2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
SOAPSTONE
S&G ALLOTMENT

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for grazing management on the Soapstone Allotment for this grazing season. The following three items must be completed: (1) a bill for collection of grazing fees must be issued by the Forest Service; (2) the permittee must pay the grazing fees and the Forest Service must receive verification of fees being paid prior to turning any livestock onto the National Forest; and (3) upon making full payment of grazing fees the permittee must turnout at least 90% of the permitted livestock numbers unless nonuse has been approved by the District Ranger in advance of payment.

Refer to Part 2 of your grazing permit for other general terms and conditions.

PERMITTED USE:

Permittee	Allotment	Sheep No.	Season	Sheep Mo.
Richins Brothers	Soapstone	1200	07/01 to 09/30	3630

AUTHORIZED USE:

Permittee	Allotment	Sheep No.	Season	Sheep Mo.
Richins Brothers	Soapstone	1200	07/01 to 09/30	3630

TRAILING PROVISIONS

Sheep will be trucked to and from the allotment.

GRAZING ROTATION:

Sequence	Unit Name
1st	Cold Springs
2nd	East Soapstone
3rd	North Soapstone
4th	Lambert Hollow
REST	West Soapstone

On and Off date and the rotation sequence is to be followed unless the Heber-Kamas District Ranger authorizes a change in writing. Time spent in each pasture may vary depending on weather and when standards are met. It is the permittee's responsibility to monitor the use and move the sheep before standards are exceeded. Standards to be used are outlined in the following section.

STANDARDS:

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RCHA) includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, perennial and intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems. There are three RCHA classes of varying levels of protection: Class I with widths extending 300 feet from each edge of the waterbody (600 feet total); Class II with widths extending 200 feet from each edge of the waterbody(400 feet total); and Class III with widths extending 100 feet from each edge of the waterbody (200 feet total).

Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels within RHCAs based on the average current year's growth.

SEE ATTACHED MAP FOR CLASS OF STREAM ON THE ALLOTMENT

Utilization Standards by Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) Class

RHCA Class	Minimum Percent of Stream Length	Utilization Standard by Season of Use			
		Very Early – Early		Mid – Late Seral	
		Early	Late	Early	Late
Minimum Greenline Stubble Height[1]					
Class I	90%	5”	6”	4”	5”
Class II	80%	4”	5”	3”	4”
Class III	70%	3”	4”	2”	3”
Forage Utilization Limits[2]					
Class I	90%	45%	35%	55%	45%
Class II	80%	50%	40%	60%	50%
Class III	70%	60%	50%	65%	55%
Willow Utilization[2]					
Class I	90%	N/A	35%	N/A	50%
Class II	80%	N/A	35%	N/A	45%
Class III	70%	N/A	35%	N/A	50%

[1] Height of key species (palatable, hydrophytic species indicative of mid to late seral riparian plant communities, or as indicated in the site-specific Allotment Management Plan). If acceptable “key species” are absent from a site, only utilization standards shall be used.

[2] Percent of total average annual growth.

Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels on non-riparian vegetation types outside of the RHCAs based on the annual average of the current year’s growth.

Forage Utilization Standards

Vegetation Type	Forage Utilization	
	Very Early – Early Seral	Mid – Late Seral
General Uplands and Winter Range		
Upland shrublands (sagebrush, snowberry, mountain mahogany species, cliffrose, bitterbrush, saltbrush, and mountain brush)	40%	60%
Grasslands	45%	65%
Forest-wide		
Sub-alpine shrublands	25%	35%
Sub-alpine grasslands	40%	45%

Maintain at least 70 percent of potential effective ground cover to provide nutrient cycling and protect the soil from erosion in upland areas.

Maintain adequate ground cover to filter runoff and prevent detrimental erosion in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) as follows.

