

2008 Annual Operating Instructions

Fish Creek, Hurst Canyon, and Trail Creek S&G Allotments

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Fish Creek, Hurst Canyon, and Trail Creek S&G allotments. We are including a signature page at the end of each AOI which we are requesting permittees sign and return to the district. This signature page also includes the signatures of the district ranger and current range management specialist overseeing the allotment. We believe that this process better represents the cooperative nature of managing these areas and indicates an understanding of the information in this document as well as the information in your term grazing permit(s).

Please review your Term Grazing Permit for grazing utilization, range improvement maintenance, and salting standards. Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with the permittees to address range condition situations that may occur due to weather related circumstances.

Permitted Sheep Authorized on Fish Creek Allotment

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Head Months</u>	<u>Season</u>
Lava Lake Land & Livestock	1000	3156	06/16 - 09/19

<u>Strategy of Use:</u>	<u>Dates</u>
850 ewes/lambs	06/26 - 07/15

Permitted Sheep Authorized on Trail Creek Allotment

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Head Months</u>	<u>Season</u>
Lava Lake Land & Livestock	948	2525	07/01 - 09/19

<u>Strategy of Use:</u>	<u>Dates</u>
782 ewes/ lambs	07/01 - 07/21
1200 mature sheep	08/04 - 08/09
1200 mature sheep	09/06 - 09/10

Permitted Sheep Authorized on Hurst Canyon

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Head Months</u>	<u>Season</u>
Lava Lake Land & Livestock	1152	2916	07/01 - 09/15
James Cenarrusa	850	1458	07/12 - 09/01

<u>Strategy of Use:</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Lava Lake: 1200 mature sheep	08/10 - 09/05
James Cenarrusa: 850 ewes/lambs	07/12 - 09/01

Allowable Use: End of season 4-inch stubble height on hydric sedges & grasses is required along the greenline of riparian areas. Upland grass utilization should not exceed 50% of current annual production at end of season. A patchy or uneven use pattern along the greenline will usually result in stubble height standard being met.

While adequate regrowth may occur under average growing season conditions, the opposite may be true during below average conditions. Special attention should be made to drier weather conditions. It is recommended a stubble height trigger above 4 inches be used in drier conditions to plan sheep moves. Allowable use on shrubs is 50% of available new leader growth.

Bed sheep only one night per bed ground, and move salt locations each year to avoid creating a permanent salt lick in any one location. Once the allowable use standard in any particular area is reached all your sheep must be moved to the next area of the allotment. Sheep are allowed to graze one time once-over-lightly. Once allowable use is achieved in key areas sheep must be moved regardless of how much feed is left. Sheep use on ranges already grazed is not authorized. When proper use in the last area scheduled for use is achieved, sheep must be removed from the allotment.

Riparian areas with greenlines dominated by Kentucky bluegrass and tufted hairgrass should also receive special attention to achieve end of season stubble height. Greenlines dominated by these plants have less bank stability than greenlines dominated by deep-rooted plants. Greenlines dominated by these plants may be in a lower state of ecological condition and should be managed to increase the amount of stable hydric sedges, grasses, and shrubs where appropriate.

Other factors should be considered for planning sheep moves between areas. These include upland erosion in the form of rills and gullies, bedding ground trampling, and excessive “shading” in aspen clones. Please be mindful of these and other ecological concerns when using the forest and keep sheep moving accordingly.

Trailing

When trailing to your allotment call the Forest Service Range staff and let them know when you start and when you are finished trailing. When trailing through other allotments do it in a timely manner of 1-2 days.

INFISH Grazing Module Implementation: Key areas are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit. Key area monitoring establishes a record of utilization trend, a location for observation to plan sheep moves, a location to record whether end of season stubble height standards are met, a location to evaluate whether management impacts are effective or need to be modified.

Cleaning Grazing Units: Livestock need to begin moving from a unit prior to the stubble height standard being met to ensure allowable use standards are met. This is especially important during drought conditions. In most cases 7 days should be adequate. Permittees should be prepared to assist herders in checking that the unit cleaned stays clean. Herders should keep permittees informed of problems regarding lost or separated sheep.

Fence & Water Improvements: Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be checked prior to sheep entering the allotment, interior fences should be checked at this time or before sheep enter a new unit. Existing improvements should be

maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

Weed Free Hay: In accordance with State Law, please ensure that range riders bring hay that is certified and tagged noxious weed free.

Response to Predators: We have enclosed an attachment of questions and answers provided by Idaho Fish & Game for your information. This attachment outlines information you will need in the event that you have predator issues on your allotment. If you have any questions regarding this information, you are encouraged to contact Idaho Fish & Game.

Actual Use Report: An Actual Use Report will be mailed to you shortly before sheep leave the allotment. This form is to be completed and returned to the Lost River Ranger District two weeks after you have removed livestock from your allotment. Each permittee will need to provide an individual report with dates when their sheep entered and left the allotment.

This information is used for the purpose of evaluating and analyzing: grazing allotment and grazing unit use, compliance with annual operating instructions, and planning next season's grazing management strategy

Applications for refunds/credits for unused portions of your allotment must be requested and filed separately. Please contact our office if you need an application for refund/credit.

Questions and assistance regarding these instructions should be directed to Jessica Dhaemers at (208)588-3414.

Fish Creek, Hurst Canyon, and Trail Creek S&G Allotments 2008 Annual Operating Instructions

Salmon-Challis National Forest
Lost River Ranger District
PO Box 507
Mackay, Idaho

Approved By: /s/ Carmela Leavitt for: 5/13/2008
Diane L. Weaver Date
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ Jessica M. Dhaemers 5/13/2008
Jessica M. Dhaemers Date
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: _____
Mike Stevens Date
Manager, Lava Lake Land and Livestock, LLC.

Accepted By: /s/ James Cenarrusa 5/19/2008
James Cenarrusa Date
Permittee

Please sign and return this page to the above address.