

**2026 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
KAMAS VALLEY C&H ALLOTMENT**

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for grazing management on the Kamas Valley Allotment for this grazing season. This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Refer to Part 2 of your grazing permit for other general terms and conditions.

PERMITTED/AUTHORIZED USE:

| Permittee | Cow No. | Non Use | Authorized No. | Season |
|--------------------------|------------|---------|----------------|------------------|
| Rowdy Fitzgerald | 54 | | 54 | 10 Jun to 15 Oct |
| Jason Averett | 104 | | 104 | 10 Jun to 15 Oct |
| Tyler Page | 136 | | 136 | 1 July to 15 Oct |
| Lane Pentz | 163 | | 163 | 10 Jun to 15 Oct |
| YR Ranch & Livestock | 144 | | 144 | 10 Jun to 15 Oct |
| River Valley Angus Ranch | 129 | 20* | 109 | 10 Jun to 15 Oct |
| Total | 730 | | | |

*Due to drought conditions, River Valley Angus Ranch is taking 20 less cow/calf pair for resource protection.

GRAZING ROTATION:

There are 7 herds of cattle spread throughout the allotment.

Spring Range - on date 10 June

| Pasture | Dates |
|---------------|--------|
| Fish Hatchery | Spring |
| Slate Creek | Spring |
| Moon Canyon | Spring |
| Cedar Hollow | Spring |
| Nursery | Spring |
| Cottonwood | Rest |
| Bear Hollow | Rest |

Summer Range – Off date 15 October

| Pasture | Dates |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lambert Meadow | Summer |
| Hoyts | Summer |
| Norway Flat | Summer |
| Pitt & Page | Summer |
| North Fork | Summer |
| Soapstone | Summer |
| Mirror Lake Highway | After Labor Day to 15 October |
| Upper Setting | Rest |

On and off date and the rotation sequence is to be followed unless the Heber-Kamas District Ranger authorizes a change in writing. Time spent in each pasture may vary depending on weather and when standards are met. It is the permittee's responsibility to monitor the use and move the cattle before standards are exceeded.

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 are at \$1.69/cow-calf this year. Fees must be paid through Lockbox collection, at the Heber-Kamas District Office or online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/billpay> before livestock will be authorized to enter the National Forest.

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN MEETING:

The annual operating meeting was held on March 18, 2026, at the Kamas Ranger Station. Those in attendance were Rowdy Fitzgerald, Cameron Page, Ruston Young, Gerald Young, Wayne Robb, Jason Averett, Ben Jaussi, Lane Pentz, and Amber Helmus.

The following items were discussed:

1. Drought conditions were discussed about the upcoming grazing season. Several options such as early on, livestock numbers and early off dates were discussed. The Permittee and Forest Service will discuss any changes to those proposed options closer to the permitted-on date. If possible, the permittee was advised to consider taking less numbers for this grazing season to help elevate grazing pressure on the allotment.
2. Amber mentioned the relocation of Muddy Spring Trough has been approved. Permittees have the 3 troughs and will install them this summer.
3. Permittees mentioned they need to replace 2 troughs at Elmers Spring in Soapstone Unit. Rowdy is going to work on this project. Contact Amber for materials.
4. Permittees mentioned they needed another cattleguard in the North Fork area.

5. Permittees mentioned a gate is needed at Fox Hollow (Wayne's fence). Gate is purchased and needs to be installed.
6. Ruston mentioned he needs a 12ft trough for trough in the Nursery unit.
7. Jason mentioned he needs a 16ft gate to replace a wire gate.
8. Cameron mentioned he needs a tire trough and will work on finding one to replace an old trough.
9. Ruston needs a 4ft gate to replace the wire gate.

STANDARDS:

Maximum utilization standards for vegetation types in satisfactory condition as outlined in the following table.

| Vegetation Type | Condition | Percent Utilization Key Grass |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Upland and Aspen | Satisfactory | 50 |
| Crested Wheatgrass | Satisfactory | 60 |
| Riparian Class I | Satisfactory | 50 |
| Riparian Classes II and III | Satisfactory | 60 |

The utilization standard is 40% in key riparian areas except Shingle Creek for which the standard is 30% and the confluence area and upper stem of the North Fork for which the standard is 30%. Once the utilization standard has been reached on the key riparian area, it will be considered that the utilization standard has been met for the grazing area regardless of the amount of use in adjoining upland areas.

