

Uinta-Watach-Cache National Forest - Spanish Fork Ranger District

**SHARPES VALLEY ALLOTMENT
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

2016



PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Permitted Use	Authorized Use	Brand	Brand Location
Leo L., Jimmy Lee and William Elmer Larson	32 cow/calf 05/01 to 10/31	32 cow/calf 05/01 to 10/31	Y	LR

GRAZING ROTATION

The Sharpes Valley Allotment is managed with a deferred grazing system by controlling access to water troughs. Water is turned on and/or off to move cattle from one area to another. In 2016, the first trough to be used will be the Sharps Pipeline Lower Trough, the second trough to be used is the Sharpes Pipeline Upper Trough and the last trough to be used is the Windmill Trough.

Allotment	Livestock Numbers	Dates of Use*	Days
Sharpes Valley	32 cow/calf	05/01 to 10/31	184

**The above rotation dates are flexible based on utilizations listed below.*

FOREST PLAN AND ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which was approved in 2003 and the allotment management plan for the Sharpes Valley Allotment which was approved on March 8, 2007 list the following standards, guidelines and objectives:

Upland Forage Utilization

Standard: Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels on non-riparian vegetation types based on the annual average of the current year's growth. However, through June 15 at Strawberry Reservoir Management Area and through June 1 at the Vernon Management Area, minimum canopy cover and height requirements for greater sage grouse habitat take precedence over the forage utilization standards in the following table.

Forage Utilization Standards

<i>Vegetation Type</i>	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%

It is the permittee’s responsibly to make sure allowable use standards are not exceeded. When utilization standards are met the permittee will be required to remove cattle from the entire unit or allotment. Use of the rest unit will not be allowed.

Riparian Forage Utilization

There are no riparian areas on the allotment.

Additional Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines

Guideline: Subject to valid existing rights, free-flowing water and associated riparian vegetation communities should be retained at developed spring sites. If possible, existing spring developments should be modified to return water to riparian ecosystems within the source drainage.

Guideline: Avoid equipment operation in stream courses, open water, seeps, or springs. If use of equipment in such areas is required, impacts should be minimized.

Guideline: Limit equipment operation in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). If the use of equipment in these areas is required, incorporate additional mitigation to minimize adverse impacts.

Guideline: Implement intensive grazing management that provides periodic rest designed to achieve and maintain desired vegetation community composition and structure.

Guideline: Maintain at least 70 percent of potential effective ground cover to provide nutrient cycling and protect the soil from erosion in excess of soil loss tolerance limits.

Standard: Provide wildlife escape ramps in all developed water sources.

Guideline: Provide for wildlife movement through and/or around structures or project sites such as fences, spring developments, guzzlers, roads, and ditches.

Guideline: Manage approximately 80 percent of potential greater sage grouse breeding and winter habitat areas in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas to support the percentages and heights of canopy cover listed in the table below. Breeding habitat should retain the given height levels of grasses and a diversity of forbs annually through June 1 in the Vernon Management Area and June 15 in the Strawberry Reservoir Management Area. Vegetation should be maintained in a mosaic of openings and shrubs.

Vegetation Requirements in the Vernon and Strawberry Reservoir Management Areas

Vegetation Type	Minimum % Canopy Cover	Minimum Height Canopy Cover ¹	
		Vernon Management Area	Strawberry Reservoir Management Area
Greater Sage Grouse Breeding Habitat (Maintain through June 15 - Strawberry Vernon- maintain through June 1)*			
Sagebrush	15-25%	16-32 inches	16-32 inches
Grasses	≥ 15%	≥ 6 inches	≥ 7 inches
Forbs	≥ 10%	≥ 6 inches	≥ 7 inches
Greater Sage Grouse Winter Habitat			
Sagebrush	10-30% ²	10-14 inches ²	10-14 inches ²
Grasses	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forbs	N/A	N/A	N/A

*There is no sage grouse breeding habitat on the Sharpes Valley Allotment

Guideline: Defer livestock grazing in areas disturbed by wildland fire or other natural events until vegetation has reestablished sufficiently, but for no less than two growing seasons.

Standard: Only certified noxious weed-free hay or feed is allowed on National Forest land, including hay or feed for use by recreational livestock. Any materials such as hay, straw, or mulch that are used for rehabilitation and reclamation activities shall be certified weed-free.

Other Requirements

Actual Use: Please complete the enclosed actual use record form at the close of the grazing season and return to the Spanish Fork Ranger District before December 1.

Salt: Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution. Place salt where use is light, such as ridge tops and areas away from water. Avoid stock tanks, wet meadows, and creek bottoms. Place salt away from roads and developed trails.

State Livestock Health Laws: All owners of livestock must comply with state livestock health laws.

