



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 29, 2009

Keith and Pamela Anderton
PO Box 81
Marysvale, UT 84750

**COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT
2009 ANNUAL OPERATING
INSTRUCTIONS**

Dear Keith and Pamela:

Thank you for meeting with Doug Sorensen on March 25, 2009 and taking part in the development of the 2009 Annual Operating Instructions for the Cottonwood Allotment. This letter documents the meeting, serves as the 2009 Annual Operating Instructions and is part of your term grazing permit. Upon payment of grazing fees, maintenances of improvements you are authorized to graze your cattle as specified your Bill for Collection.

As we discussed, we will not enter the first unit until the key forage species have headed out. This may require you to delay entry for one to two weeks. We also discussed that the recurring drought, in combination with the amount and timing of grazing over the years, has impacted forage production. We are projecting that plant production will still be reduced, so livestock may need to be removed from the allotment before the established off-date. We again remind you to develop a contingency plan that will reduce impacts to your overall operation if utilization of forage resources requires early removal of your livestock.

Dependant on range readiness, grazing may begin June 1, 2009. Cattle will simply begin grazing in the Alunite unit. Cattle need to be well distributed within the pasture. When utilization limits are reached, the cattle need to be removed from the allotment. Please follow the utilization levels as shown in the appendix. Livestock may graze until July 31, 2009, or until proper use is reached.

Cottonwood C&H Pasture Rotation - 2009 Grazing Season

Pasture	Rotation Sequence	Season of Use
Alunite	First	June 1 to July 31 or until utilization standards are met

---- **ALL LIVESTOCK ARE TO BE REMOVED BY July 30** ----



We are requiring actual use information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return within two weeks after livestock are removed from the forest. Mail it to Forest Service P.O. Box E Beaver, Utah 84713 or drop it off at the forest service office at 575 South Main, Beaver.

Permittee Management Responsibilities

A. Livestock Distribution, Control and Salting

The forage utilization standards will require you to invest in somewhat constant (2 to 3 days per week) riding and herding. We advise you to scatter the cows as you enter the pasture and keep them away from the riparian and key areas. Also, note which cattle that you continually remove from riparian areas. It may be in your best interest to replace these cattle with some that seem to use the upland areas on their own. Salting and herding as well as managing your water properly between pastures encourage good distribution in all pastures.

Use salt or mineral supplement to draw cattle away from heavy use areas and into lightly used areas. **Do not salt or place cattle within burned or recently logged areas.** It is your responsibility to ensure the key areas and riparian areas do not receive excessive use. More responsibility is being placed on you as a permittee to move cattle when proper use has been reached. Do not rely on the Forest Service to tell you when to move your cattle.

Adequate livestock control on the allotment is becoming a more difficult task each year. Please frequently check gates within the pastures and insure they are closed as needed.

When cattle are moved from the grazed unit all cattle will be gathered and moved within 5 days to the next scheduled pasture. Previously used and rested pasture should be checked frequently and stray cattle moved to the proper unit or removed from the allotment.

B. Improvements

I must stress the importance of maintaining fences this year. Improvements must be maintained before cattle are allowed to enter the allotment or next scheduled pasture. This maintenance includes boundary and pasture division fences and gates, as well as water developments. Juniper posts can be cut on National Forest System lands to maintain fences. You are encouraged to cut trees and brush along both sides of the fence line to aid in maintenance. The assigned allotment boundary fences bordering the neighboring allotments are always a high priority.

We are also getting some unauthorized use from the private and BLM lands. Notify the Forest Service immediately at (435) 438-2436 or 575 South Main, Beaver if you observe “trespass” livestock on the Forest. Forage used by trespass livestock counts toward your utilization so functional fences and gates are critical to prevent this use.

We also identified several other projects that will be added to our list. (See appendix):

Utilization Monitoring

Livestock grazing on the Beaver Ranger District will be administered to insure long-term sustainability of the forage resource. We will continue to install and monitor utilization study sites at selected key areas on the allotment. You are encouraged to be involved with the monitoring and placement of these stations.

The utilization standards (see appendix) will again be in effect this grazing season. It is the permit holders' responsibility to monitor utilization and move livestock between pastures or remove livestock when these limits have been reached. Exceeding these standards may be considered as non-compliance with your Term grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit. Do not wait for someone from the District to tell you to move your cattle. We will strictly follow the utilization standards in the Forest Plan and will impose appropriate actions if the utilization is exceeded.

This year is significant and critical for plant recovery from the drought. The moisture from last winter and this spring points to a turn in the drought, but the forage plants are at a critical stage to regain their stability and vigor. We expect forage growth to still be reduced. Consequently this may require earlier moves between pastures and removal from the allotment before the permitted off-date. Please plan on moving faster than normal and removing livestock early in the grazing season.

