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Department of  
Agriculture



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## *Caribou-Targhee National Forest*

### **NEWS**

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#### **Caribou-Targhee National Forest Announces Sheep Grazing Allotment Changes**

**Idaho Falls, Idaho.** Recently, with assistance from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and support from the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (C-T), Todd Mickelsen from Blackfoot, Idaho acquired grazing permits on the Palisades Ranger District, on the Targhee portion of the C-T National Forest.

In turn, Mr. Mickelsen vacated three allotments in the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District. Through this action the three grazing allotments will be retired from the forest grazing system. The vacated allotments represent progress toward a goal in the 1997 Revised Forest Plan for the Targhee National Forest to phase out domestic sheep grazing on an opportunity basis within grizzly bear habitat in the Centennial Mountains Subsection.

Mr. Mickelsen grazed the Carrot Canyon/Taylor Creek, Snyder Creek and West Lake Sheep and Goat (S&G) Allotments near Island Park for the past two seasons. These allotments provided summer range for 2,200 head of sheep from mid July to the end of August.

Mickelsen acquired the Mahogany and Point Lookout S&G Allotments on the Palisades Ranger District. These allotments each provide grazing for 1,000 head annually from mid-June to the end of August.

According to Mickelson, "This is a fair deal that allows me to secure better grazing for my sheep in a location that doesn't have all the predator problems. These groups understood my needs and did their best to meet them."

NWF provided Mickelson with an incentive payment for retiring the three allotments. In turn, Mickelson waived his grazing permit back to the Forest Service without preference. In accordance with existing forest plan direction encouraging closure of domestic sheep allotments in important bear habitat, Forest Supervisor Jerry Reese signed a letter closing the allotment.

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According to NWF spokesman Hank Fischer, “This is a practical, long-term solution to a recurrent problem. We’re pleased to resolve the conflict because Island Park is an extremely important corridor for wildlife traveling between Yellowstone Park and the Centennial Mountains.”

“We appreciate this practical approach that benefits all parties involved,” stated Jerry Reese, Forest Supervisor for the C-T National Forest. “This agreement will continue to promote grizzly bear and wildlife conservation while allowing livestock producers to use natural resources from the National Forest.”

Founded in 1936, National Wildlife Federation is the nation's largest and oldest protector of wildlife. With more than four million members and supporters, NWF is committed to educating and empowering people from all walks of life to protect wildlife and habitat for future generations. In order to achieve its mission, NWF provides individuals, organizations, businesses and government with accessible, hands-on conservation education and action opportunities, leadership training and development, educational curriculum, information outreach and networking opportunities.