

2008 Annual Operating Instructions  
 Grassy Mountain, Vance Creek, Hershey/Lava, Little French Creek,  
 Josephine, Twenty Mile, Cougar Creek, Slab Butte,  
 Brundage, Bill Hunt, and Jughandle  
 Sheep Allotments  
 McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts, Payette National Forest

These Annual Operating Instructions are for implementing grazing management activities on the above listed allotment(s) for the 2008 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittee on January 29, 2008. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock permittees who participated in development of this plan are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. <u>Phil Soulen</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
2. <u>Harry Soulen</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
3. <u>Cesar Allon</u>	<u>Permittees' Foreman</u>
4. <u>Rick Belnap</u>	<u>Idaho Dept. of Lands</u>
5. <u>Shane Jeffries</u>	<u>McCall District Ranger</u>
6. <u>Kimberly Brandel</u>	<u>New Meadows District Ranger</u>
7. <u>Pete Grinde</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>
8. <u>Brian McMorris</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>

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>Band</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
Grassy Mountain	950 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Clayburn	950 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Little French/ Hershey Lava	950 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Cougar Creek	950 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Josephine	950 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
So. Brundage/Slab Butte	950 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Twenty Mile	950 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Jughandle	2000 yearlings	7/10 - 10/15
Vance Creek	2100 dry ewes	9/22 - 10/15
Bill Hunt	2100 dry ewes	9/22 - 10/15
North Brundage	2100 dry ewes	9/22 - 10/15

Pack Stock  
Van Wyck Driveway

38 horses/ mules  
9,000 sheep for 2 days

7/10 – 10/15

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SEASON OF USE AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS**

The District Rangers’ 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) that influence annual forage production and range readiness. The District Rangers’ authority to modify term grazing permitted use is further described in Part 2, Section 8 (b)&(c) of your permit.

The turn-on 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 the permittee as to the date sheep may enter the Forest. All animals must be off the National Forest by October 15.

**GRAZING PRESCRIPTIONS AND LIVESTOCK ROTATIONS**

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

**Resource Concerns**

**Mitigation Measure**

Head of Bascom Canyon	Closed to bedding
Ridge above Morgan Lake and Coffee Cup Lake	Closed to bedding
Upper Hard Creek Meadow	Closed to trailing, grazing, and bedding
Lower Hard Creek Meadow	Rested every other year
Little French Creek Allotment	Open to limited grazing on east slope in the upper part of drainage (above designated stream crossing), and west slope in the lower part of the drainage (below designated stream crossing).
Ridge between Shaw Twin and Boulder Lake	Closed to bedding

West slope of Jughandle Mountain                      Closed to trailing, bedding, and grazing

Exclosure in Sater Meadows                              Closed to trailing, bedding, and grazing

**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 miles 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 and trailing for the 2008 grazing season.

**Grassy Mountain**

Following range readiness in Hidden Lake Basin, the band will access the allotment thru Bear Basin, Hartley Meadows, past Brundage Corral, up the Fisher Creek Road and west on the pack trail into Hidden Lake Basin on the Grassy Mountain allotment. The band will graze towards the Hard Creek Guard Station then west and across the Goose Lake road. They will use the country north of Grassy Twin Lakes and Coffee Cup Lake. They will continue west past Morgan Lake and into Lower Hard Creek. The sheep will then start moving east up the Hard Creek drainage to the Bascom Canyon drainage. They will graze this country in the uplands. They will loop south of Frog Lake and graze around Upper Hard Creek Meadow (Upper Hard Creek Meadow is closed to grazing). They will trail north on the main road to Saltbox Corral for shipping of lambs. You need to keep your sheep off the Grassy Twin Trail between Saltbox Corrals and

Grassy Twin Lakes. Upper Hard Creek Meadow adjacent to the Meadows Valley C&H allotment is closed to all sheep use.

The dry ewes from this band will be combined with those from the Little French/Hershey Lava band after shipping lambs. This dry band will utilize the Vance Creek allotment.

