Annual Operating Instructions

2014

North Creek Allotment

Escalante RD, Dixie NF

Permittee	**Date**
District Ranger	05/05/14 **Date**

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This AOI is made part of your 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 or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

Permittee	Ear Tag Color & #'s	Permitted*			Authorized**		
		Number	Class	Season	Number	Class	Season
Stephen D. Sorensen	NA	734	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30	734	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30

*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit.
**Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.

Non-use

Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the "on" date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

Non-use Requested: No

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Grazing Schedule

Unit (Pasture)	Tentative Dates*	Comments
Main Canyon	06/16-08/16	
North Creek	08/16-09/30	
Holby Bottom	09/02-09/30	100 head after Labor Day

*The above schedule is an **estimate** and may be modified at any time if: utilization levels are met, water availability is inadequate, drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions.

Allowable use levels are more important than tentative dates listed above. 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. If early pasture moves occur, District range personnel or the District Ranger must be notified. Delayed pasture moves require prior approval by the District Ranger.

Type of rotation: Deferred-Rotation Grazing

All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the permitted off date listed above.

Previous year's grazing results: Use in Holby Bottom was dramatically reduced in 2013 compared to 2012. Most of the upland key areas slightly exceeded maximum allowable use standards. Marts pasture exceeded standards by more than 10%. Standards were met at Marts pasture in 2012. Use exceeding 10% over allowable standards two consecutive years in a row or any year greater than 20% requires evaluation of management on the allotment. Birch Creek Main Canyon Greenline met browsing standards, but not the stubble height standard.

Key Area	Upland Crested	Upland Native	Stubble Height	Riparian Browse	Streambank Alteration	Paired Plot
Birch Spring Green GS		52.9%				
Birch Creek Main Cy GL			3.9 inch	10% & 30%		
Lower Marts						79.5%
Upper Marts	63.2%					
Hog Ranch		48.3%		30% & 50%		
North Creek GL				2.5% & 10%		
Whites Flat		56.0%				
Holby Bottom			5.16 inch			36.6%
Holby Bottom Upland		57.2 % (I)				

Notice of Non-compliance/Suspension Actions: A Notice of Non-Compliance was issued on October 12, 2012 for a violation of Part 2 section 8 (d) (i.e. excess use).

Additional instructions: **Caution needs to be taken to not overgraze upland areas this year, especially Marts Pasture. Utilize herding and/or salting practices to move cattle out of areas that have reached proper use levels.**

UTILIZATION STANDARDS & MONITORING

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria

Vegetation Type	Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species (i.e. rushes & sedges)	6"	6"	4"	4"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6"	6"	6"	6"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Hydric species in wet meadows not influenced by streams (i.e. rushes & sedges)	6"	6"	4"	4"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Non-hydric species in riparian areas (i.e. Kentucky bluegrass)	2"				Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Upland species	50%				Varying in specific unit from 40-60%.
Wheatgrass seedings	60%				Management option to exceed 60% to maintain healthy seedings.
Riparian browse	<50%				New leader production.
Streambank alteration	<20%				Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, & animal tracks.

Goshawk nest areas & post-fledging family areas (PFAs)	Grass & forbs	<20%	Average <20% by weight and not exceed 40% in any given area.
	Shrubs	<40%	Average <40% by weight and not exceed 50% in any given area.

The above utilization standards take precedence over the tentative dates listed in the grazing schedule. You are responsible to monitor your livestock and comply with the listed utilization standards and to move livestock prior to **any** of the above standards being exceeded.

Compliance monitoring inspections will be conducted by Forest Service personnel throughout the grazing season in key areas across the allotment. You are invited and it is recommended that you participate in these inspections.

Exceeding the utilization standards may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit.

Additional instructions: None

BILLING

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

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

You are responsible for maintaining the range improvements assigned to you in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the unit, even in the event of non-use. Standards are found in your term grazing permit or at http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml. Livestock entry onto the Forest may be delayed if improvements are not maintained to acceptable standards.

Scheduled reconstruction for upcoming season: None

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide.

Any improvement, which is no longer functional or no longer needed, will be removed from the allotment by the permittee. The removal of any improvement must have prior approval by the District Ranger.

Failure to maintain your assigned range improvements may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of your permit.

Additional instructions: None

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

You will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

You are required to submit actual use information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the district office within 30 days of removal of livestock from the Forest.

Salt and other dietary supplements are a distribution tool, and as such, should not be placed within ¼ mile of riparian areas, water troughs and ponds; within 200 feet of designated roads, trails, trail heads or camping spots which have frequent use. Avoid salting in or near tree plantations or regenerating aspen stands. Exceptions to these standards must have prior approval.

Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards.

The Dixie National Forest Travel Plan must be followed while managing livestock unless approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger.

