

Sweetwater-Griffin Top Allotment Annual Operating Instructions
 Escalante Ranger District, Dixie National Forest
 2009 grazing season

The following are the Annual Operating Instructions for the 2009 grazing season on the Boulder allotment which was developed during our annual validation meeting. This AOI is made part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

1. PERMITTED AND AUTHORIZED USE

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted Livestock</u>	<u>Permitted Season</u>	<u>Authorized Livestock</u>	<u>Authorized Season</u>
Burns K. & Mona L. Black	200 c/c	6/06 to 9/30	200 c/c	6/06 to 9/30

2. PASTURE USE SCHEDULE

It is the permittee(s) responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed.

<i>PASTURE</i>	<i>DATES AVAILABLE FOR USE</i>		<i>COMMENTS</i>
Sweetwater	6/6/09	7/6/09	* see special management instructions
Griffin Top	7/7/09	9/6/09	
South Creek	9/7/09	9/30/09	* see special management instructions

The above schedule is an estimate and may be modified at any time if the utilization levels are met, if water availability is inadequate, or for other resource management reasons such as drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another area of the pasture, moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest.

3. ALLOWABLE FORAGE USE

The following applicable utilization standards will be applied on the Sweetwater-Griffin Top allotment:

Dixie NF - Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria					
UTILIZATION BY SERAL STAGE					
Vegetation Type	Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments * SH = Stubble Height
Riparian Hydric Species	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6" SH	6" SH			Remaining at end of growing season

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Hydric Species in wet meadows not influenced by streams	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Non-hydric Species in Riparian Areas	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Upland Species	50%	50%	50%	50%	Varying in specific unit from 40-60%
Wheatgrass Seedings	60%	60%	60%	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings
Riparian Browse	<50%				New Leader Production
Streambanks	<20% disturbance				Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, animal tracks
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%		Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas

3.1 MONITORING

Key areas for monitoring have been identified as follows:

- South Creek, Sweetwater, Griffin Top, Griffin Spring, Griffin North, Mud Springs Draw, Manning Hollow, Bug Lake.
- *See attached prioritized monitoring plan.

The idea of a key area is to find a site that is representative of a larger area in which cattle obtain the majority of their required forage resources. Key area monitoring will avoid areas directly adjacent to permanent water sources, cattle trails, roads, and fence lines.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

4. STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements must be maintained to standard, as outlined in Part 2 section 8(i) of your Term Permit, before cattle are allowed into a pasture. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that range improvements remains functional. This includes boundary fences in pastures not currently being grazed. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

4.1 New Construction or Reconstruction:

- There is a need for you to maintain, this early summer, both the Summit fence and the Dry Creek/Mud Spring Draw fence to avoid cattle drifting onto and from adjacent allotments

5. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

- Because there is no fence between the South Creek and Sweetwater pastures it is the permittee responsibility to ride, daily if necessary, and keep cattle in the right pasture at the right time. Failure to do so may result in a lack of feed when you come off the top and therefore a shortened grazing season.

6. OTHER MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

Herding and salting are essential to proper livestock distribution. Cattle must be moved away from water and stream bottoms on a frequent basis. Failure to do so may significantly shorten your grazing season. Salt must be located at least ¼ mile from water, and preferably on ridges and/or areas of low use. Do not place salt blocks in the same location as the previous year, and locate blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Supplemental feeding, other than mineral or supplement block is not authorized on the National Forest.

The cattle should be properly distributed throughout each pasture as scheduled. Each pasture should be inspected regularly to ensure proper livestock distribution. Cattle should be herded away from heavily used areas. When herding, check adjoining pastures and allotments for strays, and if found, return them to their scheduled pasture or permitted allotment(s).

When moving between pastures please plan to have all cattle moved within 5 days. When it is time to remove livestock at the end of the grazing season, be sure to start early enough that your livestock are removed from the National Forest by the last day on your Bill for Collection. No cattle are allowed on the allotment before the authorized on-date and all cattle must be removed by the authorized off-date.

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Permitted livestock on an allotment outside the permitted season, in the wrong location, or on the forest prior to the payment of fees, even within the permitted season, are considered to be excess use. This will be charged at the unauthorized use rate. This could also result in suspension or cancellation of your term grazing permit in whole or in part.

Accurate records of your operation will aid in planning and determining the effectiveness of the grazing system. Please maintain reasonably accurate records of cattle numbers throughout the grazing season.

The permittee must obtain permission from this office, before conducting earth- disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc.

As of January 1, 1994 all hay, grain, and straw brought or used on National Forest lands is required to be certified free of noxious weeds.

We appreciate your cooperation in the management of the Sweetwater-Griffin Top allotment. If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact Ron Mortensen, Rangeland Management Specialist (435)826-5433. Thank you.

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I have read and understand these Operating Instructions.

Permittee signature

Date

District Ranger signature

Date