

Uinta-Watach-Cache National Forest – Salt Lake Ranger District
SKULL VALLEY
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
2016



PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Permitted Use	Authorized Use	Brand	Brand Location
Brown's Diamond J, Inc	66 cow/calf 05/26 to 07/25	66 cow/calf 06/01 to 09/01*	Ⓜ	RH
			Ⓞ	RH
Skull Valley Company Ensign Ranches	100 cow/calf 05/15 to 08/15	100 cow/calf 06/01 to 09/01	IC	LH
TOTAL	166 cow/calf	166 cow/calf		

* Grazing days have been increased from 61 days to 93 days to facilitate the management of the two allotments together to have a deferred grazing system.

GRAZING SYSTEM

The Skull Valley Allotment is managed together as a two pasture deferred system. The grazing plan for the 2016 season is listed below:

Pasture	Livestock Numbers	Dates of Use*	Days*
Skull Valley South	166 cow/calf	06/01 to 07/01	31
Skull Valley North	166 cow/calf	07/02 to 09/01	62
Total			93

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

FOREST PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The Revised Forest Plan Wasatch-Cache National Forest, which was approved in 2003, requires the following standards, guidelines and objectives:



Standard: As a tool to achieve desired conditions of the land, maximum forage utilization standards for vegetation types in satisfactory condition using traditional grazing systems (rest rotation, deferred rotation, season long) are as follows.

Vegetation type	Condition	Percent Utilization Key Grass or Grass like
Upland and Aspen	Satisfactory	50
Crested Wheatgrass	Satisfactory	60
Riparian* Class I	Satisfactory	50
Riparian* Class II and III	Satisfactory	60

* Riparian away from greenline

Standard: As a tool to achieve desired conditions of riparian areas, maximum forage utilization standards (stubble height) for low to mid elevation *greenline* species in Class I, II, and III riparian areas in satisfactory condition are as follows (Key species being grazed include water sedge, Nebraska sedge and and/or wooly sedge)

Vegetation type	Condition	Greenline Stubble Height at End of Growing Season
Riparian Class I	Satisfactory	No Less than 5”
Riparian Class II	Satisfactory	No Less than 4”
Riparian Class III	Satisfactory	No Less than 3”

Riparian Class I: Fish Bearing Streams: Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) consists of the stream and the area on either side of the steam extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Riparian Class II: Permanently Flowing Non-Fish Bearing Streams: RHCAs consists of the stream and the area on either side of the steam extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 150 feet slope distance (300 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Riparian Class III: Ponds Lakes, Reservoirs and Wetlands Greater Than One Acre: RHCAs consists of the body of water or wetland and the area to 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoir or from the edge of the wetland pond or lake.

No Riparian Class I, II or III areas have been identified on the Skull Valley Allotments

Standard: For all rangelands, including big game winter range and riparian areas, permit no more than 50 % of the current year’s growth on woody vegetation to be browsed during one growth cycle, (i.e. when use has reached 50% allow no additional livestock use).

Standard: Allow management activities to result in no less that 85% of potential ground cover for each vegetation cover type.



Guideline: As a tool to achieve rehabilitation of upland, aspen, and riparian communities away from the greenline that are not meeting or moving toward objectives (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition), maximum allowed forage utilization will be 30-40 percent.

Guideline: Modify grazing practices that prevent attainment of desired future conditions for vegetation and/or aquatic resources.

Guideline: Delay livestock use in post-fire and post-harvest created forest openings until successful regeneration of the shrub and tree components occurs (aspen trees reach an average height of 6 feet)

Guideline: Stock driveways and trailing routes will be located outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas unless terrain and/or vegetation are prohibitive. When driveways and trailing routes must pass through Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, they will be located and livestock moved through them in such a way to minimize the extent and/or severity of potential damage caused by trailing.

Guideline: Manage Class I Riparian Area Greenlines for 70% or more late-seal vegetation communities. Manage Class II Riparian Area Greenlines for 60% or more late-seal vegetation communities. Manage Class III Riparian Area Greenlines for 40% or more late-seal vegetation communities.

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.

Salting and Riding: You will need to take responsibility for monitoring utilization and move the cattle when necessary. Please place the salt far from water and out of the bottoms where cattle naturally tend to congregate. Salt should be used as a tool to achieve good distribution of cattle on the allotments.

State Livestock Health Laws: All owners of livestock must comply with state livestock health laws. All bulls must be trichomoniasis tested and have a trichomoniasis tag.

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.

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

- ✓ There are no scheduled activities this year.

