

2008 Annual Operating Instructions  
 Bear Pete, Marshall Mountain,  
 and French Creek S&G Allotments  
 McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts  
 Payette National Forest

These Annual Operating Instructions are for implementing grazing management activities on the above listed allotments for the 2008 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittee on January 23, 2008. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock permittees who participated in development of this plan are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. <u>Guy Carlson</u>	<u>Permittee</u>
2. <u>Shane Jeffries</u>	<u>McCall District Ranger</u>
3. <u>Kimberly Brandel</u>	<u>New Meadows District Ranger</u>
4. <u>Pete Grinde</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>
5. <u>Brian McMorris</u>	<u>Range Specialist</u>
6. <u>Dean Huibregtse</u>	<u>BLM – Cottonwood</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>ALLOTMENT</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
French Creek	Resource Protection Non Use	
Bear Pete	800 ewe/lamb	7/7 – 9/7
Marshall Mtn.	850 ewe/lamb	7/7 – 9/7
Marshall Mtn.	1500 dry ewes	9/8 – 10/7
Bear Pete	5 pack stock	7/7 – 9/7
Marshall Mtn. –BLM	850 ewe/lamb	7/5 – 8/4

## **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 influence 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 (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 the permittee as to the date sheep may enter the Forest. All animals must be off the National Forest by October 7.

## **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.

### **Allowable Use Standards**

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

1. Sheep are to move to the next area 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**

1. 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.
2. The Lake Creek meadows, lower Three Mile Creek, and Jeanette Creek areas are closed to grazing.
3. Sheep are not authorized to bed or salt on Forest Service trails.
4. 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.

## **2008 Livestock Rotations**

The rotation schedule and maps show an outline of grazing and trailing for the 2007 grazing season.

**French Creek Allotment:** Resource Protection Non-Use

**Bear Pete Allotment:** The sheep will enter the allotment on the Fingers Road. Once they enter the Forest the sheep will need to trail to Freight Landing. From Freight landing they will graze up to Toller Ditch staying south west of the road. They will graze up to Toller Ditch then west to the head of Fall Creek drainage. You will need to make sure that once on top the sheep do not trail or bed above the Bear Pete Trail. The sheep will continue to graze south to Nethker Creek Trail where they will graze down the drainage to Nethker Corrals for shipping.

**Marshall Mountain Allotment:** The ewe/lamb band will enter the allotment up the Fingers Road. Once they reach the Carey Dome/Corduoy Road they will begin grazing. They will graze up to Carey Dome and then to BLM land. After grazing the BLM the sheep will graze south to California Lake. From California Lake the sheep will graze to Cottontail Point. After grazing Cottontail Point the sheep will trail down Grouse Creek to Nethker Corrals for shipping. The Zena-Loon fire burned up Flat Creek and this area will need to be avoided this year. They will need to stay on the road when going through this area.

The Dry band will leave Nethker Corrals and trail down the Burgdorf Road to Willow Creek where they will begin grazing. From Willow Creek the sheep will graze north up to Sand Creek and Union Creek Drainages. After these areas are grazed the sheep will start trailing down the Carey Dome/Corduoy Road to the Burgdorf Road. From there they will trail to Toller Ditch and out the Fingers Road until off the Forest. You will need to make sure that the sheep do not re-graze areas previously used as they are moved off the Forest.

Sheep are only allowed to trail on and off Forest using the FSR #246 (Fingers road), and trailing time is limited to 2 days each for ingress to and egress from the allotments.

No livestock use is allowed in Fall Creek and East Fork Fall Creek drainages north of FSR #246 (Fingers road) and all of the Carey Creek drainage (trailing is allowed only on FSR #246). This is the area known as the Studebaker Saddle/Carey Creek area.

Nethker Corrals will be used for shipping approximately September 7.

All livestock will be off the National Forest by October 7, 2008.

### **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 improvement, depending on material availability. A temporary fence will need to be put up along Nethker Creek by the Nethker Corrals to help protect the streambank. This will be required for the period of time that livestock are in the area, including horses pastured in the area. This will be the permittee's responsibility.

### **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.

### **SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**

In the event a designated mitigation measure fails to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, (Chinook salmon, Steelhead and 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 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.

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