

**ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
Duchesne Ranger District
Slab Canyon Allotment
2007 Annual Operating Instruction**

Permittee
BFR, LLC

Number of Livestock
120

Season of Use
July 1 to August 31

Grazing Schedule

Unit Name	Sequence	Dates of Use	Allowable Use
Lower Slab	1 st	7/1 – 8/31	50%
Upper Slab	1 st	7/1 – 8/31	50%
Shand	1 st	7/1 – 8/31	50%
Giles	1 st	7/1 – 8/31	50%

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 all units. Permittees should closely monitor utilization. It is imperative that permittees do not allow cattle to graze to a point that the units 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 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.

Annual Operating Plan Meeting

Annual meeting was held March 15, 2007 in Duchesne, UT. Burke Roney, Allen Sweat and Amber Helmus were in attendance. The following items were discussed.

1. The increase of cattle to Slab Canyon was discussed. It was determined that the increase from 68 to 120 head could heavily impact forage on the allotment. It was determined that the permittees would graze 120 head for three years and then give the entire allotment rest on the fourth year. Cattle will be dispersed throughout the allotment and will be responsible for herding the cattle within the sub-units. Amber will inspect the allotment periodically and after each grazing term to determine if 120 head was appropriate for the allotment. It was agreed upon that in the future if the current numbers were not appropriate, the permit could be modified to meet both the Forest Service and permittee needs.
2. Noxious Weeds, especially musk thistle are increasing in the Slab canyon itself. There is another infestation up a side canyon near the large area we are now working on. Both the permittee and Forest Service have worked on these in the past and will continue to do so. Need to look the whole allotment over, with the musk thistle problem in Strawberry Valley it is likely that seeds are blowing in.

3. Water developments need to be in working order and up to Forest Service standards before cattle are allowed to graze. Contact Amber for any supplies.
4. It was mentioned that Amber needs to inspect the cattle before they are allowed to graze the allotment. Permittee needs to notify Amber when the cattle are available for inspection.

Maintenance of Improvements

All water developments must be maintained before the livestock 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 sheep enter the allotment to allow us sufficient time to inspect these improvements. A Forest Service technician may randomly inspect the improvements at any time. When reworking improvements, all discarded materials (i.e. old troughs, broken pipe, wire, etc.) must be removed from forest property.

Improvement Checklist

Improvement Number	Improvement Name	Improvement Number	Improvement Name
004404	Ridge Boundary Fence	004240	Slab Canyon Drift Fence
004424	Slab Canyon Drift Fence	436454	Shand Spring
436456	Point Spring	436458	Childs Spring
004390	Slab Canyon Waterline		

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 found in Slab Canyon. 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 needs to be **filled out and returned immediately** following the grazing season. We will contact you if we do not receive your report by October 31st. 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 Slab Canyon 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
Lower Slab	1 st		
Upper Slab	1 st		
Shand	1 st		
Giles	1 st		

LOSSES: NUMBERS _____ CAUSES _____

PLACE _____

SIGNATURE _____

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