

**ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
Duchesne Ranger District
Rock Creek Cattle Allotment
2007 Annual Operating Instructions**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Season</u>
Ron Miles	90	June 9 to October 12
Gardner Family Trust	<u>80</u>	June 9 to October 12
Total Herd Size	170	

Grazing Schedule

Unit	Sequence	Dates of Use	Allowable Use
Yellow Pine	1 st	6/9 – 7/12	50%
Miners Gulch	1 st	6/9 – 7/12	50%
Lower Canyon	3 rd	9/1 – 10/12	50%
South Fork	2 nd	7/13 – 8/30	50%
Wilderness	2 nd	7/13 – 8/30	40%

The dates of use above are to be used guidelines. The primary determining factor for moving livestock from one unit to the other is utilization. As stated above, allowable use is 50% in upland forage areas in all units. A 4” to 6” stubble height of riparian forage species (i.e. sedges) shall be left in all riparian forage areas (i.e. stream corridors and wet meadows). A 40% allowable use and a 6” stubble height for riparian species are standard guidelines for grazing units inside the High Uintas Wilderness Area. Permittees should closely monitor key areas. It is imperative that permittees do not allow cattle to graze to a point that the key areas have a “mowed” look to them (i.e. all grass seed heads and stalks have been removed from the plants), which indicates about 60% use or greater. When allowable use in the key areas is met in each unit, the cattle need to be moved to the next unit.

A range technician will regularly visit the allotment throughout the summer to monitor permit compliance, forage utilization, and range improvements. Compliance of allowable use standards will be fully enforced. If compliance is not met, permittees will be sent notices of non-compliance and associated requirements to address the violation(s).

Grazing fees will be \$1.35 per head month this year. Fees must be paid through Lockbox collection procedures before livestock will be authorized to enter the National Forest.

Maintenance of Improvements

All fences and water developments must be maintained before the cattle will be allowed to enter the allotment. Please contact our office when you have completed your maintenance. Do so at least **five** days before the cattle enter the allotment to allow us sufficient time to inspect these improvements. A Range technician may randomly inspect the improvements at any time.

Improvement Maintenance Responsibilities

Improvement Number	Improvement Name	Improvement Number	Improvement Name
004250	Rock Creek Boundary Fence	004264	Rock Creek Corral
004254	Rock Creek Drift Fence	004359	Net Wire Division Fence
004507	Rock Creek Interior Fences	004508	South Fork Unit Fence
004265	Upper Stillwater Drift Fence	435572	Miners Gulch Spring
	Lake Basin Boundary Fence		

Annual Operating Plan Meeting

The annual operating meeting was held on March 15, 2007 in Roosevelt, Utah. Those in attendance were Ron Miles, Wes Gardner, and Amber Helmus. The following items were discussed:

1. The allotment boundary fence in the South Fork of Rock Creek needs repaired annually.
2. The fence around Lower Stillwater Ponds by the highway next to White's cabin is sunken. Approximately a ¼ mile needs repaired this year. It was unsure who is responsible for the fence. Amber will talk to JR the district ranger to determine who is responsible for fixing the fence. It was also mentioned that the area contains invasive weeds around the pond. Cattle are not allowed to graze in the Lower Stillwater Ponds. Cattle found in the area need to be promptly removed. Failure to keep cattle out of the Lower Stillwater Ponds will result in action taken on your grazing permit. Please inform the Forest Service when Ute Tribe cattle are found in the area.
3. The following fences need construction or repair: A fence around the Upper Stillwater campground is still needed. There are posts lying down in the area. Allen has spoken with Robert Jessen about this project. Forest Recreation may be able to use poles from Mill Park to complete this project. Also, the fence below the campground (buck-and-pole) needs repair and a new gate. Permittees suggested using a zig zag gate. Amber will talk with Robert Jessen about this project. Shane also mentioned that the corral fence for stock at the Rock Creek Trailhead is down and in need of repair. The buck-and-pole fence above the Rock Creek Lodge is down in places. Segments of the buck-and-pole fence around the Miners Gulch campground are down and need repair.
4. Do not place salt in areas such as near campgrounds, stream or river corridors, wet or riparian areas, and adjacent to the Resource Natural Area in the South Fork of Rock Creek.
5. A 8' steel gate needs to be installed near Limestone and the fence needs to be built in the same area. Contact Amber for the gate.
6. Dead willows need to be burned around Limestone Point. Amber will talk with Allen to determine if dead willows can be removed.
7. The cattleguards located on the main Rock Creek road in Lower Stillwater and by the dam still need cleaned. Amber will talk to Doug Nielsen, County Roads Superintendent, about getting the county to clean the cattleguard.

8. Wes mentioned that the corrals need major improvements. Amber spoke with Allen and he said it was fine for the permittees to make improvements in and around the corral area. Permittees can use pipe for the corrals if they want to.

Noxious Weed Control

A concentrated effort is being made to control musk thistle, Russian knapweed, tall and regular whitetop, and other noxious weeds throughout the Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger Districts and Duchesne County. Musk Thistle has been in the Miners Gulch area; along the main road through the canyon; throughout the Lower Stillwater Ponds area; along Yellowpine trail; and near Miners Gulch, Yellowpine, and Fishermans Parking campgrounds. Your help is needed in finding and reporting all weed infestations. If you find weeds, please take contact Amber Helmus.

Actual Use Record

The **actual use record and maintenance report** included with these operating instructions **needs to be filled out and returned immediately following the grazing season**. Permittees need to turn in separate actual use reports. If anything comes up concerning the allotment or your permit, contact Amber Helmus at (435) 781-5205 or cell (435) 790-7058. Thanks for your cooperation and have a good summer.

Amber Helmus
Rangeland Management Specialist

2007 Actual Use Record

ALLOTMENT NAME Rock Creek Allotment

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK GRAZED _____

DATE ENTERED NATIONAL FOREST _____

DATE LEFT NATIONAL FOREST _____

HOURS WORKED ON MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS _____

MONEY SPENT FOR MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS _____

HOURS WORKED ON CONSTRUCTION OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS _____

MONEY SPENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS _____

RECORD OF USE BY UNITS WITHIN ALLOTMENT (AS SHOWN ON MAP)

Unit Name	Sequence	Dates Used	
		From	To
Yellow Pine	1 st		
Miners Gulch	1 st		
Lower Canyon	3 rd		
South Fork	2 nd		
Wilderness	2 nd		

LOSSES: NUMBERS _____ CAUSES _____

PLACE _____

SIGNATURE _____

COMMENTS: (Include needed range improvements and proposed changes in annual plan of use)
