

**ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
Duchesne Ranger District
Sowers Canyon Cattle Allotment
2018 Annual Operating Instruction**

Permittee	Numbers	Season of Use
Jay Abbott	97	June 1 to October 15
Korey Abbott	98	June 1 to October 15
Russ Abbott	<u>98</u>	June 1 to October 15
Totals	293	

Grazing Schedule

Unit	Sub-Unit	Sequence	Approx. Dates of Use	Allowable Use
Deathtrap (Main Canyon)		3 rd	09/01 – 10/15	50%
	Corral Hollow	3 rd	09/01 – 10/15	50%
	Spring Hollow	3 rd	09/01 – 10/15	50%
	Y-Canyon	3 rd	09/01 – 10/15	50%
	Lower Bottom	3 rd	09/01 – 10/15	50%
	Head Canyon	3 rd	09/01 – 10/15	50%
Road Hollow (Main Canyon)		2 nd	07/16 – 08/31	50%
	Trapper Canyon	1 st	06/01 – 07/15	50%
	Broad Hollow	2 nd	08/21 – 09/22	50%
	Lance Canyon	2 nd	07/16 – 08/31	50%
	Road Hollow	2 nd	07/16 – 08/31	50%
Twin Hollow (Main Canyon)		1 st	06/01 – 07/15	50%
	Jolie Hollow	1 st	06/01 – 07/15	50%
	Clayburn Canyon	1 st	06/01 – 07/15	50%
	North Twin Hollow	1 st	06/01 – 07/15	50%
	South Twin Hollow	1 st	06/01 – 07/15	50%
Bull Pasture		1 st	06/01 – 07/15	50%

The dates of use above are to be used guidelines. 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 are at \$1.41 this year. Fees must be paid through Lockbox collection, at the Duchesne District Office or online at www.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY 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 March 30, 2018 in Duchesne, Utah. Russ Abbott, Korey Abbott, Jay Abbott and Amber Helmus were in attendance. The following items were discussed:

1. Permittees plan to extend the pipeline in Corral Hollow and the Upper Sowers Spring pipeline. We are waiting for NEPA to be completed by June. Funding from NRCS and GIP has been approved. Amber will talk with the NRCS/GIP to see if we can get the NRCS surveying done before the money arrives in July.
2. Russ mentioned that they received troughs and poly pipe last fall and they placed the troughs at each spring in Broad Hollow and Jolie and just need to hook the troughs up this spring.
3. Korey mentioned that the pipeline in Jolie needs three Rubbermaid troughs to repair the improvement. Contact Amber for materials.
4. Russ mentioned that the oil wells in Road Hollow need to have cattleguards installed on the roads because the oil companies will be going through gates and gates get left open. Amber will talk to Dave Herron.
5. Korey mentioned that they need fencing supplies (wire panels/posts) to repair the fences in Y Canyon where the fall rain storms took them out and the grader needs to fix the channel and road. Contact Amber for materials.
6. Permittees mentioned working with private landowners to rebuild the boundary fence. Contact Amber for materials.
7. Permittees asked about the proposed ATV trail in Sowers Canyon. Amber spoke with Juan and the project is currently on hold and not moving forward at this time.
8. Permittees mentioned they need a total of 2,000ft of 1 ½ poly pipe to replace old pipe at Corral and Spring Hollows. Contact Amber for materials.

9. Permittees mentioned they needed some wire panels for around spring boxes and valves/air vents. Contact Amber for materials.
10. Amber discussed the new direction on season of use and on and off dates. Permittees need to send a written request to the District Ranger several weeks in advance if they want a grazing extension. The District Ranger will determine if the request is granted.
11. Drought was also discussed. Closer to the June 1 on date permittees may be notified of actions that need to be taken.

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.

Kristy Groves
District Ranger

Amber Helmus
Rangeland Management Specialist

2018 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)		3 rd		
	Corral Hollow	3 rd		
	Spring Hollow	3 rd		
	Y-Canyon	3 rd		
	Lower Bottom	3 rd		
	Head Canyon	3 rd		
Road Hollow (Main Canyon)		2 nd		
	Trapper Canyon	1 st		
	Broad Hollow	2 nd		
	Lance Canyon	2 nd		
	Road Hollow	2 nd		
Twin Hollow (Main Canyon)		1 st		
	Jolie Hollow	1 st		
	Clayburn Canyon	1 st		
	North Twin Hollow	1 st		
	South Twin Hollow	1 st		
Bull Pasture		1 st		

LOSSES: NUMBERS _____ CAUSES _____

PLACE _____

SIGNATURE _____

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