



Annual Operating Instructions  
**Boulder Mountain & Ricks-Steel**  
**Sheep Allotments**



2016  
 Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
 Logan Ranger District

Allotment	Permitted #	Permitted Season	Authorized #	Authorized Season
Boulder Mountain	906 ewe/lamb	July 1-Sept 30	850 ewe/lamb	June 20-Sept 20
Ricks-Steel	855 ewe/lamb	July 1-Oct 10 Any 95 consecutive days	750 ewe/lamb	June 20-Sept 20
Private Land Ricks-Steel	216 ewe/lamb		216 ewe/lamb	June 20-Sept 20

Actual on and off dates may vary on all allotments depending on weather and scheduling.

Please review your Term Grazing Permit prior to grazing livestock on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Listed below are the topics we discussed and agreed to during your Annual Operating Meeting. This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season that requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. The dates listed are tentative and will be adjusted based on available feed and use in each unit.

**ROTATION SCHEDULES:**

**Boulder Mountain/Ricks-Steel:** Herd 1 will enter through Squaw Flat; at Humming Bird Spring move to west boundary then to north boundary. Herd 2 will also enter through Squaw Flat and move north to Trail Hollow Pond, go east Ricks Steel east boundary; circle south past Dog Spring to Peterson Pond #5 then west to Peterson Pond # 4 then to Peterson Pond #2, then south to Eagle Nest Pond then to Marie Spring, then either ship on top or move to Hardware Ranch.

When utilization levels are reached for a particular area or the allotment as a whole, the sheep will be moved to the next area or off the forest. Please review the attached Utilization Standards table prior to turning out.

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

You will need to contact the district’s range staff at least five days prior to this turn on date to confirm that the rangeland is ready and that all required maintenance is complete. General rangeland readiness indicators are attached for your use in working with my range staff to schedule your on date.

**Turn Out:** Sheep are to be distributed throughout the pasture on the same day as they are turned out. In no case is it acceptable to leave the sheep to bunch up. They are not to be left in areas of resource concern such as riparian areas, areas near concentrated public use, trailheads, and so forth. Coordinate with the range staff to ensure that we are not creating problems for ourselves.

**Exit:** All sheep must be removed from the forest by the off date. Again, if utilization levels are reached before this date you will be expected to remove all the sheep from the allotment. The off date for a pasture is the date when the livestock are to be fully out of the unit, or in the case of the last pasture, fully off National Forest System (NFS) lands. It is your responsibility to ensure compliance with this requirement.

- The Forest Service recognizes that moves from one pasture to another cannot usually be accomplished in one day. It is your responsibility to begin early movements of livestock to ensure that pastures are clean by the dates specified.

- Failure to completely remove livestock from a pasture by the off date may result in action being taken against the grazing permit(s).
- Extensions of the authorized grazing season, if desired, must be requested in advance of the off date to allow time for inspection and billing of additional grazing fees.

Livestock remaining on the National Forest System lands after the end of the authorized grazing season must be billed for at the unauthorized use rate and may be cause for action to be taken against the grazing permit.

Sheep will graze lightly across each unit once. They will not be allowed back across that unit unless it is to trail off the allotment. Herders will not bunch sheep, but will practice open herding. Sheep will not be shaded, bedded and/or salted in the same place more than one day or night, nor will they be allowed to shade on water.

Please take extra effort in distributing your sheep into the less desirable and hard to herd areas in the grazing sequence. Use all available methods to achieve this such as salt and mineral placement and extensive herding.

Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile away from canyon bottoms, roads, water, and areas where livestock tend to concentrate. Remove from the forest and appropriately dispose of all used salt bags. Livestock that die near roads, water, or trails will be moved at least 100 ft. from these areas.

All hay or straw used on NFS lands must be tagged or marked as noxious weed free as directed by the USDA Weed Free Order.

Keep herder camp areas clean, in order and practice ‘Leave No Trace’ and ‘Tread Lightly’ principles. Stay alert for Campfire Restrictions and inform your herders of any Special Orders issued by the Forest Service.

### MONITORING AND KEY AREAS

It is the responsibility of the permittee to monitor livestock use and apply the attached utilization standards and guidelines to determine when livestock need to be removed to avoid excessive use. The Forest Service may coordinate inspection trips throughout the summer and review random pastures soon after the livestock leave.

#### Grazing Utilization and Stubble Height Standards

Vegetation Type	Condition	Utilization or Stubble Height Standard
Upland and Aspen	Satisfactory	50%
Upland and Aspen	Unsatisfactory	40%
Riparian Class I (away from greenline)	Satisfactory	50%
Riparian Class I (away from greenline)	Unsatisfactory	40%
Riparian Class II & III (away from greenline)	Satisfactory	60%
Riparian Class II & III (away from greenline)	Unsatisfactory	40%
Riparian Class I (Greenline)	All	≥ 5”
Riparian Class II (Greenline)	All	≥ 4”
Riparian Class III (Greenline)	All	≥ 3”

NOTE: \*Please complete the attached Current Plan and Actual Use Record form throughout the summer and return it to the district within 30 days of your actual off date. This will provide a method for annual written suggestions from you while they are fresh on your mind and help us better coordinate the overall management of the allotment.

### **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS-MAINTENANCE**

You are responsible for maintenance of all range improvements assigned to you in your grazing permit. Basic standards for maintenance are attached in the appendix. All assigned improvements must be maintained to standard whether grazing occurs or not.

- Fences  
All exterior fences must be maintained to standard prior to the earliest turn on date of either yourself or your neighbor on the adjacent allotment. It is your responsibility to coordinate with your neighbor to ensure that the maintenance occurs on time. All interior fences must be maintained to standard prior to turning livestock against them.
- Water Developments  
Water developments must be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the pasture containing the development.

