

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
WEBER RIVER C&H
ALLOTMENT**

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for grazing management on the Weber River 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	Cow No.	Season
Kent Leavitt	66	21 Jun to 30 Sept
Tyler Page	68	21 Jun to 30 Sept
Wendell Stembridge	52	21 Jun to 30 Sept
Total	186	

AUTHORIZED USE:

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GRAZING ROTATION:

	UNIT NAME
1 st	Lower Red Pine Nix-Nobletts Bear Hollow
2nd	Upper Red Pine, Box Canyon, Mud Flat ,Shingle Mill Flat
3rd	Swifts Creek, White Pine, South Fork
REST	Erickson Basin, Hell's Kitchen

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 cattle before standards are exceeded. Standards to be used are outlined in the following section.

STANDARDS:

Maximum utilization standards for vegetation types in satisfactory condition as outlined in the following table.

Vegetation Type	Condition	Percent Utilization Key Grass
Upland and Aspen	Satisfactory	50
Crested Wheatgrass	Satisfactory	60
Riparian Class I	Satisfactory	50
Riparian Classes II and III	Satisfactory	60

The utilization standard is 40% in key riparian areas except Shingle Creek for which the standard is 30% and the confluence area and upper stem of the North Fork for which the standard is 30%. Once the utilization standard has been reached on the key riparian area, it will be considered that the utilization standard has been met for the grazing area regardless of the amount of use in adjoining upland areas.

If the utilization standard is reached on key riparian areas in the high country units prior to Labor Day, the cattle will be removed from the allotment. If the utilization standard for key riparian areas in the high country units is reached after Labor day, the cattle will be allowed to use the Mirror Lake highway Unit until the end of the grazing season of until the 40% utilization standard is reached.

Maximum utilization standards for low to mid elevation greenline species in value class I, II, and III riparian areas in satisfactory condition.

Riparian Value Class I	Condition	Stubble height at end of growing season
Riparian Value Class I	Satisfactory	5-6 inches
Riparian Value Class II	Satisfactory	4-5 inches
Riparian Value Class III	Satisfactory	3-4 inches

Ground cover is to be 85% or potential

Vegetation Type	% Ground Cover Range at Potential	85% of potential ground cover
Silver Sagebrush	89 - 96	76 to 82
Mountain sagebrush	81 -96	69 – 82
Low Sagebrush	69	59
Snowberry	92	78
Aspen	90 – 98	77 – 83
Alpine grassland	97 – 100	82 – 85
Tall Forb	49 – 75	42 – 64
Oak brush	92 - 100	78 – 85

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
- 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 are 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 holds 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
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- The bottom loop is to be large enough so 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 the 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 them from 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 clean 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 improvement 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 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. Cattle 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 cattle before they enter the Forest. The arrangements for counting cattle on must be agreed to and finalized with Jim Percy or Jeff Schramm.

Careful attention to herding is required on the allotment to control cattle in and scattered throughout the area scheduled for use. Herding should be in such a manner that the riparian areas are grazed in conjunction with the upland so that utilization is somewhat uniform throughout the pasture. Cattle are to be moved out of the pasture before standards are exceeded. Once cattle are removed from a pasture they are not be allowed to return to that pasture. If use in the pastures designated for grazing are met or exceeded before the end of the grazing season cattle are to be removed from Forest Service administered land.

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

The permittee is to notify the Heber-Kamas Ranger District at least five days before they ship the cattle off the Forest.

Salt should be placed at least 200 yards from water sources and riparian areas so that cattle do not spend excessive time near water.

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

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.

Wendell Stembridge _____ Date _____

Jeff Schramm _____ Date _____
District Ranger

