2026
Saddle Creek & Strawberry Valley Cattle Allotments

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Logan Ranger District

Please review your Term Grazing Permit prior to grazing livestock on National Forest System (NFS) lands. These Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are 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 require 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.

Allotment	Permittee	Brand	Ear Tag/Mark	Permitted #	Permitted Season	Authorized #	Authorized Season
Saddle Creek	Johnson, Kent		Purple K 1–318 *(2019)*	318 cow/calf	6/11–9/30 *95 consecutive days*	**318**	**6/11–9/13**
Saddle Creek	S&S Johnson Ranch LLC		Purple S 1–317 *(2019)*	317 cow/calf	6/11–9/30 *95 consecutive days*	**317**	**6/11–9/13**
Strawberry Valley *On Provision*	Johnson, Kent			28 cow/calf	6/1–10/15	**28**	**6/1–10/15**
Strawberry Valley *Off Provision*	Johnson, Kent			139 cow/calf	6/1–10/15	**139**	**6/1–10/15**
Strawberry Valley *On Provision*	S&S Johnson Ranch LLC			28 cow/calf	6/1–10/15	**28**	**6/1–10/15**
Strawberry Valley *Off Provision*	S&S Johnson Ranch LLC			139 cow/calf	6/1–10/15	**139**	**6/1–10/15**

Rotation Schedule:

Saddle Creek 2026 (Year B*)

Order	Year A	Year B	Year C
1st (6/11–7/19)	Deer Lick	**(3) Red Banks/Mahogany**	Lower Pasture
2nd (7/20–8/30)	Red Banks/Mahogany	**(2) Lower Pasture**	Deer Lick
3rd (8/31–9/13)	Lower Pasture	**(1) Deer Lick**	Red Banks/Mahogany

Note: Deer Lick is typically grazed 1st or 2nd on dry years due to water availability.
*2026 order switched due to drought conditions

Tags: All cattle will be tagged with Forest Service (FS) ear tags prior to entering the forest. Replacement/lost tags will replace existing numbers assigned to each permittee. Numbers must be identified for replacement. Tags are available for pick up at the Logan Ranger District. Tags will be fastened to each mature cow with the **tag number facing forward**. The **FS Symbol must be visible on the backside** of each tag (do not place another tag adjacent to FS tags).

Turn Out: Livestock are to be distributed throughout the pasture on the same day as they are turned out. Livestock are not to be turned out onto areas of resource concern (e.g. riparian areas) or areas of concentrated public use (e.g. trailheads).

Pasture Moves: Open gates on the scheduled move date to allow livestock to drift into the next pasture. Complete the pasture sweep to gather remaining livestock and close the gate to meet the exit for the pasture.

Exit: All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the off date. The off date for a pasture is the date when the livestock are to be out of a unit, or in the case of the last pasture, fully off NFS lands. It is your responsibility to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Extensions: Any extension of the authorized grazing season must be requested in advance of the off date (14-21 days) to allow time for inspection and billing of additional grazing fees. Extensions are not guaranteed and will only be authorized in writing.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1. Contact the District's range staff at least 5 days prior to the authorized on-date to confirm that the rangeland is ready and that all required maintenance is complete.

2. Livestock will graze across each unit once. They will not be allowed back across that unit unless it is to trail off the allotment.

3. Please take extra effort in distributing livestock into uplands and less desirable areas in the grazing unit. Use all available methods to achieve distribution such as extensive riding and placement of salt and/or mineral supplements.

4. Salt and/or mineral supplements must be placed at least ¼ mile away from canyon bottoms, roads, water, and areas where livestock tend to concentrate. Remove blocks and bags from the Forest at the end of the grazing season.

5. Drought conditions may develop this season depending on precipitation levels. Please be prepared to remove your livestock from the Forest prior to the authorized off date.

6. Keep stockman camps clean, orderly, and properly dispose of litter and human waste. Bulk storage of fuels and hazardous materials is not allowed. Camps are provided for livestock management purposes, and not recreational or other activities.

7. Stay alert for Campfire Restrictions and inform your riders of any Special Orders issued by the Forest Service.

8. Dead livestock near any campsite, live stream, spring, roadway, or trail must be moved at least 300 feet away from these areas within 48 hours of discovery or notification.

9. All hay or straw used on NFS lands must be tagged or marked as weed free or have original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present, as directed by the USDA Weed Free Hay Order.

UTILIZATION STANDARDS

It is the responsibility of the permittee to monitor livestock use and follow the utilization standards and guidelines described below. When utilization levels are reached for a pasture or the allotment as a whole, livestock will be moved to next scheduled pasture or off the Forest. The Forest Service may perform compliance inspections throughout the grazing season or after livestock have been removed.

Grazing Utilization and Stubble Height Standards

Vegetation Type	Condition	Utilization or Stubble Height Standard
Upland and Aspen	Satisfactory	50%
Upland and Aspen	Unsatisfactory	40%
Upland/Riparian Shrubs and Trees (all classes)	All	50% of current year's growth
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"

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

You are responsible for maintenance of all range improvements assigned to you in your grazing permit. 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. All let-down fences must be laid down within 45 days of the end of the grazing season.

Water Developments: Water developments must be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the pasture containing the development. All water developments must be winterized (if needed) within 45 days of the end of the grazing season.