Dead Livestock: Livestock which die within 100 yards of public roads or live water will be disposed of in a manner approved by the District Ranger or his/her representative.



Off Road Vehicle Use: Off road vehicle use for reconstruction or maintenance of range improvements (when hauling materials only) listed in these operating instructions is hereby authorized. ATV's or trucks can be used to check water. ATV's or trucks can be used to haul salt on system and non-system roads or trails. No new trails or roads can be made. Use of off road vehicles is limited to periods of time when weather and ground conditions are such that rutting and soil movement will not occur. Any other off road vehicle use shall be approved in advance (location and time) by the District Ranger or his/her representative. Absent this approval, travel restrictions described in the Forest Supervisors Order of May 27, 2005 and in the Uinta National Forest Summer Travel Map (2007) apply.

Payment of Fees: The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be on Forest Service-administered lands unless the fees specified in the Bill for Collection are paid.

Compliance: The permittee is responsible for compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permit, allotment management plan, operating instructions and the directions of the Forest Officer in charge. Failure to meet these terms and conditions is violation of the grazing permit.

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

- ✓ If the permittee is not hauling water, he will reconstruct approximately ¼ mile of the pasture division fence from allotment boundary fence to the new cattle guard. The Forest Service will supply the material.
- ✓ If the spring is running the permittee can install new pipe. The Forest Service can supply approximately one mile of 2 inch diameter, HDPE pipe, pending budget restraints.
- ✓ The Forest Servia will meet with the permittee to look at a proposal to install a second trough in the Upper pasture
- ✓ The Forest Service will start the NEPA process on the new pipeline and trough from the Little Valley Spring that will run through the Sharpes Allotment and then onto the Bennion Allotment. The permittee and Forest Service will work with GIP to help fund the project. This project is completed except for the water rights.

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The permittee is responsible for all improvements assigned in the term grazing permits and listed in these operating instructions. 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. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before cattle enter the allotment. Unit division fences and water developments must be maintained before cattle can enter each unit. Improvements will be maintained to the following standards:



Posts, Poles and Bucks

- 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

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 at least three wraps in each eye
- 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

Stays

- Replace broken or missing stays
- Straighten bent wire stays

Trees

- Remove all fallen trees from fences
- Do not use logs and/or brush instead of poles or wire
- If wire is attached to trees, nail wood slab to tree and staple wire to slab

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 clips
- Drive staples diagonally into bucks, braces and stays
- Drive staples in wood posts, bucks and stays so wire can move
- Drive staples in brace posts so wire cannot move

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 if missing
- Replace broken pipes
- Waterlines should be buried to protect 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
 Maintain overflows from ponds, keep spillways clean and protected from washing out

Maintenance responsibilities are listed below and shown on the attached map:

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
1	Bennion/Sharpes Valley Allotment Boundary Fence Segment 1 (Sharpes/East Reservoir Unit)	0.91 miles of steel posts with 4 strands of barbed wire and spiral stays.	Larson	846005-1
2	Bennion/Sharpes Valley Allotment Boundary Fence Segment 2 (Sharpes/East Reservoir Unit)	0.72 miles of steel posts with 4 strands of barbed wire and spiral stays	Larson	846005-2
3	Sharpes Valley/Sabie Mountain Allotment Boundary Fence Segment 1 (Sharpes/Sabie Creek Unit)	0.38 miles of railroad ties with 4 strands of barbed wire and spiral stays. (Northeast section)	Larson	846003-1
4	Sharpes Valley/Sabie Mountain Allotment Boundary Fence Segment 2 (Sharpes/Sabie Creek Unit)	0.86 miles of cedar posts and 4 strands of barbed wire. (Center section)	Larson	846003-2
5	Sharpes Valley/Sabie Mountain Allotment Boundary Fence Segment 3 (Sharpes/Sabie Creek Unit)	0.25 miles of steel posts with 4 strands barb wire with spiral stays. (Southwest section)	Larson	846003-3
6	Old Burn/Seeding Fence (Abandoned)	1.77 miles of wood posts with 4 strands of barbed wire.	None	846004

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
7	Bennion/Sharpes Valley Allotment Boundary Fence Cattle Guard	Channel Steel 12'x 8'	Tooele County	846CG2
8	Sharpes Valley/Private Land Cattle Guard	Channel Steel 12'x 8'	Tooele County	846CG1
9	Upper/Lower Pasture Cattle Guard	Need Description Need to GPS	Tooele County	846CG3
10	Sharpes Pipeline Spring Sharpes Pipeline	Spring source is buried perforated pipe and gravel. 1.07 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe	Larson	846001S 846001P
11	Sharpes Pipeline Upper Trough	583 gallon Powder River Trough 46"x 20"x 14'	Larson	84600T1
12	Sharpes Pipeline Lower Trough	700 gallons rubber tire set in cement	Larson	84600T2
13	Wild Cat Water Development (abandoned)	Spring source is buried perforated pipe and gravel. GPS proper location 449 feet of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. Two round 6'x 30" steel troughs, 500 gallons total.	None	846002S 846002P 846002T

Changes in these annual operating instructions must be approved in advance by the Forest Service. We look forward to working with you this coming grazing season.



