



GOAT CREEK C&H

2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

These are your annual operating instructions and are part of your term grazing permit, as specified in part 2, item 8(a), and Part 3, (management practices) item 2.

Permitted Number and season of use:

Melvin Adams Livestock	220 c/c	7/6 – 10/5
Kevin McComb	80 c/c	7/6 – 10/5

Authorized use:

Melvin Adams Livestock	220 - c/c	7/6 – 10/5
Kevin McComb	80 - c/c	7/6 – 10/5

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT		
Two Pasture Deferred Rotation Grazing System		
Grazing Rotation	Move Dates	Special Instructions
West Unit	07/06 – 08/20	Do not allow livestock to graze in areas not authorized by your Term Grazing Permit.
East Unit	08/21 – 10/05	

RUNNING GRI SCORES		
Grazing Rotation	2013 GRI Score	2014 GRI Score
West Unit	-1	-1
East Unit	-1	-1

Do not allow livestock to stay later than dates scheduled or change pasture rotations within this instruction at any time, unless authorized through amendment of this document. If forage conditions show greater than 50% utilization, you will move your livestock prior to the dates listed. If you feel that you need to stay in a pasture longer, or you feel there is a need to change the pasture rotations, you will need to make a request to your Rangeland Management Specialist. Any request to stay must be made prior to your exit date. No extension will be approved unless documentation shows that overall rangeland management objectives can be met with extended use in that pasture or use area.

Livestock management in 2015 will focus on the following:

- Keeping your pastures clean of livestock after the scheduled off date.
- Utilization limits.
- Permit Compliance.
- Unauthorized use by your permitted livestock in places and times either not scheduled by this instruction or outside of your permitted area.



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Range conditions, livestock distribution, compliance with annual operating instructions, forage utilization, etc. may be inspected during the summer field season. Cattle counts may also be conducted at any time as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(f) of your permit.

Monitoring and Administration: All permittees are required to keep Actual Use and Fence Maintenance records. In addition, you are required to utilize the Grazing Response Index for this allotment. An informational instruction sheet is included with this Annual Operating Instruction. If you require training on how to use the Grazing Response Index, please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist Brian Hoefling at 970-327-4261. These records will be requested by the administering office at the end of the grazing season.

For reference the target is a neutral GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are “Fair” or greater. The target is a positive GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are “Poor”.

Range Improvements: Maintenance of allotment boundary fences will be completed prior to turning out on the allotment. Maintenance of all other assigned range improvements must be completed prior to turning out in that unit. Maintenance will be completed according to the specifications outlined in part 3 of the term grazing permit. Reconstruction or construction of range improvements will not occur without a signed and approved permit modification, and cultural resource survey, where needed.

Specifically the division fence located between the East and West units will be maintained to standard before turnout, including clearing of right-of-way and maintaining to standard the entire length of fence. **Turnout will be denied if the fence is determined to be in a condition less than Forest Service standard.** This includes removing fallen trees and repairing damaged sections of fence.

Fence number 508F09 will be reconstructed along the East boundary of the Goat Creek Allotment. This is a division fence between the Goat Creek and Beaver Park Allotments. Authorizations and maintenance assignments for work will be included in a Permit Modification. Work may begin only after the Permit Modification is completed and signed.

ATV's and UTV's are authorized to maintain or construct range improvements. A skid steer may be used with a brush attachment to assist in clearing the right of way. You are not authorized to use ATV's or UTV's to salt, or move livestock other than on posted authorized routes. Please refer to the 2002 Travel Management Record of Decision for the Uncompahgre National Forest.

Salting: Do not salt in recently harvested aspen timber sale units. A map is provided with this instruction (*Goat Creek Timber Sale*). If salt is found to be located within the timber sale areas on the attached map, you will be given 72 hours to remove all livestock from National Forest controlled lands. Salt will be placed no closer than 1/8th mile to all water sources, roads, trails, timber regeneration areas, meadows, or other key areas where forage utilization is of concern.



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Grazing Fee: \$1.69/HM

This figure is calculated according to a formula established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and has continued under a Presidential Executive Order issued in 1986. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per head month and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level. The formula considers three main factors – the average annual change in beef prices, leasing rates for the grazing on private land in 11 western states, and the cost of livestock production.

Other: This allotment has shown a very large increase in both abundance and area of several types of invasive species in recent years. Grazing response index scores also continue to be negative. Overall rangeland condition and trend appears to be in decline. It is vital to reverse this apparent condition and trend as it may result in reductions of your Term Grazing Permit. As invasive species continue to increase, available forage will continue to decrease. Overutilization of specific areas also contributes to this increase of invasive species. No treatment activity is scheduled in this area this year due to a lack of funding. Therefore, it is imperative that you follow good rangeland management principles for plant health. This includes riding and moving livestock to lesser used areas more often.

/s/ Judy Schutz
JUDY SCHUTZA
District Ranger