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) Ground Cover Requirements

RHCA	Minimum Ground Cover Requirement	Minimum Percent of RHCA to Meet Requirement
Class I	90% of Potential	90%
Class II	80% of Potential	80%
Class III	80% of Potential	70%

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

The permittee is responsible for all improvements assigned in the term grazing permits and listed in these operating instructions (see attached map). Maintenance shall mean the timely repair of management facilities to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to serve the purpose intended. All improvements will be maintained to the standard for which they were constructed. Maintenance includes permittee responsibility for furnishing the materials needed for repairs.

All range improvements must be maintained before whichever of the following comes first, the turning of livestock into the pasture or before the improvement is needed for the management of livestock on adjacent allotments. It is the responsibility of the permittee to talk to permittees of adjacent allotments to find out when livestock are moving into nearby pastures so improvements can be maintained in a timely manner.

Improvements are to be maintained to the following standards:

Posts, Poles and Buck

- Replace broken or rotten posts, bucks, brace poles and poles
- Notch poles and attach to posts or bucks with spikes
- Straighten and re-tamp loose wood brace and line posts
- Straighten or replace bent steel posts
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- For new construction spacing between steel posts will be 12 feet with a dancer (stay) adjacent to the post and one half way between posts
- Steel posts will be driven into the ground at least far enough that the flange is not showing.
- On existing fences if the space between posts is more than 16 feet there will be 2 dances placed between the posts
- Cross wires on wooden braces at to be tight.
- The cross member of the brace is to be snug against and pinned to the upright posts
- The first and last dancer of a stretch is to have a tie back on the top and bottom that hold it to the brace when lying on the ground.
- Depending upon the length of the stretch and the angle of the corner brace a side brace may be needed to keep the brace from leaning to the side

Wire

- Replace broken wire if necessary
- Splice wire with double strand 12-gauge minimum size barbed wire or smooth wire
- Wrap end of broken wires back around itself to form eye
- Place splicing wire through eye and wrap back around itself
- Make wraps adjacent to each other
- Re-space wire where spacing has been altered
- Measure spacing from ground line in inches
    - 4-wire 16 24 32 42
    - 3 wire 18 28 40
- Re-stretch wires tight with consideration for contraction and expansion.
- Wire will not be twisted or kinked
- Wire is to be tight enough to keep the dancers between posts in an upright position so that the top wire is at least 40 inches above the ground.
- The stretch between braces is to be a straight line

Stays

- Replace broken or missing dancers (stays)
- Straighten bent wire stays

- The bottom loop is to be large enough so that the dancer can be off set from the post. This needs to be done so that when the dancer is laid on the ground the bottom of the dancer does not catch on the post.
- The top loop is to be stapled to dancer and be long enough to slip over the post without lifting the fence.

Trees

- Remove all fallen trees from fences
- Do not use logs and/or brush instead of poles or wire
- Do not use trees as posts

Gates

- Stretch wire so gates will not sag, but easily open and close
- Make gate loops with smooth wire

Wire Fasteners

- Replace missing staples and steel post clip
- Drive staples diagonally into bucks, braces and dancers
- Drive staples in wood posts, bucks and dancers so wire can move
- Drive staples in brace posts so wire cannot move
- The wires are to be stapled and/or wired to the dancer so that when the dancer is laid on the ground the wire is on top of the dancer

Water Developments

- Keep troughs clean and free of debris
- Repair leaks in troughs
- Level water troughs
- Replace broken trough braces
- Replace or install small animal escape devices in troughs
- Unplug pipelines if necessary
- Replace trough plugs when they are missing
- Replace broken pipes
- Waterlines should be buried to protect form livestock
- Clean and repair overflows
- Maintain spring head fence according to above specifications

- Clean spring boxes or debris and secure cover
- Drain water troughs and pipelines at the end of the season as needed
- Maintain overflows from ponds, keep spillways clan and protected from washing out

ATVs are not to be used in the maintenance of range improvements.

