

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

Permittee	Numbers	Non-use	Season of Use
Jay Abbott	97	0	June 2 to October 1
Korey Abbott	98	0	June 2 to October 1
Russ Abbott	<u>98</u>	<u>0</u>	June 2 to October 1
Totals	293	0	

Grazing Schedule

Unit	Sub-Unit	Sequence	Approx. Dates of Use	Allowable Use
Deathtrap (Main Canyon)		2 nd	7/13 – 8/23	50%
	Corral Hollow	2 nd	7/13 – 8/23	50%
	Spring Hollow	2 nd	7/13 – 8/23	50%
	Y-Canyon	2 nd	7/13 – 8/23	50%
	Lower Bottom	2 nd	7/13 – 8/23	50%
	Head Canyon	2 nd	7/13 – 8/23	50%
Road Hollow (Main Canyon)		1 st	6/02 – 7/13	50%
	Trapper Canyon	1 st	6/02 – 7/13	50%
	Broad Hollow	3 rd	8/23 – 10/01	50%
	Lance Canyon	1 st	6/02 – 7/13	50%
	Road Hollow	1 st	6/02 – 7/13	50%
Twin Hollow (Main Canyon)		3 rd	8/23 – 10/01	50%
	Jolie Hollow	1 st	6/02 – 7/13	50%
	Clayburn Canyon	3 rd	8/23 – 10/01	50%
	North Twin Hollow	3 rd	8/23 – 10/01	50%
	South Twin Hollow	3 rd	8/23 – 10/01	50%
Bull Pasture		2 nd	7/13 – 8/23	50%

The dates of use above are to be used guidelines. Livestock will enter the Road Hollow (Main Canyon) unit on June 2nd and begin grazing **Road Hollow Main Canyon, Lance Canyon, Trapper Canyon, and Road Hollow and Jolie Hollow** first. On July 13th cattle will then move to **Deathtrap Main Canyon, Bull Pasture** and **all sub units** included in Deathtrap Main Canyon (**Corral Hollow, Spring Hollow, Y-Canyon, Lower Bottom, and Head Canyon**). Cattle will then move into **Twin Hollow Main Canyon**, and sub-units **Clayburn Canyon, North Twin Hollow, South Twin Hollow, and Broad Hollow**. Sub-units should be stocked first with the residue of livestock placed into the Main Canyons during their respected grazing periods. Cattle will **not** be allowed to graze two or more main canyon units simultaneously. Deviations from the grazing schedule need to have Forest approval before the change is made. Contact Amber if a change is needed.

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. wiregrass) shall be left in all riparian forage areas (i.e. stream corridors and wet meadows). Permittees should closely monitor key areas – seeded areas containing smooth brome, crested wheatgrass, and Russian wildrye. It is imperative that permittees do not allow cattle to graze to a point that the seeded species (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

Permittees are responsible for the maintenance of range improvements assigned below. Time spent and any material purchased and used in completing maintenance should be recorded and the information turned in at the close of the grazing season. Fences and water developments must be maintained prior to cattle entering each unit or sub-unit. Do so at least **five** days before the cattle enter the unit or sub-unit to allow us sufficient time to inspect these improvements. A Range technician may randomly inspect the improvements at any time.

Annual Operating Plan Meeting

An operating meeting was held April 23, 2007 at Duchesne, Utah. Jay Abbott, Russ Abbott, Korey Abbott, Allen Huber, and Amber Helmus were in attendance. The following items were discussed:

1. Allen mentioned that the **gate which was installed on the cattleguard needs to be removed before cattle enter the allotment**. Permittees can contact JR Kirkaldie, District Ranger, about this issue. JR's number is 435-781-5203.
2. Korey indicated the troughs at Tin Can and Late Springs in the Deathtrap unit need replaced. The Forest Service will provide a trough for each spring. Contact Amber to schedule a time to pick up materials.
3. Permittees were notified of the proposals for oil and gas development on the Sowers Canyon Allotment. Amber spoke with Dave Herron at the Forest Service and he said wells will be drilled this summer on Sowers Canyon. Oil and gas companies will be putting in cattleguards and gates. The companies will maintain the improvements as long as they are present in the area.
4. Permittees said a 16' steel gate is needed at Birch Springs and two 12' steel gates near Lance Canyon and the road. Contact Amber to schedule a time to pick up materials.

5. Permittees mentioned that water rights for the pumps located on Sowers Canyon needs to be taken care of this year. It was determined that the permittees would show Tom Watson the specific locations for the pumps in Jolie and Trapper. Amber would talk to Brent Lee about locating the third pump and then notify Tom Watson of the location.
6. Russ mentioned that he would like to be allowed to fix and maintain the water sources and fences for each main canyon and sub-unit throughout the summer instead of fixing all water and fence before entering the allotment. Amber agreed with this arrangement and reminded the permittees that water sources should be in working condition before cattle enter each specific unit or sub-unit. Amber will be checking water sources and fences throughout the summer.
7. Permittees indicated that two ½” check valves and lids are needed for the solar pump system at Trapper and Jolie Canyons. Amber will talk to Brent about the solar pumps and getting a stand for the solar panel in Trapper.
8. The new pipeline was discussed and a map illustrating the new pipeline and troughs was developed. Amber said that environmental analysis (EA) is currently being developed and wouldn't be approved until the end of this summer. Permittees will be notified when construction can take place.
9. Russ inquired about getting the two weeks of grazing back. Allen informed him that the return of the two weeks depended on how well the 2007 grazing season went. If permittees followed the designed grazing schedule and did not over graze, then the two week grazing period would be given back to the permittees.

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, whitetop, and Russian Knapweed have been found on the allotment. Your help is needed in finding and reporting all weed infestations. If you find weeds, please take contact Amber Helmus. Amber will talk to the weeds crew about avoiding spraying areas with cattle.

Salting

Salt needs to be used to help livestock distribution. Salting should not occur near key areas (seeded species and stream corridor) but on the alluvial fans that are vegetated with bullgrass. **Do not** salt in or near Sowers Creek and wet meadows.

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 Sowers Canyon

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	Sub-Unit	Sequence	Number	Dates of Use
Deathtrap (Main Canyon)		2 nd		
	Corral Hollow	2 nd		
	Spring Hollow	2 nd		
	Y-Canyon	2 nd		
	Lower Bottom	2 nd		
	Head Canyon	2 nd		
Road Hollow (Main Canyon)		1 st		
	Trapper Canyon	1 st		
	Broad Hollow	3 rd		
	Lance Canyon	1 st		
	Road Hollow	1 st		
Twin Hollow (Main Canyon)		3 rd		
	Jolie Hollow	1 st		
	Clayburn Canyon	3 rd		
	North Twin Hollow	3 rd		
	South Twin Hollow	3 rd		
Bull Pasture		2 nd		

LOSSES: NUMBERS _____ CAUSES _____

PLACE _____

SIGNATURE _____

COMMENTS: (Include needed range improvements and proposed changes in annual plan of use on the back of this paper).