

**File Code:** 1950/2200

**Date:** March 30, 2009

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District proposes to reauthorize grazing on 5 livestock allotments and 6 recreational livestock allotments on the Ashley National Forest. The District will review the existing environmental documentation for the allotments listed below, according to the Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 Chapter 10 section 18. The District will also review how grazing on the proposed allotments will effect historic and prehistoric resources on Forest lands in accordance with the process specified in 36 CFR 800. The environmental documents and decisions allowing implementation of the allotments listed in the table below are scheduled for review.

<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Suitable Grazing Acres</b>	<b>Livestock Number-Class</b>	<b>Grazing Season</b>	<b>Grazing System</b>
Fall Creek <sup>1,2</sup>	16,176	4,650	1,100 - ewe/lamb	July 1 – Sept. 3	Deferred Rotation
Painter Basin <sup>2</sup>	14,495	5,553	1,200 - ewe/lamb <sup>3</sup>	July 15 – Sept. 10	Deferred Rotation
Tungsten <sup>2</sup>	16,963	7,074	1,200 - ewe/lamb <sup>3</sup>	July 15 – Sept. 10	Deferred Rotation
Oweep	16,632	7,099	1,400 - ewe/lamb	July 15 – Sept. 10	Deferred Rotation
Ottoson	13,158	5,006	1,200 - ewe/lamb <sup>3</sup>	July 15 – Sept. 10	Deferred Rotation
Five Point Recreation Livestock	17,472	752	Recreational Livestock	Open Season	Horse Recreation
Uinta Recreation Livestock	70,728	9,114	Recreational Livestock	Open Season	Horse Recreation
East Basin Recreation Livestock	4,163	255	Recreational Livestock	Open Season	Horse Recreation
Granddaddy Basin	19,982	1,469	Recreational Livestock	Open Season	Horse Recreation
Squaw Basin	9,921	2,054	Recreational Livestock	Open Season	Horse Recreation
Shale Creek	7,451	100	Recreational Livestock	Open Season	Horse Recreation

<sup>1</sup> Fall Creek allotment is currently vacant.

<sup>2</sup> The allotment was included in a categorical exclusion decision memo which was signed by the Roosevelt-Duchesne Acting District Ranger in 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Permittee may run 1,200 ewe-lambs or 1,500 drys.


As a part of reauthorizing livestock grazing, the review process would formally incorporate an adaptive management strategy. The strategy was developed by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists and is a planning and monitoring process that identifies desired resource conditions and establishes benchmarks and management standards that would maintain or move toward desired condition on 207,141 acres. The benchmarks identified below will form a basis for monitoring - to compare the allotment conditions with the specified benchmark. These would be incorporated within existing livestock grazing permits and/or revised Allotment Management Plans and would compliment existing Forest-wide standards and guidelines currently found therein.

- Total ground cover equal to or greater than 85% of potential for all plant communities grazed by livestock.
- Plant communities dominated by native species and selected non-native species of moderate to high value for watershed protection (or erosion control). Dominance includes greater cover, greater frequency, and/or greater abundance of moderate and high value plants than low value plants. Selected non-native species are those included in plantings in the past based on their erosion control and other desired values. This includes both woody and herbaceous species. Documentation associated with photography and other notes as well as measurements from studies are sources for determination of dominance.
- Implement grazing management practices that would not cause exceedences in state water quality standards.

The District will determine if reauthorization of the allotments will affect historic and prehistoric resources by identifying cultural resources within each allotment and finding ways to avoid, minimize, or resolve the adverse effects. The district will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Ute Indian Tribe concerning the treatment of historic and prehistoric resources. The public is also invited to provide input regarding the identification and treatment of historic and prehistoric resources in the proposed allotments during this review.

If, after an interdisciplinary review and consideration of new information within the context of the overall program, the District Ranger determines that a correction, supplement, or revision to an environmental document is not necessary, implementation of the livestock allotments would continue. However, if the District Ranger determines that a correction, supplement, or revision to an environmental document is necessary, a new decision based on supplemented or revised environmental documents will be made and will be consistent with the scope of a new environmental analysis.

In making the decision, the Forest Plan and other relevant direction, available scientific and other technical information, new information or issues raised by resource specialists, public scoping input, and public comments on the proposed action, environmental effects, and other relevant information will be considered. I will decide whether or not to continue with the current implementation or proceed with new decision based on supplemented or revised environmental documents.

The public is invited to offer comment at this time. Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the

public record for this project. Send your written comments to: John R. Kirkaldie, District Ranger, Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District, at 85 W. Main, P.O. Box 981, Duchesne, Utah 84021. Comments may also be hand delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays; or submitted electronically to [comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us). It would be most useful for the Forest to receive your electronic comments in MS Word (\*.doc) or rich text format (\*.rtf) and to receive the comments by May 4, 2009.

For further information concerning this proposal, please contact Amber Helmus at the Duchesne Ranger District, 85 W. Main, P.O. Box 981, Duchesne, Utah 84021, by phone at (435) 781-5205, or by e-mail at [ahelmus@fs.fed.us](mailto:ahelmus@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

/s/ John R. Kirkaldie

JOHN (JR) KIRKALDIE  
Responsible Official  
Roosevelt-Duchesne District Ranger

ENCLOSURES