

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest – Salt Lake Ranger District

**SKULL VALLEY RMU #00125**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**2026**



**PERMITTED USE**

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Permitted Use</b>	<b>Authorized Use</b>
Brown’s Diamond J, Inc.	66 Cow/Calf Pair June 1 to Sept. 1	66 Cow/Calf Pair June 1 to Sept. 1
Ensign Ranches	100 Cow/Calf Pair June 1 to Sept. 1	100 Cow/Calf Pair June 1 to Sept. 1
		<b>Total:</b> 166 Cow/Calf Pair

**GRAZING SYSTEM**

The Skull Valley Allotment is managed as a two-pasture deferred system. The grazing rotation for the 2026 season is listed below:

<b>Pasture:</b> Skull Valley South	<b>Livestock Numbers:</b> 166 Cow/Calf Pair	<b>Dates of Use:</b> June 01 to July 01	<b>Days:</b> 31
<b>Pasture:</b> Skull Valley South	<b>Livestock Numbers:</b> 166 Cow/Calf Pair	<b>Dates of Use:</b> July 02 to Sept. 01	<b>Days:</b> 62
			<b>Total Days:</b> 93

- *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.

<b>Vegetation Type</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Percent Utilization Key Grass or Grass Like</b>
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).

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



<b>Vegetation Type</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Percent Utilization Key Grass or Grass Like</b>
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.

No Riparian Class 1, II or III areas have been identified on the Skull Valley Allotment.

*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 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.

*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**

- ✓ Permittees will replace pipeline at Box Canyon water development
- ✓ Permittees will look into possibility of digging out Monument Canyon Spring (buried by landslide after fire)
- ✓ Permittees will shore up eroded ground around Upper Box Canyon Trough #3.

## **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. 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, 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 Box Canyon Point of Diversion	Water diverted from private pipeline.	Ensign	125001D
2	Lower Box Canyon Pipeline	4532 feet or 0.86 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe.	Ensign	125001P
3	Lower Box Canyon Trough #1 (Overflow) <i>Abandoned</i>	Army surplus steel container. 12 feet by 20 inches by 15 inches deep.	None	125001T1
4	Lower Box Canyon Trough #2	14 feet by 4 feet by 18 inch galvanized Powder River trough. 583 gallons.	Ensign	125001T2
5	Lower Box Canyon Trough <i>Abandoned</i>	Needs to be removed from gully at end of line.	None	125001T3
6	Upper Monument Water Development	14 feet by 4 feet by 18 inches galvanized Powder River trough. 583 gallons. Need Description of second trough. GPS HEADBOX AND SPRING.	Browns	125002S 125002P 125002F 125002T
7	Upper Box Canyon Headbox	NEED TO GPS. Need Description.	Ensign	125003S
8	Upper Box Canyon Fence	NEED TO GPS. Need Description.	Ensign	125003F
9	Upper Box Canyon Pipeline	7827 feet or 1.48 miles of 1.5 inch polyethylene pipeline.	Ensign	125003P



Map Number	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra Number
10	Upper Box Canyon Trough #1 (9/11)	Need Description of 2 troughs.	Ensign	125003T1
11	Upper Box Canyon Trough #2 (Cory's trough)	12 feet by 44 inches wide by 20 inches deep. 495 gallons. Powder River trough.	Ensign	125003T2
12	Upper Box Canyon Trough #3	12 feet by 44 inches wide by 20 inches deep. 495 gallons. Powder River trough.	Ensign	125003T3
13	Upper Granite Water Development	Army troughs need description. Need to GPS HEADBOX AND PIPE.	Browns	125004
14	Skull Valley North/South Pasture Boundary Fence (Monument Ridge)	7568 feet or 1.43 miles of 4 strand barbed wire and steel posts.	Ensign upper half. Browns lower half.	125053
15	Box Canyon Drift Fence	152 feet or 0.03 miles. Need Description.	Ensign	125052
16	Chokecherry Riparian Fence	Need Description. NEED TO GPS.	Browns	125050

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.



**SKULL VALLEY ALLOTMENT ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2026**

**SIGNATURES:**

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**PERMITTEE**

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**DATE**

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**PERMITTEE**

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**DATE**

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**SALT LAKE DISTRICT RANGER**

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**DATE**

