

2009 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 allotments for the 2009 grazing season. These instructions were developed with the participation of the livestock permittee on February 6, 2009. The interdisciplinary resource personnel and livestock permittees who participated in development of this plan are:

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

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 for 2009 are \$0.27/HM and 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.

2009 AUTHORIZED USE

<u>BANDS</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
Grassy Mountain	1000 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Clayburn	1000 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Little French/ Hershey Lava	1000 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Cougar Creek	1000 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Josephine	1000 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
So. Brundage/Slab Butte	1000 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Twenty Mile	1000 ewe/lamb	7/10 - 9/21
Jughandle	2250 yearlings	7/20 - 10/05
Vance Creek	2000 dry ewes	9/22 - 10/15
Bill Hunt	2450 dry ewes	9/22 - 10/15
North Brundage	2450 dry ewes	9/22 - 10/15
Pack Stock	38 horses/ mules	7/10 - 10/15
Van Wyck Driveway	10,000 sheep for 2 days	

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 that influence range readiness and annual forage production. 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 assessment with respect to grazing in these allotments. The known or potential problem areas have been identified below along with the respective mitigation measures designed to eliminate each potentially adverse effect.

<u>Resource Concerns</u>	<u>Mitigation Measure</u>
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
The Summit Creek Riparian area from the Summit Creek Road north	Closed to livestock (300 ft buffer from creek)

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 treatment for hoof rot 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.

Bedding or salting sheep is not authorized on Forest Service trails.

The permittee is responsible for ensuring there is no trash left behind when moving sheep camps. In addition, you are responsible to clean up the trash left at one of the herder camps on the Slab Butte Allotment in 2008, as soon as the area is snow-free this spring.

Livestock Rotations

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

Grassy Mountain

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. Lower Hard Creek Meadows and the Morgan Lake country will be rested this year. The band will graze the Hidden Lake basin then graze west and across the Goose Lake road. They will use the country south of Frog Lake, drop into the head of Bascom Canyon and graze the country in the uplands. They will loop north of Grassy Twin Lakes and graze over around Hard Creek Guard Station. They will trail back past Hidden Lake and down the Fisher

Creek Road for shipping of lambs approximately September 21 for shipping of the lambs at Sater Carral. You need to keep your sheep off the Grassy Twin Trail between Saltbox Corrals and Grassy Twin Lakes. Upper Hard Creek Meadows adjacent to the Meadows Valley C&H allotment is closed to all sheep use.

At shipping time this band will be split up and combined with North Brundage and Bill Hunt dry bands.

Little French Creek/Hershey Lava

The band will access the Little French Creek Allotment from the south (see trailing routes in following section) through Fisher Creek Saddle. Grazing will begin on the eastern slope of the Little French Creek drainage. 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 the higher plantations along the Elk Meadows road in a northern direction towards Lava Butte Lakes. Once they reach Cirque Basin the sheep will need to be trailed until they pass Lava Butte Lakes and stay east of the trail to avoid the Lava Butte Research Natural Area (RNA), which is closed to livestock grazing. Once north of Lava Butte Lakes the sheep will continue grazing north on the east side of the ridge to Hershey Point Lookout. They will loop around the lookout and graze south on the west 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 Cirque Basin. 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. Once past Cirque Basin the sheep will graze west of the Elk Meadows road until the sheep reach the "U" in the Elk Meadows road. 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 Lodgepole Corral to ship lambs approximately September 21. Dry ewes will be combined with the Grassy Mountain band and graze the Vance Creek allotment for the remainder of the season.

Clayburn

The band will access the Hershey Lava 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, 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 east side of the Clayburn drainage. From there they will graze south down the west side of the Clayburn drainage and the east side of the Warm Springs drainage to Lodgepole Corral for shipping approximately September 21.

Vance Creek

The dry band will begin grazing to the south up the Vance Creek drainage on approximately September 22. The Serene Lake basin is closed to grazing. The band will graze to the top of the

drainage and 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 country, the band will move northeast of Granite Lake and continue north through upper Deep Creek, Camp Creek, and Cougar Creek. The band will then loop back utilizing the lower portions of these drainages. The sheep are allowed in the Horton Fire perimeter, but not allowed to graze/bed/salt in areas where the fire intensity was high and the vegetation has not fully regenerated. The sheep will then be trailed to Sater Corral approximately September 21 for shipping lambs.