### **Little French/Hershey Lava**

Starting on 7/10 or at range readiness, the band will begin trailing to the Little French Creek Allotment. The band will access the allotment from the south (see trailing routes in following section). Grazing will begin in the Little French Creek allotment. Sheep will utilize the eastern slope down to the point the Forest System trail crosses Little French Creek. The sheep will cross Little French Creek at the designated livestock crossing. Once on the west side of Little French Creek, the sheep will utilize the western slope of the drainage. Watering sites will be out of tributaries flowing into Little French Creek, one time per location. After approximately two weeks of grazing, the band will begin grazing north on the east side (upper part of the ridge) of Lava ridge until reaching Cirque Basin. Once they reach Cirque Basin they will need to trail sheep until they pass Lava Butte Lakes and stay east of the trail to avoid the Lava Buttes Research Natural Area (RNA), which is closed to livestock grazing. Once north of Lava Butte Lakes the sheep will continue grazing north on the west side of the ridge to Hershey Point Lookout. They will loop around the lookout and graze south on the east side of the ridge until reaching Lava Butte Lakes where they will need to trail around the east side of the Lava Butte RNA to the higher plantations along the Elk Meadows road (make sure not to double graze areas grazed earlier). The portion of the Hershey Lava S&G Allotment that lies north of Hershey Point will not be grazed this year, which is similar to past years' use. They will need to make sure and stay out of Elk Meadows. The sheep will continue moving south past Kenneth Lake and then between Big Hazard Lake and Hazard Lake to the main road. Once on the road the sheep will trail to Saltbox Corral for shipping of the lambs. You will need to make sure that livestock do not use any areas that were used earlier in the grazing season. They will trail to Saltbox Corral to ship lambs. Dry ewes will be combined with the Grassy Mountain band and graze the Vance Creek allotment for the remainder of the season.

### **Clayburn**

This band will access the allotment from the Fisher Creek Road. They will then take the old pack trail going to Hidden Lake, and from there they will move north to the Hazard Lakes. The Hazard Lake Campground will need to be avoided. After grazing around Hazard Lakes the band will move north up the west side of the Clayburn drainage and east of the Warm Springs drainage. From there they will graze south down the east side of the Clayburn drainage to Saltbox Corral for shipping. Half of the band will stay and go into the Vance Creek dry band, and the other half will trail down to Sater Meadows to join the Bill Hunt dry band.

### **Vance Creek**

This dry band will graze from Saltbox Corral down the Vance Creek drainage. The Serene Lake basin is closed to grazing. After reaching the bottom of the Vance Creek drainage the band will trail back toward the Saltbox Corral on the road. They will then trail off the Forest via Hidden Lake, Fisher Creek Road, Hartley Meadows and thru Bear Basin.

### **Cougar Creek**

The band will access the allotment at the south end on the East Fork of Fisher Creek. The band will graze through the lower country south of Granite Lake first. This area dries out early and lack of water is a problem if used later in the year. After proper use of the lower county, the band will move northeast of Granite Lake and continue northeast through lower Deep Creek, Camp Creek, and Cougar Creek. The band will then loop back utilizing the upper portions of these drainages. The Horton Fire was in the Cougar, Deep Creek and Camp Creek Drainages. The sheep are allowed in the Horton Fire perimeter, but not allowed to graze/bed/salt in areas where the soil has been sterilized and there is no longer vegetation or very little vegetation because of the fire. The sheep will then trail to Sater Corral for shipping lambs.

The dry ewes will be combined with the dries from the Twenty Mile band and graze the Bill Hunt allotment.

### **Twenty Mile**

This band will trail to the Twenty Mile allotment through the Cougar Creek allotment (see trailing routes in following section). The band will begin grazing on the allotment in the Pearl Creek drainage. The sheep will graze to the top of the drainage, and then move into Outlet Creek. They will graze this drainage until proper use then move east and over the ridge into the Twenty Mile drainage. They will graze down this drainage. Once allowable use is met on grazed areas of the allotment, the band will follow the trailing route back to Granite Lake and Sater Corral for shipping of lambs.

The dry ewes will be combined with dries from the Cougar Creek band and graze the Bill Hunt allotment.

### **Josephine**

This band will access the allotment via the Granite Lake to Upper Payette Lake trail (see trailing routes in following section). Sheep will need to stay out of Upper Payette Lake Campground. They will trail up the Warren Wagon Road to Squaw Meadows and begin grazing in the Wilson Creek drainage. They will move north of Squaw Meadows and then up onto the ridge and into the head of Pond Creek and Cabin Creek. They will continue to graze north and top over the divide into the head of Josephine Creek drainage. Once the band reaches the Warren Wagon Road along Summit Creek, they will trail back on the road to Squaw Meadows in one day. They will then trail back to the Sater Corrals for shipping of the lambs.

The dry ewes will be combined with the dries from South Brundage/Slab Butte band and graze the North half of the Brundage Allotment.

