

File Code: 2230
Date: April 1, 2019

Dear Permittee:

On March 25, 2019, Andy and Kendell met with you to discuss the 2019 Annual Operating Instructions for the Heber-Reno Sheep Driveway and the Long Tom Allotment. You indicated that you are going to use the driveway this year for coming up, but would likely not use it on the way back down. The instructions from each of the districts on the Tonto are included as part of this AOI. You are planning on using the driveway with both bands of sheep with the following entry dates for each District:

Ranger District	Entry dates
Mesa	May 1, 2019
Tonto Basin	May 12, 2019
Pleasant Valley	May 22, 2019

Below describes the Annual Instructions provided by each district that the Heber-Reno Driveway crosses. These instructions are to be followed in accordance with each district:

Mesa Ranger District

The permittee is responsible for having their employees follow the stated instructions in the AOI and/or any other additional instructions from Forest Officers concerning use of the driveway. Failure to comply with these instructions will constitute a violation of the Term Grazing Permit and will be dealt with through the administrative process. Please contact District Range Staff Jamie Wages at (480) 291-4500 before coming on the Forest.

- The permittee will notify the District of the intended trailing route, overnight stops, bedding grounds, and when they come onto the District. Contingency routes and alternate bedding grounds will be identified. This information will be recorded on driveway maps in coordination with District personnel.
- The permittee and their herders are required to provide the Forest Service with prompt (within 24 hours) notification of interaction between wild sheep and domestic sheep. Your contact will be Wildlife Biologist Kelly Kessler; (cell) 480.204.0897, (wk) 480.610.3305.
- Sheep will be counted at designated locations along the driveway. Strays will be reported, gathered, and removed from the District within five days.
- Sheep bands will maintain progress on a direct travel route. Herding techniques that promote the movement of sheep steadily in one direction will be used. The permittee will



not add stops or camps for the purpose of securing additional forage or period of use on the driveway.

- Herders will confine sheep to the driveway at all times and keep them in a herd not more than one-quarter mile wide while trailing.
- Permittee is required to provide for public safety while trailing the sheep on/across established roads.
- Sheep will be kept out of all riparian areas except when crossing and watering. Herders will avoid allowing sheep to parallel streams to keep them off of the banks. Crossings will be made perpendicular to the stream channel.
- Herders will not bathe themselves or wash their clothes directly in streams.
- Herder camps will be maintained free of trash, and trash will be packed out when camp is moved. All fires, if permitted, will be extinguished prior to leaving camp.
- Supplemental *certified weed-free* hay may be hauled as a main source of feed at each bedding ground. It may also be necessary to haul water to various locations. If watering troughs need to be used, locations of the troughs must receive prior approval by the District range personnel.
- Fences that are cut or wire that is pulled up to access the trailing routes will be repaired immediately in a manner to prevent access by other grazing animals. Repaired fences will be restored to the previous wire spacing within five days. All gates opened to allow passage would be closed once the sheep are through. If a fence is lifted for the sheep bands to pass under, the herders will put the fence back after each passing
- Range improvements will be in working order prior to sheep arriving at their locations.
- Forage use/utilization levels should not exceed 40 percent on herbaceous perennial vegetation.
- The length of time on the District shall not exceed 12 days per herd.
- Sheep will be kept overnight at Bushnell tanks while on the Diamond grazing allotment. The two new water improvements located south of Bushnell will be avoided
- To avoid possible contact with bighorn sheep, domesticated sheep will not bed down or be held over within know bighorn sheep habitat.
- To avoid possible contact with bighorn sheep, domesticated sheep using the driveway will trail along the western portion of the driveway between Usery Pass and the Blue Point bridge on the Salt River.