SHARPES VALLEY ALLOTMENT ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2015

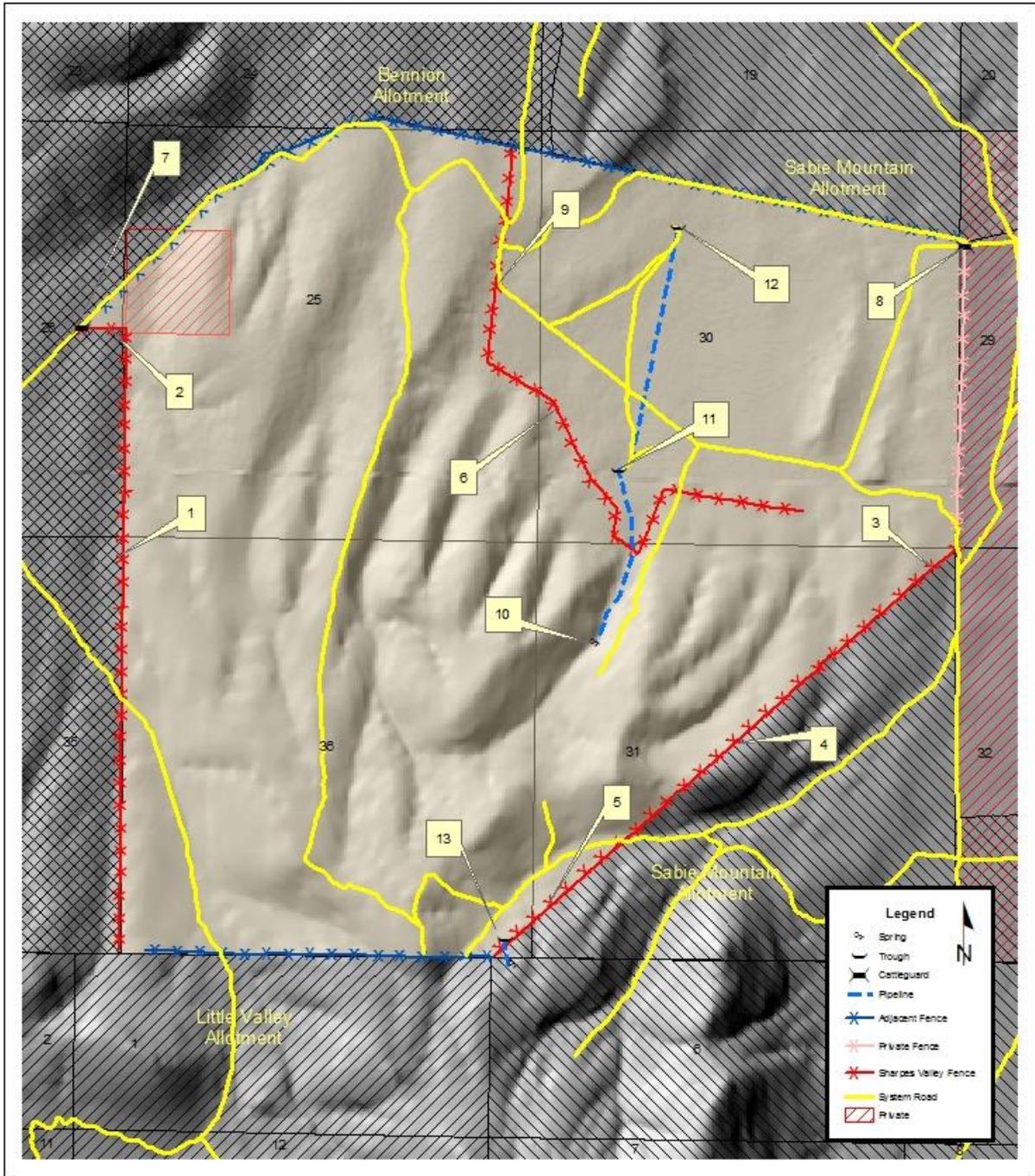
PERMITTEE

DATE

SPANISH FORK DISTRICT RANGER

DATE





Sharpes Valley Allotment 2016



UAS Uta-U-Watch-Cache National Forest
Spanish Fork Ranger District