Failure to properly complete the assigned maintenance to standard and in a timely manner may result in action being taken against the grazing permit.

### **CONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE**

The following projects are scheduled for construction on your allotment:

- Finish Marie Springs spring and trough development

After Oct 1<sup>st</sup> following FS clearance:

- Clean Pond at the end of the spur road in the north end of Ricks Steel near east boundary
- Clean Pond on Boulder Mountain in NW corner of Sec 18 and SE ¼ of Sec 35.

### **BILLING & NON-USE**

The 2016 grazing fee is set at \$ .42 per head month. Payment is due in full 2 weeks before your On-Date. All fees must be paid, received, and processed before livestock can enter NFS lands.

Personal convenience non-use must be requested in advance of the permitted “on date”. Approval of non-use is not automatic. In the absence of approved non-use, the permittee must place 90% or more of the permitted numbers on the allotment. Non-use applies only to numbers and not to dates. Personal convenience non-use will not normally be approved for more than three consecutive years or for more than four years in any consecutive ten-year period. A permit cannot be waived based on sale of permitted livestock if that permit is in personal convenience non-use status.

### **VIOLATIONS**

Violations of the Terms and Conditions of your grazing permit, including these Annual Operating Instructions, may result in action being taken against your permit. If violations occur, you will be notified and informed of the violation, the remedy and timeframe required to correct the violation and the consequences if you fail to remedy the situation.

### **COOPERATION**

In order to prevent small problems from becoming big problems, please work closely with the district range staff. Your Rangeland Management Specialists are Anthony VonNiederhausern, (435) 755-3636, and Ann Robins, (435) 755-3634.

Our mailing address is: USDA Forest Service

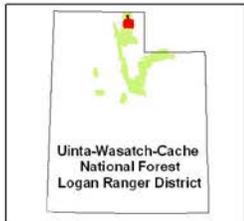
1500 East Highway 89

Logan, UT 84321.



## Boulder Mountain Sheep Allotment

This map shows the Boulder Mountain Allotment Boundaries



### Legend

Allotment

0 0.5 1 Miles

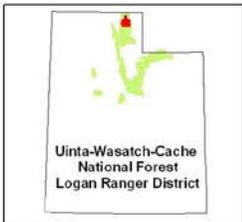


The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results.



### Ricks Steel Sheep Allotment

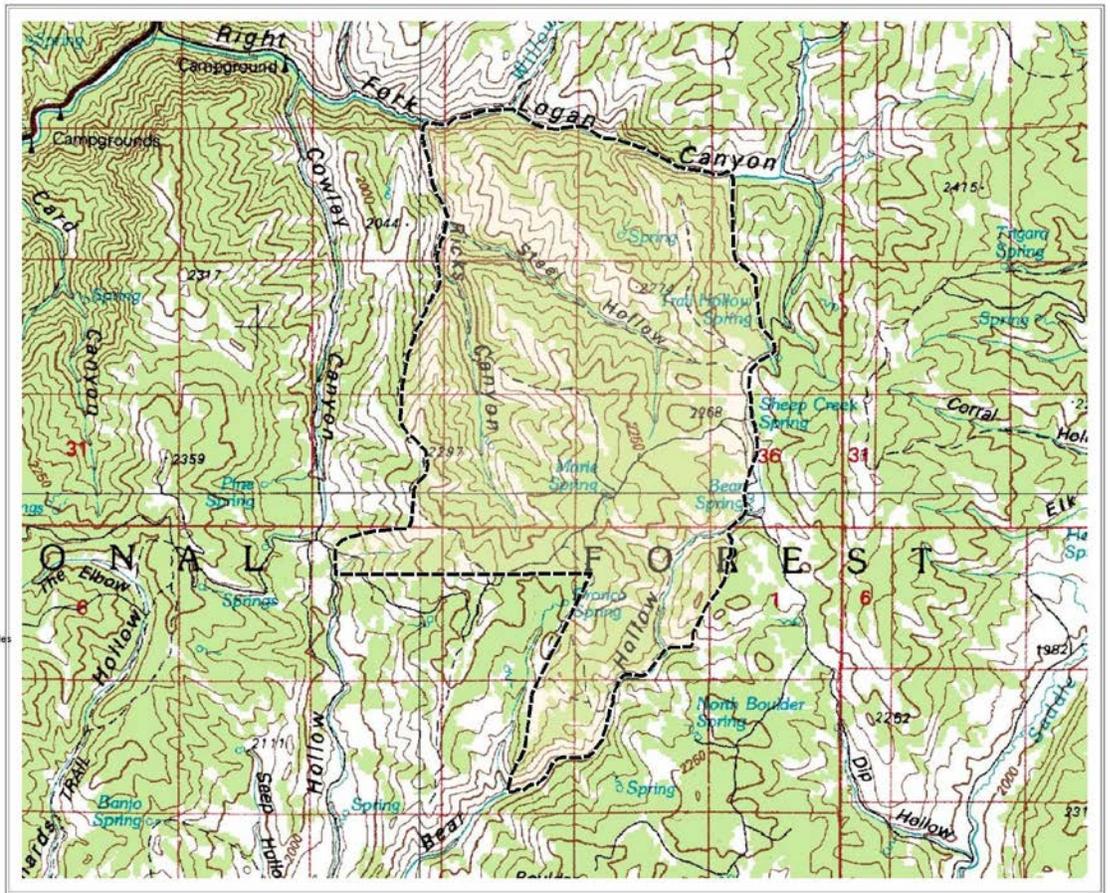
This map shows the Ricks Steel Allotment Boundaries



Legend  
 Allotment



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