The permittee is to notify the Heber-Kamas District 30 days in advance of doing any pond cleaning. This time period will be used to check for heritage resources and Threatened and Endangered species.

MAPS AND RECORDS:

1. Enclosed are allotment maps with pasture boundaries, allotment improvements locations, stream classifications and rotation sequence.

2. The permittee is required to complete an "actual use" form, which is attached and includes space to record of livestock losses, on and off dates, pasture rotation dates and the permittee's maintenance costs. This form along with the Annual Operating Instructions folder is to be returned to the Heber-Kamas Ranger District by November 31 of this year.

3. The deadline for applying for credit for unused portion of grazing fees is December 31 of this calendar year. Credit will only be given for time not used due to a request by the Forest Service. Time not used due to the discretion of the permittee is not subject to reimbursement or credit on next year's billing.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT:

All hay and straw transported onto the Forest must be certified weed free and have a certification tag. Noncompliance with this closure order will result in a citation.

Please notify the Heber-Kamas Ranger District immediately if unauthorized livestock use occurs on the allotment.

Enclosed is a camping permit to be placed in your camp while taking care of livestock and improvements on your grazing allotment. The permit and sticker must be placed where it is

visible from the outside. Camps and all vehicles are to be kept within 150 feet of established Forest Service roads.

All motorized vehicles (ATVs, 4x4s, etc.) are to be kept on designated Forest System roads.

The permittee is to notify the Heber-Kamas Ranger District 5 days in advance when livestock are going to be put on or taken off the Forest. Sheep are not to enter the Forest until Forest Service personnel have counted the herd. It is the responsibility of the permittee to make arrangements in advance for Forest Service personnel to count the sheep before they enter the Forest. The arrangements for counting sheep on must be agreed to and finalized with Jim Percy or Jeff Schramm.

Careful attention to herding is required on the allotment to control sheep in and scattered throughout the area scheduled for use. It is important to instruct herders to move sheep before forage utilization standards are met. Areas suitable for grazing are to be grazed only one time each year and when the scheduled pastures have been grazed to the outlined standards the sheep will be removed from Forest Service Administered land.

Sheep are not to be bedded more than twice in the same area during the grazing season.

The permittee is to notify the Heber-Kamas Ranger District of shipping dates at least five days in advance of the shipping.

Salt is to be placed at least 200 yards from sources of water and riparian areas so that sheep do not spend excessive time near water.

All salt bags are to be removed from Forest Service administered lands.

Locate livestock bed grounds outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

Grazing of riparian areas should be incidental to watering of livestock.

Grazing capacity will be based on the amount of animal months that sheep can remain in the pastures scheduled for use and comply with the outlined Standards and Guidelines.