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

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 in the lower portion of the Outlet Creek drainage. The sheep will then move over to the 20 Mile Creek drainage and graze up it. Once they get to the top of the 20 Mile drainage the sheep will graze the top part of the Outlet Creek drainage. The sheep will then be moved over the ridge and graze the upper Pearl Creek drainage. Once allowable use is met on the grazed areas of the allotment, the sheep will be trailed back to Upper Payette Lake on the Warren Wagon Road and then follow the trailing route back to Granite Lake and Sater Corral for shipping of lambs approximately September 21.

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

Josephine

This band will access the allotment via the Granite Lake to Upper Payette Lake trail (see trailing routes in following section). The sheep will need to be kept out of Upper Payette Lake Campground. They will be trailed up the Warren Wagon Road to the Josephine Road. When the sheep are trailed north past Secesh Summit they are required to stay at least 300 feet from Summit Creek (if Warren Wagon Road is closer than 300 feet the sheep can be on the road). The band will access the allotment from either the ridge south of the Josephine Lake Road or directly up the Josephine Lake Road. The band will begin grazing in the Josephine Creek drainage, beginning approximately 0.25 miles west of the Warren Wagon Road, avoiding the lower end of the Josephine Creek drainage. They will graze up this drainage and over the top to the west and south into the head of Pond Creek. The band will then graze south into the Wilson Creek drainage. The band will then trail to Sater Corral for shipping of lambs, on approximately September 21, the same way they trailed in.

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 plans to develop recreation trails on the east side of Brundage Mountain within the existing Special Use boundary sometime in the future. This area is available for continued grazing until the planned work is initiated. The Forest Service will notify you when this happens. The north half of the Brundage Allotment will be used by a dry band in the fall and is to be avoided with the ewe/lamb band. The sheep will graze north up the Fisher Creek drainage on the west side. They will loop back once they reach Fisher Creek Saddle and graze south on the east side of the Fisher Creek drainage. Shipping will be at Sater Corrals approximately September 21.

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

Jughandle

This band will enter the allotment from the south end near Paddy Flat Guard Station. They will graze the Rapid River drainage north and then move to the top of the Kennally Creek drainage around Kennally Lake. They will continue to graze around Fogg Lake and move north around the east side of Boulder Lake and up towards Shaw Twin Lakes where the band will exit the allotment. Watering is permitted out of Boulder Lake, but grazing, bedding, and salting is not authorized directly around the lake. Bedding is not authorized on the slopes near Shaw Twin Lakes. The west slope of Jughandle Mountain is closed to trailing, bedding and grazing. The band will be off the National Forest by October 15.

Bill Hunt

One of the dry ewe bands will graze this allotment, beginning approximately September 22, from the north end to the south. The band will then trail off the Forest by October 15.

North Brundage/State Land

The second dry ewe band will graze south from Sater Corral to utilize this allotment, beginning approximately September 22. The band will graze the north half of the Brundage Allotment which the Slab Butte band did not use earlier. The Brundage Ski Area plans to develop recreation trails on the east side of Brundage Mountain within the existing Special Use boundary sometime in the future. This area is available for continued grazing until the planned work is initiated. The Forest Service will notify you when this happens. The band will then trail off the Forest by October 15.

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 (382-7400) with the exact dates the trailing and pasture use will occur.

The ewe/lamb bands will start entering the National Forest on or about July 10, or at range readiness. Trailing to individual allotments can take approximately 3-6 days, upon which grazing begins.

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 enter National Forest System lands near the Paddy Flat Guard Station, avoiding the west face of Jughandle Mountain.

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, avoiding Upper Payette Lake Campground. The Josephine band will trail around the east side of the lake on the Warren Wagon Road to the Josephine Lake Road, avoiding sheep entering Summit Creek. The 20-Mile band will trail on the Warren Wagon Road to the Outlet 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

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, 2010.

MULTIPLE USE REQUIREMENTS

1. Logging and pile burning activities may occur in the Paddy Flat and Bear Basin areas during the grazing season.
2. Prescribed fire activities may occur in the Hershey Point and Lava Ridge areas during the grazing season.
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 (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

In addition to these instructions, the permittee has provided a letter (attached dated April 10, 2007) 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/ Lisa J Klinger
Approved by
Lisa J. Klinger
McCall District Ranger

3/2/2009
Date

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

3/2/2009
Date

/s/ Harry C. Soulen
Soulen Livestock Company
Permittee

3/15/2009
Date