

**ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District
Lake Canyon Cattle Allotment
2018 Annual Operating Plan**

Permittee	Number of Cattle	Season of Use
Valley View Ranch	70	June 21 to Oct 1

Grazing Schedule

Unit Name	Sequence	Dates of Use	Allowable Use
Right Fork Lake Canyon	1 st	6/21 – 7/30	50%
Bear Gulch - Bills Draw	2 nd	8/01 – 8/30	50%
Left Fork Lake Canyon	3 rd	9/01 – 10/01	50%

The dates above are to be used only as guidelines. Livestock will enter the Right Fork Lake Canyon unit on June 21st. When allowable use is met in the key areas, livestock will then enter the Bear Gulch and Bills Draw unit. Left Fork Lake Canyon will be grazed last.

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. Permittees should closely monitor utilization. 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 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 \$1.41 per head month this year. *Fees must be paid through Lockbox collection procedures before livestock will be authorized to enter the National Forest.* It can take two to three week for payment to go through Lockbox so please pay your bill well in advance of your on date.

Annual Operating Plan Meeting

The annual meeting was held on April 6, 2018 at the Duchesne Ranger District. Those in attendance included Kenn Miles and Sandy Kaminski. The following items were discussed:

1. Drought conditions were discussed. Forage conditions will be monitored and livestock numbers or season of use will be adjusted as needed. Permittees need to watch utilization closely and move cattle before 50% use is reached.
2. Kenn plans to work on the Bear Gulch spring and Highline spring head box's, a new troughs was installed in 2017. He also plans to replace the fence around the Big Spring head box in Left Fork Lake Canyon. Contact Sandy for materials
3. Future project may be to extend the Big Spring pipeline system down canyon.
4. Kenn would like to install a water storage tank on each of the three water systems in the Bear Gulch pasture and potentially drill a water well to provide more water to cattle while grazing in this area.

5. Forest Plan revision and range hot topics meeting were discussed. Notes from this meeting can be found on the Ashley National Forest web page.
6. Sage Grouse Management Plan implementation was discussed. Adjustments were made to the habitat map this year based on field reviews. The Lake Canyon allotment is not within an occupied Lek Buffer nor does it contain Habitat Management Areas.

Improvement Maintenance Responsibilities

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. When developments are reworked, when possible, remove materials (i.e. old troughs, broken pipe, wire, etc.) from the National Forest.

Improvement Maintenance Responsibilities

Improvement #	Improvement Name	Improvement #	Improvement Name
436566	Bear Gulch Spring	436553	Chokecherry Spring
436568	Highline Spring	436552	Puncher Spring
436571	Sleepy Spring	436559	Wildhorse Spring
436559	Wilbur Spring	436557	Cabin Spring
436567	Raspberry Spring	436551	Lost Spring
436555	Lower Bills Spring	436563	Big Spring
436569	Lake Canyon Water Line	43659	Pinto Spring
436570	Meadow Spring-headbox		

Weed Control

A concentrated effort is being made to control musk thistle, whitetop, giant whitetop, Russian knapweed, and other noxious weeds throughout the Roosevelt and Duchesne Ranger Districts, along with Duchesne County. Your help in controlling weeds is needed. If you find any of the above listed weeds, please report the location to Sandy Kaminski.

All hay and straw transported onto the Forest must be tagged as Certified Noxious Weed-Free as directed by Forest Service Order #04-00-097. Noncompliance with this closure order will result in a citation.

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**. If anything comes up concerning the allotment or your permit, contact Sandy Kaminski at (435) 781-5221 or cell (435) 790-7011. Thanks for your cooperation and have a good summer.

Kristy Groves
District Ranger