Livestock trails may be maintained and cleared to the minimum width necessary to move stock. Clear trails in a manner that would prohibit use from recreational vehicles. Livestock trails that can be maintained are:

- Upper Marts Pasture
- Corn Creek
- White Creek
- Hall Creek

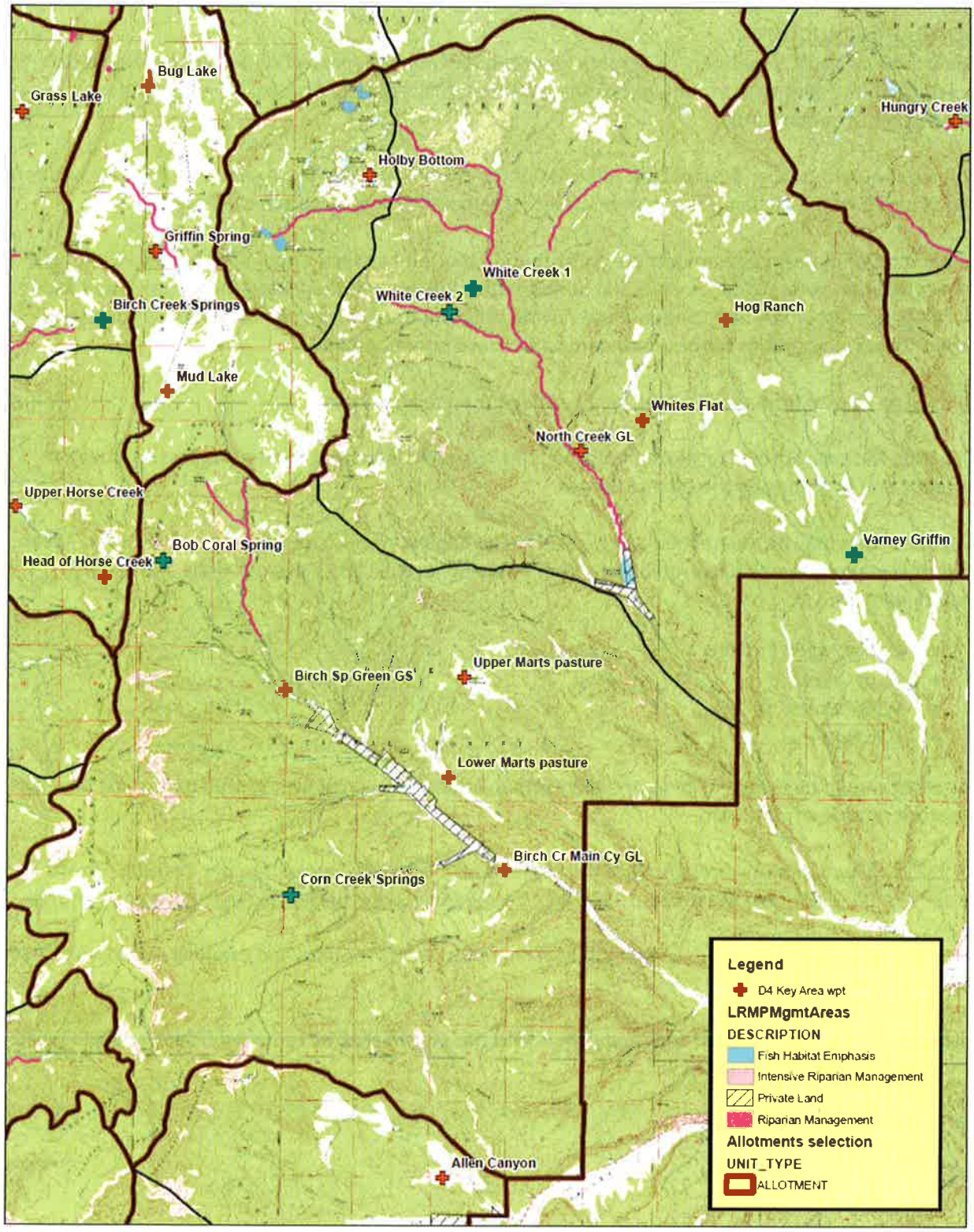
Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.

All livestock feed or straw brought onto the Forest must be certified weed free per Regional Forester's Order #04-00-058, dated March 26, 1996 (http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml).

Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.

All garbage resulting from activities associated with this permit shall be removed from National Forest lands and disposed of properly.

Additional instructions: None


Bug Lake
Grass Lake
Hungry Creek
Holby Bottom
Griffin Spring
White Creek 1
White Creek 2
Birch Creek Springs
Hog Ranch
Mud Lake
Whites Flat
North Creek GL
Upper Horse Creek
Bob Coral Spring
Head of Horse Creek
Varney Griffin
Upper Marts pasture
Birch Sp Green GS
Lower Marts pasture
Birch Cr Main Cy GL
Corn Creek Springs
Allen Canyon
Legend
D4 Key Area wpt
LRMPMgmtAreas
DESCRIPTION
Fish Habitat Emphasis
Intensive Riparian Management
Private Land
Riparian Management
Allotments selection
UNIT_TYPE
ALLOTMENT