

**2026 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
WEST FORK C&H ALLOTMENT**

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for grazing management on the West Fork 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.	Horse No.	Season
Mountain Canyon Livestock LLC	429	6	3 Jun to 13 Oct

*Due to drought conditions, the permittee is going to hold 150 cow/calf pairs off the allotment until July 1 for resource protection. Permittee will start the grazing season with 279 cow/calf pairs and bring the remaining herd up on July 1.

TRAILING PROVISIONS

Cattle will be trucked to the allotment. Cattle may be trucked off the allotment or trailed up the West Fork Road (road 050 & 054) and down the Lake Creek Road (083) off the Forest.

GRAZING ROTATION:

Unit	Sequence
Horseshoe	1 st
Hoy Hollow	2 nd
Buckley	3 rd
Sandstone Basin	4 th
Heart Lake	5 th
Trail Hollow	6 th
The Hole	7 th

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 www.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY before livestock will be authorized to enter the National Forest.

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN MEETING:

The annual operating meeting was held on March 23, 2026, at the Heber Ranger Station. Those in attendance were Allen Sweat, Ryker Sweat 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. Permittees mentioned FS Road #050 West Fork Road need to be graded. There are huge holes in the road that are causing people to make a new road. Amber has put this road on the engineering maintenance list.
3. Permittees mentioned the Chevron gas pipeline has opened up the Horse Shoe unit and created a high use recreation area. Chevron will be addressing these unauthorized trails this summer.
4. Amber mentioned the need to keep livestock on their allotment and to remove any livestock found on neighboring allotments immediately.

STANDARDS:

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RCHA) includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, perennial and intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems. There are three RCHA classes of varying levels of protection: Class I with widths extending 300 feet from each edge of the waterbody (600 feet total); Class II with widths extending 200 feet from each edge of the waterbody (400 feet total); and Class III with widths extending 100 feet from each edge of the waterbody (200 feet total).

Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels within RHCAs based on the average current year's growth.

RHCA Class	Minimum Percent of Stream Length	Utilization Standard by Season of Use			
		Very Early – Early		Mid – Late Seral	
		Early	Late	Early	Late
Minimum Greenline Stubble Height ¹					
Class I	90%	5”	6”	4”	5”
Class II	80%	4”	5”	3”	4”
Class III	70%	3”	4”	2”	3”

Forage Utilization Limits²					
Class I	90%	45%	35%	55%	45%
Class II	80%	50%	40%	60%	50%
Class III	70%	60%	50%	65%	55%
Willow Utilization²					
Class I	90%	N/A	35%	N/A	50%
Class II	80%	N/A	35%	N/A	45%
Class III	70%	N/A	35%	N/A	50%

¹ Height of key species (palatable, hydrophytic species indicative of mid to late seral riparian plant communities, or as indicated in the site-specific Allotment Management Plan). If acceptable “key species” are absent from a site, only utilization standards shall be used.

² Percent of total average annual growth.

Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels on non-riparian vegetation types outside the RHCAs based on the annual average of the current year’s growth.

Vegetation Type	Forage Utilization	
	Very Early – Early Seral	Mid – Late Seral
General Uplands and Winter Range		
Upland shrublands (sagebrush, snowberry, mountain mahogany species, cliffrose, bitterbrush, saltbrush, and mountain brush)	40%	60%
Grasslands	45%	65%
Forest-wide		
Sub-alpine shrublands	25%	35%
Sub-alpine grasslands	40%	45%

Maintain at least 70 percent of potential effective ground cover to provide nutrient cycling and protect the soil from erosion in excess of soil loss tolerance limits in non RHCA areas.

Maintain adequate ground cover to filter runoff and prevent detrimental erosion in RHCAs as follows.

RHCA	Minimum Ground Cover Requirement	Minimum Percent of RHCA to Meet Requirement
Class I	90% of Potential	90%
Class II	80% of Potential	80%
Class III	80% of Potential	70%

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

The permittee is responsible for all improvements assigned in the term grazing permits and listed in these operating instructions (see 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 allotments. It is the responsibility of the permittee to talk to permittees of adjacent allotments 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

2026 Actual Use Record

ALLOTMENT NAME West Fork Allotment

PERMITTED/AUTHORIZED USE:

Permittee	Cow No.	Horse No.	Season
Mountain Canyon Livestock LLC	429	6	3 Jun to 13 Oct

Unit	Number of Cattle	Date Entered	Date Left	Number Of Days	Losses Poison Predators Other		
Horse Shoe							
Hoy Hollow							
Buckley							
The Hole							
Trail Hollow							
Heart Lake							
Sandstone Basin							
TOTAL							

Fences Maintained:

Miles_____ Cost of materials used:_____ Man days:_____ Equipment:

Water developments maintained:

Number:_____ Cost of materials used:_____ Man days:_____ Equipment:

COMMENTS: (Include needed range improvements)

West Fork Allotment