If the utilization standard is reached on key riparian areas in the high country units prior to Labor Day, the cattle will be removed from the allotment. If the utilization standard for key riparian areas in the high country units is reached after Labor day, the cattle will be allowed to use the Mirror Lake highway Unit until the end of the grazing season or until the 40% utilization standard is reached.

Maximum utilization standards for low to mid elevation greenline species in value class I, II, and III riparian areas in satisfactory condition.

| Riparian Value Class I | Condition | Stubble height at end of growing season |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Riparian Value Class I | Satisfactory | 5-6 inches |
| Riparian Value Class II | Satisfactory | 4-5 inches |
| Riparian Value Class III | Satisfactory | 3-4 inches |

Ground cover is to be 85% or potential

| Vegetation Type | % Ground Cover Range at Potential | 85% of potential ground cover |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Silver Sagebrush | 89 - 96 | 76 to 82 |
| Mountain sagebrush | 81 -96 | 69 – 82 |
| Low Sagebrush | 69 | 59 |
| Snowberry | 92 | 78 |
| Aspen | 90 – 98 | 77 – 83 |
| Alpine grassland | 97 – 100 | 82 – 85 |
| Tall Forb | 49 – 75 | 42 – 64 |
| Oak brush | 92 - 100 | 78 – 85 |

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

The permittee is responsible for all improvements assigned in the term grazing permits and shown on the attached map. 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.

All range improvements must be maintained before whichever of the following comes first, the turning of livestock into the pasture or before the improvement is needed for the management of livestock on adjacent pasture. It is the responsibility of the permittee to talk to permittees of adjacent pastures to find out when livestock are moving into nearby pastures so improvements can be maintained in a timely manner.

The permittee is to notify the Heber-Kamas District 30 days in advance of doing any pond cleaning. This time period will be used to check for heritage resources and Threatened and Endangered species.

MAPS AND RECORDS:

1. Enclosed are allotment maps with pasture boundaries, allotment pastures and improvement locations.
2. The permittee is required to complete an “actual use” form, which is attached and includes space to record livestock losses, on and off dates, pasture rotation dates and the permittee’s maintenance costs. This form is to be returned to the Heber-Kamas Ranger District by November 31 of this year.
3. The deadline for applying for credit for unused portion of grazing fees is December 31 of this calendar year. Credit will only be given for time not used due to a request by the Forest Service. Time not used due to the discretion of the permittee is not subject to reimbursement or credit on next year’s billing.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT:

All hay and straw transported onto the Forest must be certified weed free and have a certification tag. Noncompliance with this closure order will result in a citation.

Please notify the Heber-Kamas Ranger District immediately if unauthorized livestock use occurs on the allotment.

The permittee is to notify the Heber-Kamas Ranger District 5 days in advance when livestock are going to be put on or taken off the Forest. Cattle are not to enter the Forest until Forest Service personnel have counted the herd. It is the responsibility of the permittee to make arrangements in advance for Forest Service personnel to count the cattle before they enter the Forest. The arrangements for counting cattle on must be agreed to and finalized with Amber Helmus or Daniel Jauregui.

Careful attention to herding is required on the allotment to control cattle in and scattered throughout the area scheduled for use. Herding should be in such a manner that the riparian areas are grazed in conjunction with the upland so that utilization is somewhat uniform throughout the pasture. Cattle are to be moved out of the pasture before standards are exceeded. Once cattle are removed from a pasture they are not be allowed to return to that pasture. If use in the pastures designated for grazing are met or exceeded before the end of the grazing season cattle are to be removed from Forest Service administered land.

Grazing of riparian areas should be incidental to watering of livestock.

Salt should be placed at least 200 yards from water sources and riparian areas so that cattle do not spend excessive time near water.

Enclosed is a letter that will be used as your camping permit to be placed in your camp while taking care of livestock and improvements on your grazing allotment. Camps and all vehicles are to be kept within 150 feet of established Forest Service roads.

Amber Helmus, Rangeland Management Specialist or Daniel Jauregui, Heber-Kamas District Ranger are to be contacted prior to any deviation from the Annual Operation Instructions.

Daniel P. Jauregui

Daniel P. Jauregui
District Ranger

Amber Helmus

Amber Helmus
Rangeland Management Specialist

Kamas Valley Allotment