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. Pasture division fences and water developments must be maintained before cattle can enter each pasture. 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 clip
- 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 is 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
- 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	Lower Box Canyon Point of Diversion	Water diverted from private pipeline.	Skull/Ensign	125001D
2	Lower Box Canyon Pipeline	4532 feet or 0.86 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe.	Skull/Ensign	125001P
3	Lower Box Canyon Trough #1 (Overflow)	Army surplus steel container. 12 foot by 20 inches by 15 inches deep.	Skull/Ensign	125001T1
4	Lower Box Canyon Trough #2	14' x 4' 18" galvanized Powder River Trough, 583 gallons ???	Skull/Ensign	125001T2
5	Upper Monument Water Development	Need Description of all	Browns	125002S 125002P 125002F 125002T
6	Upper Box Canyon Headbox	Need Description	Skull/Ensign	125003S
7	Upper Box Canyon Pipeline	7827 feet or 1.48 miles of	Skull/Ensign	125003P



Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
8	Upper Box Canyon Trough #1	Need Description	Skull/Ensign	125003T1
9	Upper Box Canyon Trough #2 (Granite)	12 foot by 44 inches wide by 20 inches deep, 495 gallons, Powder River trough	Skull/Ensign	125003T2
10	Upper Box Canyon Trough #3	12 foot by 44 inches wide by 20 inches deep, 495 gallons, Powder River trough	Skull/Ensign	125003T3
11	Skull Valley North/South Pasture Boundary Fence (Monument Ridge)	7568 feet or 1.43 miles of 4 strands of barbed wire and steel posts.	Skull/Ensign upper half Browns lower half	125053
12	Box Canyon Drift Fence	152 feet or 0.03 miles of Need Description	Skull/Ensign	125052
13	Chokecherry Riparian Fence	Need Description	Browns	125050

We look forward to working with you this coming grazing season. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Paul Dart.



SKULL VALLEY ALLOTMENT ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2016

PERMITTEE

DATE

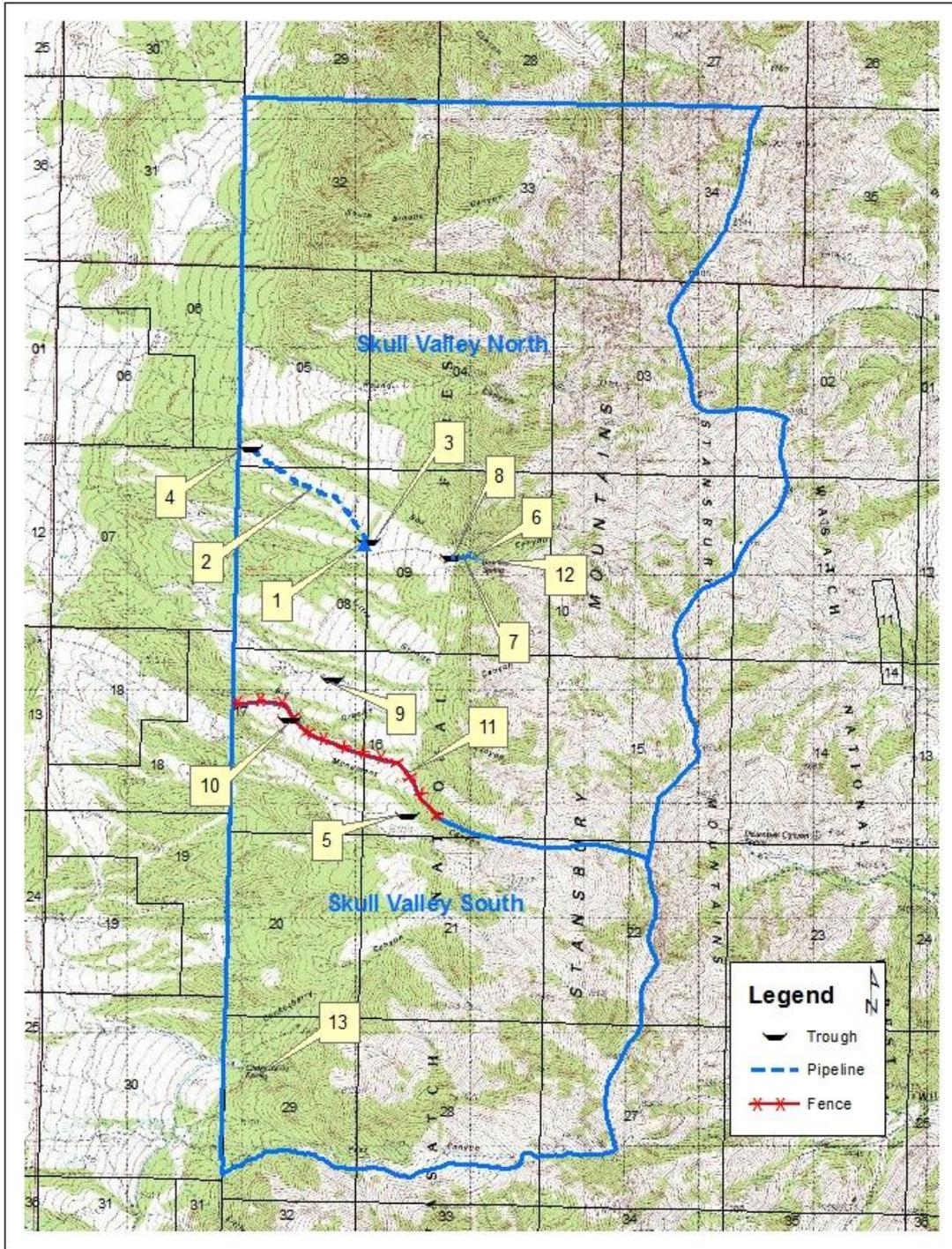
PERMITTEE

DATE

SALT LAKE DISTRICT RANGER

DATE





Skull Valley Allotment - 2016

UAS Uinta-Watch-Cache National Forest
Salt Lake Fork Ranger District