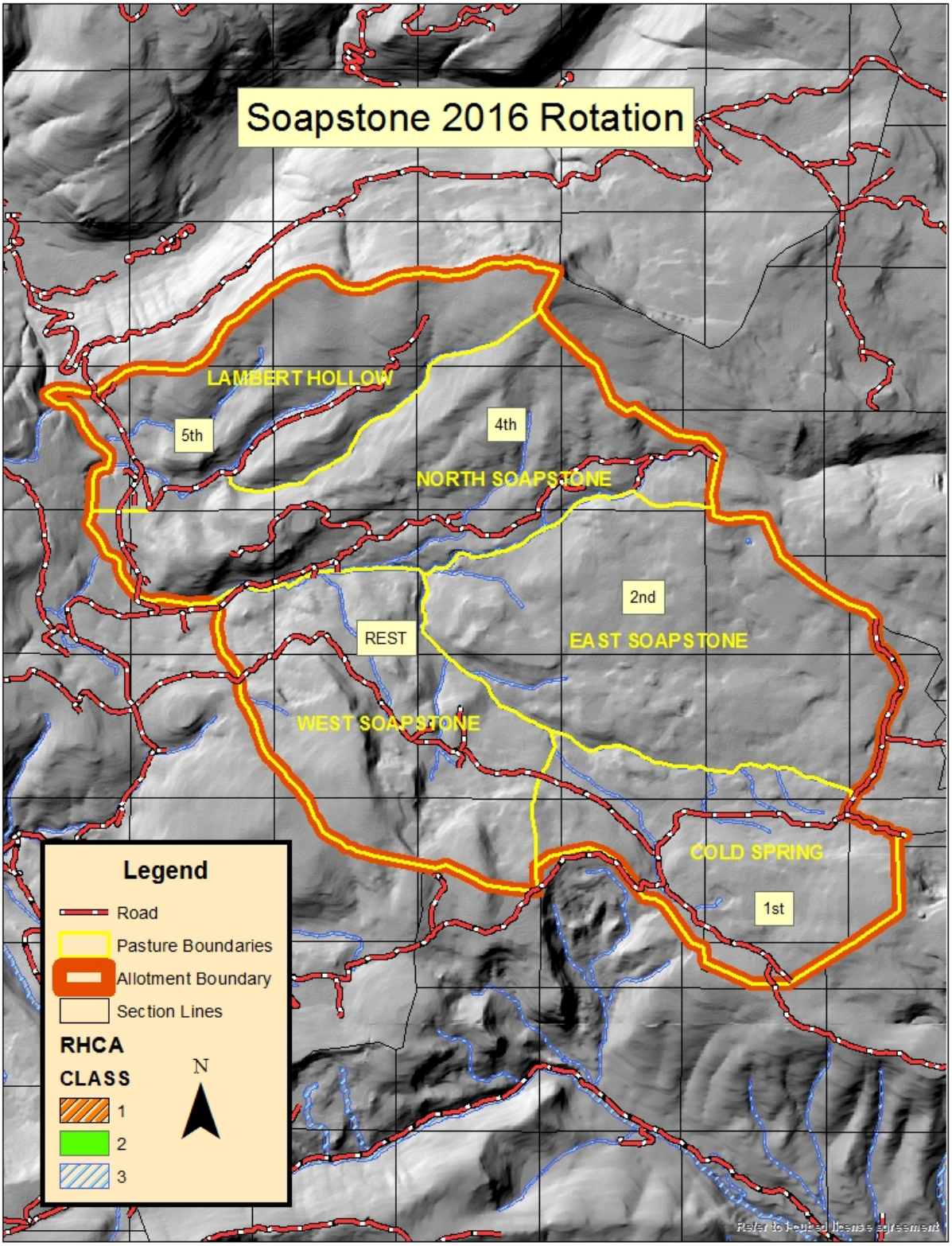
The herder is authorized to have 3 horses on the Forest to be used in the management of the sheep. These horses will be included on the Bill of Collection for the grazing fees and the fee must be confirmed as being paid before the horses are allowed to graze.