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

Motor vehicle use is restricted to designated roads and trails. Exemptions for required range improvement construction or maintenance will include the location of the use, vehicle class and time of year as specified below:

Projects:

2026

Location	Purpose	Dates	Vehicles	Access	Notes
Cold Spring Fence (007124)	Reconstruction	5/10–6/10	Skid steer	Rd. 178	Let-down (~ 600ft)
West Boundary Fence/Lower Pasture (007077)	Reconstruction	5/10–6/10	Skid steer	FS Rd. 105	Let-down (~ 600ft)
Deer Lick Res. (007104)	Cleaning/ Maintenance	8/1–10/31	Backhoe	Private	*Only clean if dry or after 10/1

Big Pasture 1 Pond (007106)	Cleaning/ Maintenance	8/1–10/31	Backhoe	Private	*Only clean if dry or after 10/1
Mahogany Spring Ponds (007107)	Cleaning/ Maintenance	8/1–10/31	Backhoe	Private	*Only clean if dry or after 10/1
Mahogany 1 Pond (007110)	Cleaning/ Maintenance	8/1–10/31	Backhoe	Private	*Only clean if dry or after 10/1
Middle Pasture 2 Pond (007103)	Cleaning/ Maintenance	8/1–10/31	Backhoe	Private	*Only clean if dry or after 10/1

BILLING & NON-USE
The 2026 grazing fee for cattle is **$1.69** per head month. Grazing bills are due 10 days before the authorized on-date. Livestock owned and/or controlled by the permittee will not be allowed on Forest Service administered lands until grazing fees specified on the Bill for Collection are paid.

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.

EXCESS USE
Any livestock on the allotment after the off date may be considered excess use and billed according to the excess use rate and may result in action being taken against your grazing permit.

NON-COMPLIANCE
Violations of the Terms and Conditions of your grazing permit, including these Annual Operating Instructions, will 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.

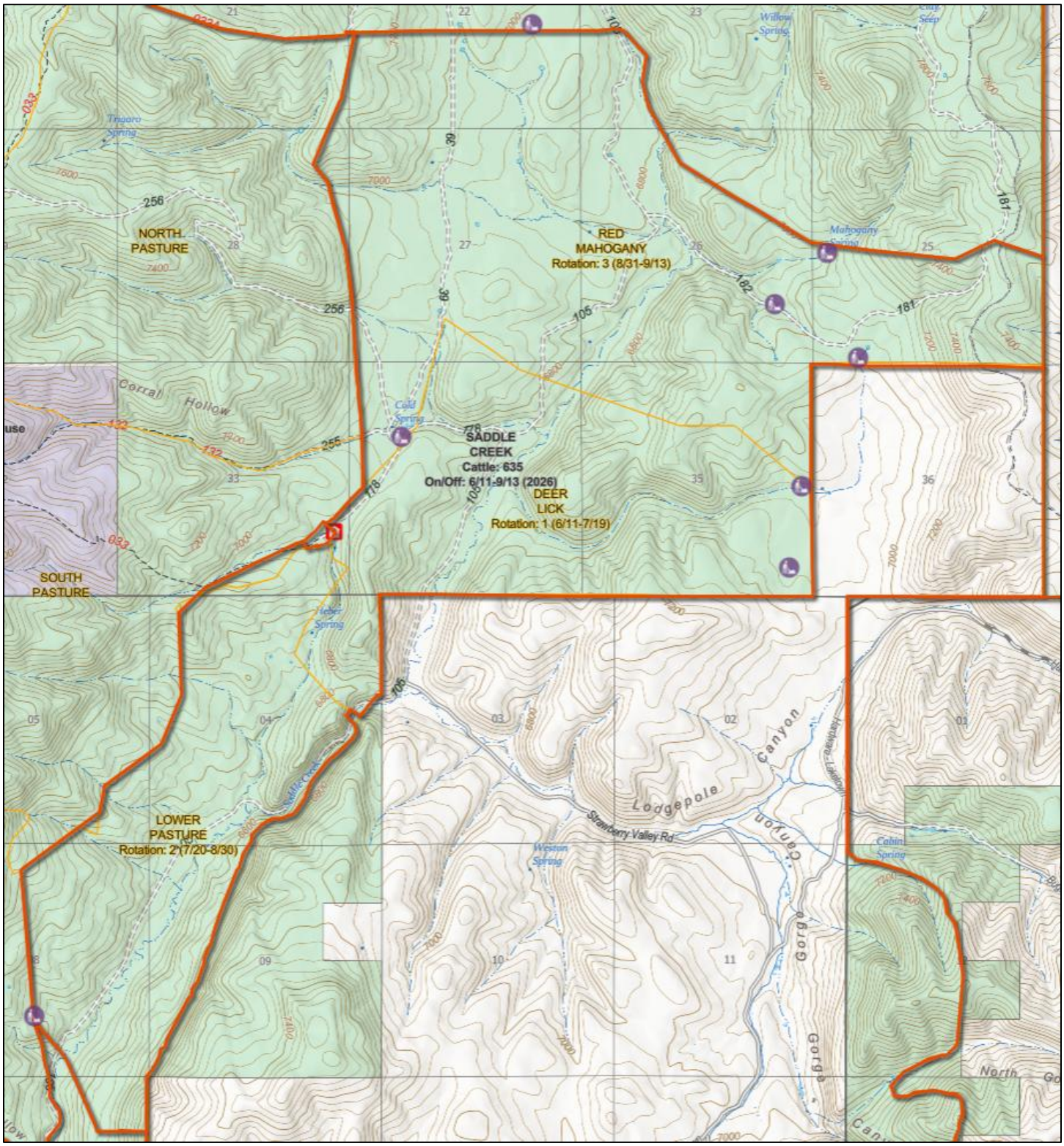
COOPERATION
Communication is essential to manage livestock effectively on this allotment. Timely responses are required to avoid potential problems. Please work closely with the District range staff. Your Rangeland Management Specialist is Anthony VonNiederhausern, (435) 994-9424. Our mailing address is:

USDA Forest Service
1500 East Highway 89
Logan, UT 84321

Web address to access AOI: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/uinta-wasatch-cache/natural-resources/range

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
District Ranger

SADDLE CREEK



STRAWBERRY VALLEY

