

**ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
Duchesne Ranger District
Rock Creek Cattle Allotment
2018 Annual Operating Instructions**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Season</u>
Ron Miles	90	June 12 to October 15
Shane Gardner	80	June 12 to October 15
Total Herd Size	170	

Grazing Schedule

Unit	Sequence	Dates of Use	Allowable Use
Yellow Pine	1 st	6/12 – 7/15	50%
Miners Gulch	1 st	6/12 – 7/15	50%
South Fork	2 nd	7/15 – 9/01	40%
Wilderness	2 nd	7/15 – 9/01	50%
Lower Canyon	3 rd	9/02 – 10/15	50%

The dates of use above are to be used as 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 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

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 21, 2018 at the Altonah Guard Station. Those in attendance were Shane Gardner, Wes Gardner, Darryl Sorensen and Amber Helmus. The following items were discussed:

1. Shane mentioned that lop and scatter trees are limiting access above Yellowpine campground. The fire crew has been working on piling and burning slash in this area.
2. Permittees mentioned that the Miners Gulch Spring needs to be reconstructed this summer with a new headbox, pipe and trough. Contact Amber for materials.
3. Darryl mentioned he checked a few fences last summer and a few sections needed repair and Amber mentioned that the fence in the Miners Gulch unit needs to be checked before livestock enter the unit. Permittees need to maintain all fences on the allotment.
4. Drought conditions were discussed and closer to the on date of June 12th numbers and/or time may need to be adjusted.
5. 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.

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.

Kristy Groves
District Ranger

Amber Helmus
Rangeland Management Specialist

2018 Actual Use RecordALLOTMENT 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		
South Fork	2 nd		
Wilderness	2 nd		
Lower Canyon	3 rd		

LOSSES: NUMBERS _____ CAUSES _____

PLACE _____

SIGNATURE _____

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