Other Resource Coordination

Noxious Weeds:

We will again treat noxious weeds on the Beaver Ranger District. To reduce the risk of new infestations, the Regional Forester's Order Number 04-00-058, dated March 29, 1996, is still in effect. This order directs any hay or straw used in association with this permit will be certified and tagged as noxious weed free, or noxious weed seed free. I also encourage you to take aggressive action whenever you encounter noxious weeds. Please let us know immediately the location of any noxious weeds, so we can treat, control and monitor them.

I want to thank you for your continued interest in the management of the allotment. If you have any questions or concerns contact Reggie Swenson at (435) 438-2436 or (435) 896-1039 (desk phone and voice mail), or e-mail at rswenson@fs.fed.us . Your efforts to improve the condition of the resource are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melvin F. Bolling
MELVIN F. BOLLING
Acting District Ranger

Appendix

Utilization Standards

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria		
Vegetation Type	Stubble Height/Use	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species	4"	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6"	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment
Non-hydric Sod-Forming Grass Species in Riparian Areas	1 ½ "	Primarily Kentucky bluegrass--Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment
Wheatgrass Seedings	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings
Riparian/Upland Browse Sprouts and Young-Aged Plants	≤40%	# of current year's available twigs removed
Riparian/Upland Mature Browse	≤50%	# of current year's available twigs removed
Upland Grass/Forb	40-60% of key species; varies by grazing system and desired condition	40 % of current year's growth
Riparian Ground Cover	Maintain ground cover of at least 70% within riparian areas	

Maintenance Standards for Range Improvements: Stock water Developments, Troughs, Pipelines and Stock water Ponds are as follows:

1. All spring source facilities will be adequately protected or fenced and fences made to prevent livestock from getting into the source or the head box.
2. Head box lids or covers shall be in place to prevent dirt, rodents or other refuse, from entering the head box.
3. All outlet pipes and valves from head boxes should be functioning and any leaking should be kept to minimum.
4. Water troughs will be kept at heights that make them useable to livestock. Troughs, which have soil loss from trampling livestock, will be periodically backfilled to maintain a useable height.
5. Troughs, which become uneven due to settling will be reset and leveled.
6. Bottom of trough will be kept clear of the ground with at least two to four inches of bottom of trough to prevent rusting or decomposition.
7. Water will not be allowed to overflow the sides of the troughs. Overflow water shall be piped away from troughs at least 50 feet. The end of the overflow should be protected from trampling by livestock. Water from the overflow pipe must be directed away from the area.
8. Inlet and outlet pipe shall be protected by anchoring to the trough with single post wired to the inlet pipe and brace or pole supporting the outlet pipe. Inlet and outlet pipeline will be secured as needed for their protection.
9. All troughs should be equipped with a floating board or pole secured near one end of the trough

and extends out into the trough far enough to provide a platform from which animals can escape or drink from the trough. It can also serve to help prevent the tank from freeze pressure.

10. Troughs, storage tanks, and pipelines will be drained and cleaned periodically to prevent algae buildup and damage from freezing.
11. Poles, posts, and trough-framing materials used in the construction of the water trough will be maintained, repaired or replaced as needed.
12. Pipeline leaks will be repaired or the damaged section replaced with like materials and the repaired section buried to the original depth.
13. Pipelines with valve cover boxes will be kept covered and repaired as needed.
14. Stock water ponds will be kept clear of debris, floating logs, dead animals, etc. Spillways will be maintained to prevent washing out or becoming plugged. Rodent damage will be reported to the District Ranger.

Range Fences and Corrals

1. All broken wires will be spliced, repaired and re-stretched to maintain proper tension. Wire splices will be made with 12-gauge size wire or type of wire used in initial construction.
2. Broken or rotten posts, broken braces and missing stapes will be replaced where and when needed to make the fence functional.
3. Wires will be re-stretched where needed.
4. Broken or missing stays will be replaced where needed.
5. The top wire on all range fences should be kept less than 42 inches in height.
6. Staples should not be driven so deep into the post that they scar or create a weak spot.
7. All gates should be closed before livestock enter the grazing units and opened and tied after livestock leave the allotment.
8. Wire gate tension should be sufficient to prevent the gate from sagging and still be closed. Gate loops should be made from smooth wire, not barbed wire.

Proposed Improvements

Full size cattle guards	Fences
A cattle guard may be required in the new boundary fence.	Allotment boundary fence between Cottonwood and Marysvale.

Actual Use, Operation and Maintenance
2009 GRAZING SEASON

ALLOTMENT: _____ COTTONWOOD _____ Permittee: Keith Anderton

Pasture	Sequence	Entry Date	Exit Date	No. Of Cattle
Alunite	First			

I maintained the following improvements this year: _____

Material Cost \$ _____ Labor Cost \$ _____

Number of days spent managing the allotment _____

Death Loss: _____ Cows, _____ Calves. Caused by: Poisonous plants _____
Disease _____

Comments: _____

Return form at end of Grazing Season

Return form to: District Ranger
PO Box E
Beaver, Utah 84713