Tonto Basin Ranger District

- a. The length of time on the District shall not exceed a total of 10 days.
- b. Use levels should not exceed 40% on herbaceous
- c. The following is a list of bedding grounds that are to be used on the Tonto Basin Ranger District portion of the driveway:
 - ✓ Reno Pass
 - ✓ West side of Tonto Creek (no loafing in Tonto Creek Riparian Unit)
 - ✓ Breached tank on top of mountain
- d. All sheep that are left behind shall be gathered and removed from the District within 5 days. The permittee will notify the District when removal has been accomplished.
- e. Supplemental weed-free feed may be hauled as the main source of feed at each bedding ground. It may also be necessary to haul water to various locations.
- f. Herders will use the same bedding ground for each herd.
- g. Each herder camp that is used in association with each bedding ground will only be used for two nights (one night to accommodate each herd).
- h. All camps will be cleaned up prior to moving to the next camp.
- i. Sheep will be kept in a herd not more than ¼ mile wide.
- j. Sheep must be kept out of all riparian areas except for crossing and watering.
- k. Sheep are not to be trailed along the length of riparian areas.
- l. Fences that are cut or wire that is pulled up to access the trailing route will be repaired or restored to its previous wire spacing within 5 days.
- m. All gates opened to allow passage would be closed once the sheep are through.

Please contact Eric Hoskins, Range Staff Officer for the Tonto Basin Ranger District, at (602) 225-5332 two weeks prior to the entry onto the District.

Pleasant Valley Ranger District

1. Maximum amount of time on the District is 10 days.
2. The main use areas will be Mailbox Mesa, Cline Mesa, Bar X country north of Walnut Creek and McInturf.
3. There will be no bed grounds on the Potato Butte allotment.
4. There will be no bed ground within the fenced wildlife plot at Clay Spring in Naeglin Canyon
5. If multiple bands will be move across the district then each band must be a minimum of 1 day apart
6. Sheep will need to be bedded at least ¼ mile from water.
7. No bed ground will be used more than once.
8. Utilization levels should not be allowed to exceed 40% on herbaceous vegetation.
9. If fire restrictions are in effect on the Pleasant Valley district at the time of your crossing, then they will apply to your use of the driveway
10. All gates will be left closed behind each band, and any fences modified by your herders must be repaired immediately.
11. Contact must be made with District Range Staff Jeff Sturla at 928-474-7908, at least 1 week prior to your entry onto the Pleasant Valley Ranger District portion of the driveway
12. These instructions will apply to your travel across the Pleasant Valley district both going to the north and returning to the south.

Black Mesa Ranger District

Once the sheep from the driveway arrive on the Long Tom Allotment, the following rotation will be used for each band:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number of Sheep</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<i>Band 1</i>		
South 8	1950 Head	June 1 to June 10
South 9	1950 Head	June 11 to June 30
South 6	1950 Head	July 1 to July 21
South 7	1950 Head	July 22 to August 10
South 5	1950 Head	August 11 to August 31
South 4	1950 Head	September 1 to September 15
<i>Band 2</i>		
South 2	1950 Head	June 1 to June 9
South 3	1950 Head	June 10 to June 20
North 2	1950 Head	June 20 to July 11
North 3	1950 Head	July 12 to July 31
North 4	1950 Head	August 1 to August 15
North 5	1950 Head	August 16 to August 31
North 6	1950 Head	September 1 to September 15

The unit rotation and dates may vary depending on several factors, including weather and forage conditions. A map of the unit locations is attached. Please use different bed ground locations this season and locate them on upland areas and at least ¼ mile from water. Grazing or bedding shall not occur within riparian areas or meadows such as Long Tom Draw (except to access private land), Jacob Lake, Lakes 1, 2, and 3, Horse Trap Lake, Sandy Lake, Pinto Lake, and Hidden Lake. The desired utilization level on key species is 30%.

This letter will serve as your 2019 Annual Operating Instructions for the Heber-Reno Driveway and the Long Tom Allotment. If you have any questions contact Kendell or Andy at (928) 535-7300. For driveway related questions, please contact the individuals for each district using the contact information provided in this AOI.

Sincerely,



RICHARD D. MADRILL District Ranger

cc: Jamie Wages, Eric Hoskins, Jeff Sturla

Long Tom Allotment

Black Mesa R.D.
Apache-Sitgreaves N.F.s
Band / Band Units

* Disclaimer Statement *

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Map created 3/13/2009 by sh