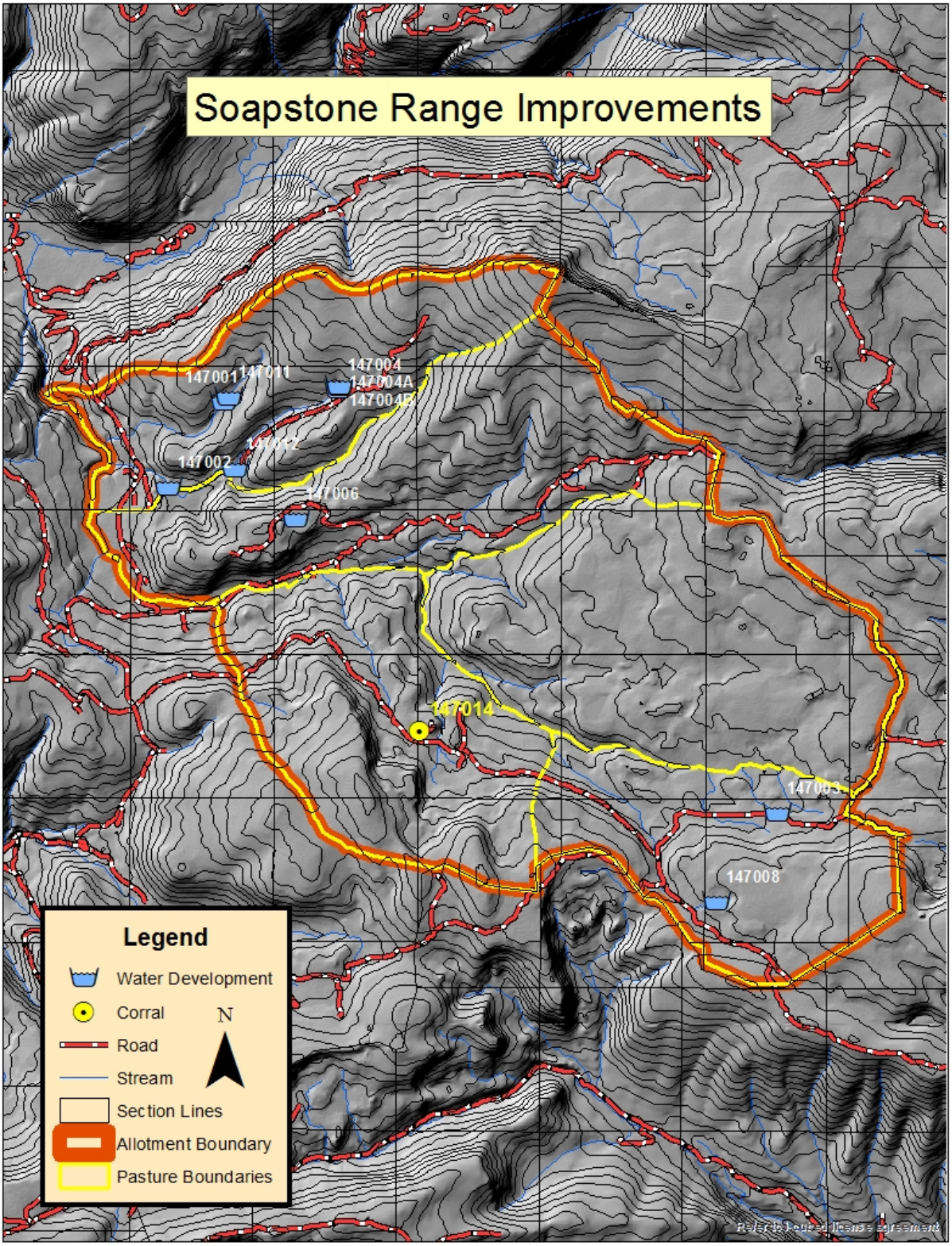
Refer to General Instructions to Permittees and Herders contained within the Annual Operating Instructions folder and the terms and conditions outlined on the Term Grazing Permit for additional requirements

Jim Percy, Range Conservationist, or Jeff Schramm, Heber-Kamas District Ranger are to be contacted prior to any deviation from the Annual Operation Instructions. The rest pasture is not to be grazed except for unforeseen circumstances and only after written approval has been obtained from the Heber-Kamas District Ranger.

Kay Richins _____ Date _____
Richins Brothers

Jeff Schramm _____ Date _____
District Ranger


Soapstone 2016 Rotation
LAMBERT HOLLOW
5th
4th
NORTH SOAPSTONE
2nd
REST
EAST SOAPSTONE
WEST SOAPSTONE
COLD SPRING
1st
Legend
Road
Pasture Boundaries
Allotment Boundary
Section Lines
RHCA
CLASS
1
2
3
N


Soapstone Range Improvements
147001
147011
147004
147004A
147004B
147002
147006
147014
147008
Legend
Water Development
Corral
Road
Stream
Section Lines
Allotment Boundary
Pasture Boundaries
N