

**ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST  
Duchesne Ranger District  
Rock Creek Cattle Allotment  
2014 Annual Operating Instructions**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Season</u>
Ron Miles	90	June 12 to October 15
Shane Gardner	80	June 12 to October 15
Total Herd Size	170	

**Grazing Schedule**

Unit	Sequence	Dates of Use	Allowable Use
Yellow Pine	1 <sup>st</sup>	6/12 – 7/15	50%
Miners Gulch	1 <sup>st</sup>	6/12 – 7/15	50%
South Fork	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7/15 – 9/01	50%
Wilderness	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7/15 – 9/01	50%
Lower Canyon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9/02 – 10/15	50%

The dates of use above are to be used as guidelines. The primary determining factor for moving livestock from one unit to the other is utilization. As stated above, allowable use is 50% in upland forage areas in all units. A 4” to 6” stubble height of riparian forage species (i.e. sedges) shall be left in all riparian forage areas (i.e. stream corridors and wet meadows). A 40% allowable use and a 6” stubble height for riparian species are standard guidelines for grazing units inside the High Uintas Wilderness Area. Permittees should closely monitor key areas. It is imperative that permittees do not allow cattle to graze to a point that the key areas have a “mowed” look to them (i.e. all grass seed heads and stalks have been removed from the plants), which indicates about 60% use or greater. When allowable use in the key areas is met in each unit, the cattle need to be moved to the next unit.

A range technician will regularly visit the allotment throughout the summer to monitor permit compliance, forage utilization, and range improvements. Compliance of allowable use standards will be fully enforced. If compliance is not met, permittees will be sent notices of non-compliance and associated requirements to address the violation(s).

Grazing fees will be \$1.35 per head month this year. Fees must be paid through Lockbox collection procedures before livestock will be authorized to enter the National Forest.

**Maintenance of Improvements**

All fences and water developments must be maintained before the cattle will be allowed to enter the allotment. Please contact our office when you have completed your maintenance. Do so at least **five** days before the cattle enter the allotment to allow us sufficient time to inspect these improvements. A Range technician may randomly inspect the improvements at any time.

### **Improvement Maintenance Responsibilities**

<b>Improvement Number</b>	<b>Improvement Name</b>	<b>Improvement Number</b>	<b>Improvement Name</b>
004250	Rock Creek Boundary Fence	004264	Rock Creek Corral
004254	Rock Creek Drift Fence	004359	Net Wire Division Fence
004507	Rock Creek Interior Fences	004508	South Fork Unit Fence
004265	Upper Stillwater Drift Fence	435572	Miners Gulch Spring
	Lake Basin Boundary Fence		

### **Annual Operating Plan Meeting**

The annual operating meeting was held on April 2, 2014 at the Altonah Guard Station. Those in attendance were Ron Miles, Jon Miles, Wes Gardner and Amber Helmus. The following items were discussed:

1. Permittees mentioned that fences around the campgrounds are still in need of repair, especially the east side of the fence. Recreation is working on repairing the fences.
2. Permittees mentioned that cattle are entering the Rock Creek Ranch horse pasture because the fence is not maintained. Rock Creek Ranch is responsible for maintaining the fence. Amber will notify Kim Bartel, Recreation Specialist, about this problem.
3. Amber mentioned that the Forest Service will be cleaning out the Lower Stillwater ponds this summer and working on stabilizing the banks. Amber plans to talk with Ron Brunson to see if we need to build a fence in the Lower Stillwater ponds area.
4. Amber mentioned that cattle are drifting off the allotment in the wilderness. Permittees need to make sure that cattle stay on the allotment and check on them regularly.
5. Wes mentioned that lop and scatter trees are limiting access above Yellowpine campground. Amber will talk with the fire crew to see if trees can be piled about of the way.

### **Noxious Weed Control**

A concentrated effort is being made to control musk thistle, Russian knapweed, tall and regular whitetop, and other noxious weeds throughout the Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger Districts and Duchesne County. Musk Thistle has been in the Miners Gulch area; along the main road through the canyon; throughout the Lower Stillwater Ponds area; along Yellowpine trail; and near Miners Gulch, Yellowpine, and Fishermans Parking campgrounds. Your help is needed in finding and reporting all weed infestations. If you find weeds, please take contact Amber Helmus.

## **Actual Use Record**

The **actual use record and maintenance report** included with these operating instructions **needs to be filled out and returned immediately following the grazing season**. Permittees need to turn in separate actual use reports. If anything comes up concerning the allotment or your permit, contact Amber Helmus at (435) 781-5205 or cell (435) 790-7058. Thanks for your cooperation and have a good summer.

Amber Helmus  
Rangeland Management Specialist

**2014 Actual Use Record**

ALLOTMENT NAME Rock Creek Allotment

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK GRAZED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ENTERED NATIONAL FOREST \_\_\_\_\_

DATE LEFT NATIONAL FOREST \_\_\_\_\_

HOURS WORKED ON MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

MONEY SPENT FOR MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

HOURS WORKED ON CONSTRUCTION OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

MONEY SPENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD OF USE BY UNITS WITHIN ALLOTMENT (AS SHOWN ON MAP)

Unit Name	Sequence	Dates Used	
		From	To
Yellow Pine	1 <sup>st</sup>		
Miners Gulch	1 <sup>st</sup>		
South Fork	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Wilderness	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
Lower Canyon	3 <sup>rd</sup>		

LOSSES: NUMBERS \_\_\_\_\_ CAUSES \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: (Include needed range improvements and proposed changes in annual plan of use)

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