment on the northwest side near Brush Creek and graze south down the allotment. The band should finish grazing on the south end of the allotment just prior to shipping of the lambs at the Lake Fork Corrals.

Shipping of lambs will occur early September at the Lake Fork Corrals.

Lake Fork Allotment

Livestock will be trucked to either State land or directly onto the allotment by Little Payette Lake. The band will then start to graze up the East Fork of Lake Creek. They will move over the top by Snowslide Lake. The sheep will graze down slope and north, loop around the top of the allotment and graze south down the North Fork of Lake Fork Creek drainage. The sheep will need to avoid the trail directly under (just the section that is over 70% slope) the east side of Fall Creek Saddle with the band. This is because of concerns of soil erosion at this spot. They may use the area to the north or south of the trail. There should be no bedding in the meadow across from Slickrock.

Shipping of lambs will occur early September at the Lake Fork Corrals.

Victor Loon Allotment

The dry ewes will trail on the Lick Creek Road around Little Payette Lake, around the east side of Payette Lake to Warren Wagon Road. This trailing will be on both State and National Forest System lands. Once the band is north of Payette Lake, they will trail up Warren Wagon Road to the Hendricks and Trail Creek area. All of the plantations in this area are open for grazing, but it is important they are not bedded or salted in. The dry band of ewes with bucks will utilize the Hendricks Creek, Trail Creek, and Summit Creek drainages. Avoid bedding on the Trail Creek Trail. The band will be trucked off the allotment from the location near Squaw Meadows. They will be off the Forest by October 10, 2008.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained prior to turning livestock into the unit scheduled for use. If an existing range improvement has been properly maintained but requires reconstruction, a cooperative effort can be made between the Forest Service and permittee to reconstruct the development, depending on material availability. The Lake Fork shipping corral is the only improvement you are responsible for on the McCall allotments.

MONITORING OF THE ANNUAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACTIVITY

We are requesting you to report actual use information for each allotment grazed. If you have any questions about completing the form, please call the Range Department at the Forest Service at (208) 347-0300. We request the forms be returned no later than February 1, 2009

MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS

All plantation grazing must be coordinated with the Forest Service prior to grazing the plantations. The permittee is responsible for contacting the Forest Service prior to livestock accessing an area with plantations.

If there is damage to Forest System trails by the permittee's livestock the permittee will need to repair it or pay for it to be repaired.

Special Management

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, (Chinook salmon, Steelhead or Bull Trout), a change in authorized grazing activity will occur. If proper use grazing levels are reached then livestock are to be moved to the next grazing area or off of the allotment. If livestock grazing does not comply with the terms and conditions of these Annual Operating Instructions, then Forest Service policy and procedures regarding administrative permit actions will be followed.

We ask you or your employees to report the date, time, and location of each bighorn sheep seen to the New Meadows Ranger District immediately after the sighting.

You are responsible for ensuring that your herders are informed and understand the standards, guidelines, and other management direction in these instructions.

/s/ A. Shane Jeffries
Shane Jeffries
McCall District Ranger

2/28/2008
Date