### **South Brundage/Slab Butte**

The band will graze the south end of the Brundage allotment first. They will graze north to Spruce Spring then trail on the road to the north end of Brundage Reservoir. The Brundage Ski Area may be developing recreation trails on the east side of Brundage Mountain within the existing Special Use boundary. The west side of Brundage Mountain will need to be avoided with the band. The north half of the Brundage Allotment will be used by a dry band in the fall. The ewe/lamb band will graze north up Fisher Creek drainage on the east side. They will loop

back once they reach Fisher Creek Saddle and graze to the south on the west side of the drainage. Shipping will be at Sater Corrals.

The dry ewes will be combined with the dries from Josephine band and graze the North half of the Brundage Allotment.

### **Jughandle**

This band will enter the allotment from the north end, south of Shaw Twin Lakes. Bedding is not authorized on the slopes near Shaw Twin Lakes. The sheep will graze south and east around Boulder Lake. Watering is permitted out of Boulder Lake, but grazing, bedding, and salting is not authorized directly around the lake. Next they will utilize the country east of Boulder Lake and Rapid Creek. They will then graze to the head of North Fork Kennally Creek, then south past Green Mountain, and down the ridge on the west side of Powelson Creek. Once the sheep reach the Kennally Creek road they will graze towards Paddy flat, and off the allotment north thru State Land and west of Jughandle Mountain. The west slope of Jughandle Mountain is closed to all use. The band will be off the National Forest by 10/15.

### **Bill Hunt**

One of the dry ewe bands will graze this allotment from the north end to the south. The band will then trail off the Forest.

### **North Brundage/State Land**

The second dry ewe band will graze south from Sater Corral to utilize this allotment. The band will graze the north half of the allotment which the Slab Butte band did not use. The Brundage Ski Area will be developing recreation trails on the east side of Brundage Mountain within the existing Special Use boundary. This area will need to be avoided with the band unless otherwise notified. The band will then trail off the Forest.

### **Trailing Routes**

Sheep will be trailed on the Van Wyke Driveway and then onto the Forest thru Bear Basin. You are permitted to cross eight bands of sheep on the Van Wyke Driveway. Sheep are held in pastures on National Forest lands adjacent to Cascade Reservoir. Prior to use, the permittee will contact the Cascade Ranger District with the exact dates the trailing and pasture use will occur.

The Little French Creek/Hershey Lava band will trail from Bear Basin to the Fisher Creek road up to Fisher Creek Saddle and begin grazing in the Little French Creek allotment.

The Jughandle band will move from State Land to Forest Land near Shaw Twin Lakes.

The other bands will trail to their allotments via the designated trailing route north of the Little Ski Hill. This will give the bands access to Bear Basin. They will then trail towards Hartley Meadows, Sater Meadows, and Granite Lake. The Grassy Mountain, Clayburn and Hershey Lava bands will continue north on the Fisher Creek Road. The Josephine and 20-Mile band will trail down to the Warren Wagon Road south of the Upper Payette Lake. The Josephine band will trail around the east side of the lake on the Warren Wagon Road to the Squaw Meadows Road.

The 20-Mile band will trail down to the Warren Wagon Road to the Pearl Creek drainage to access the allotment.

### **MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

All range improvements must be maintained before 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

The Forest Service will work with the permittee to cut the Little French Creek Trail and Cougar Creek Trail out for livestock. The Little French Creek Trail needs cut out from Fisher Creek Saddle north to the first trail crossing on Little French Creek. The Cougar Creek Trail needs to be cut out from Upper Payette Lake to below Black Tip. This trail follows right along Cougar Creek. These trails need to be cut out before livestock are in the area.

The Forest Service will work on fixing the road into Saltbox Corral before shipping of the lambs. The part needing fixed is where the road meets the Hazard Lake road to the culvert.

### **MONITORING OF THE ANNUAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACTIVITY**

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

### **MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Upper Bear Timber Sale (north area of Paddy Flat) may work on roads and could start logging.
2. There could be road work and logging taking place around Paddy Flat for the Paddy Flat timber sale.
3. 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, 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 unit 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.

In addition to these instructions, the permittee has provided a letter (attached) identifying other management actions that will be implemented this year.

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 this plan.

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

2/8/08  
Date

/s/ Kimberly A. Brandel  
Approved by  
Kimberly A. Brandel  
New Meadows District Ranger

2/6/08  
Date