

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest – Salt Lake Ranger District
BLACKBUNCH RMU #00103

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2026



PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Permitted Use	Authorized Use
J5 Livestock, LLC	65 Cow/Calf Pair June 1 to Sept. 10	65 Cow/Calf Pair June 1 to Sept. 10

GRAZING SYSTEM

The Blackbunch Allotment is managed with a modified rest rotation. The grazing rotation for the 2026 season is listed below:

Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Coal Pit	65 Cow/Calf Pair	June 01 to July 07	37
Upper	65 Cow/Calf Pair	July 08 to Sept. 10	65
Blackbunch	REST	REST	0
			Total Days:
			102

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



FOREST PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The Revised Forest Plan for the 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 (including rest rotation, deferred rotation, and season long systems) are as follows:

Vegetation Type	Condition	Percent Utilization Key Grass or Grass Like
Upland and Aspen	Satisfactory	50%
Crested Wheatgrass	Satisfactory	60%
Riparian Class 1 (Outside of Greenline)	Satisfactory	50%
Riparian Class II and III (Outside of Greenline)	Satisfactory	60%

Standard: As a tool to achieve desired conditions of riparian areas, maximum forage utilization standards (for stubble height) for low to mid elevation greenline species in Class 1, II, and III riparian areas in satisfactory condition are as follows (key species being grazed include water sedge, Nebraska sedge and/or woolly sedge).

Vegetation Type	Condition	Percent Utilization Key Grass or Grass Like
Riparian Class 1	Satisfactory	No Less Than 5 Inches
Riparian Class II	Satisfactory	No Less Than 4 Inches



Vegetation Type	Condition	Percent Utilization Key Grass or Grass Like
Riparian Class III	Satisfactory	No Less Than 3 Inches

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

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

Riparian Class III: Ponds, Lakes, Reservoirs and Wetlands Greater Than One Acre: RHCA 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 reservoirs, or from the edge of the wetland pond or lake.

North Willow Creek is a Class 1 riparian area.

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 than 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-seral vegetation communities. Manage Class II Riparian Area Greenlines for 60% or more late-seral vegetation communities. Manage Class III Riparian Area Greenlines for 40% or more late-seral vegetation communities.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Ear tags: Prior to turn-out, the permittee will provide to the Forest Officer all ear tag numbers of those cattle allowed to graze the Forest under the terms of this permit. These tag numbers will come from those tags provided to the permittee by the Forest Service prior to the grazing season. Those cattle turned out on the Forest not wearing a tag clearly marked with the Forest Service logo, and whose tag number is not provided to the Forest Officer prior to turn-out will be considered unauthorized.

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 allotment.

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.

Turnout: Turnout will not occur prior to range readiness (8 (c) on permit). Range readiness is measured by soil moisture and plant growth. Soils may be damp but should be firm to avoid excessive compaction/hummocking due to livestock.

Inspections/Monitoring: Allotment/pasture inspections will be performed periodically throughout the grazing season by Forest Service personnel. Livestock distribution, correct livestock location, numbers and identification, structural improvement maintenance, and utilization levels will be evaluated during these site visits. If you wish to accompany Forest Service personnel on these inspections please contact the Rangeland Management Specialist.

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 a violation of the grazing permit.



SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

N/A

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. division fences and water developments must be maintained before cattle can enter each pasture.

Posts, Poles and Bucks

- Replace broken or rotten posts, bucks, braces 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 fence: 16 inches, 24 inches, 32 inches, 42 inches
 - 3-wire fence: 18 inches, 28 inches, 40 inches
- 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 Number	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra Number
1	Lower Blackbunch Water Development	Buried concrete headbox. 480 feet of 1.5 inch polyethylene pipe. Two Powder River troughs, 12 feet long by 30 inches wide by 15 inches deep each. 470 gallons.	Permittee	103001S 103001P 103001T
2	Coal Pit Water Development	20 foot diameter 3 foot deep steel culvert headbox. Spring is fenced with 300 feet or 0.063 miles of 4 strand barbed wire with steel posts. 435 feet of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. 10 feet by 3.5 feet by 20 inches deep. 415 gallon Powder River trough.	Permittee	103002S 103002F 103002P 103002T
3	North Willow Bench Water Development (Hidden)	20 foot diameter, 25 inch deep steel culvert headbox. Spring is fenced with 580 feet or 0.11 miles of 4 strand barbed wire with steel posts. 476 feet of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. 6 feet by 3 feet by 20 inches deep. Approximately 150 gallon Powder River trough.	Permittee	103003S 103003F 103003P 103003T
4	Upper Blackbunch Water Development (Sandy Dome)	20 inch diameter steel culvert headbox. 235 feet or 0.045 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. Aluminum army surplus tank.	Permittee	103004S 103004P 103004T



Map Number	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra Number
5	Paul's Water Development	20 inch steel culvert headbox. Spring is fenced with 258 feet or 0.05 miles of 3 strand barbed wire and steel posts. 165 feet or 0.03 miles of 1.5 inch polyethylene pipe. 2 military surplus troughs, 19 inches wide by 31 inches long by 10 inches deep each.	Permittee	103005S 103005F 103005P 103005T
6	Blackbunch/South Willow Recreation Fence	1790 feet or 0.34 miles of 4 strand barbed wire fence with steel posts.	Forest Service Recreation	103051
7	Blackbunch/Grantsville South Allotment Boundary Fence	Approximately 0.45 miles of fence from the junction of the Upper/Coal Pit Pasture boundary fence south west.	Permittee	Part of 121057
8	Upper/Coal Pit Pasture Boundary Fence (Polygamist)	Approximately 0.88 miles of fence.	Permittee	103053
9	Blackbunch/Coal Pit Pasture Boundary Fence (Polygamist)	Approximately 2.0 miles of fence.	Permittee	103052
10	North Willow Forest Boundary Cattleguard	12 foot by 8 foot green channel steel with yellow wings (north wing missing). 2 inch by 6 inch treated timber supports.		103090
11	Coal Pit/Upper Pasture Boundary Fence Cattleguard	14 foot by 8 foot yellow channel steel. 2 inch by 6 and 8 inch treated timber supports.		103091



Map Number	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra Number
12	Blackbunch/South Willow Recreation Fence ATV Cattleguard	8.5 ft X 3 ft X 2 ft	Forest Service	103093

We look forward to working with you this coming grazing season. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Cody Miller at 385-268-2019.



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SIGNATURES:

PERMITTEE

DATE

SALT LAKE DISTRICT RANGER

DATE

