2026 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
LITTLE WEST FORK HERD
(Lower Little West Fork pasture included with Heber Mountain Herd)

These Annual Operating Instructions are a guide for grazing management on the Little West Fork and Twin Peaks Allotments 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 USE:

Permittee	Allotment	Sheep No.	Horse No.	Season
Okelberry Ranch LLC	Little West Fork	1,200	3	7/1 to 9/30
	Twin Peaks	800		6/26 to 10/05

AUTHORIZED USE:

Permittee	Allotment	Sheep No.	Horse No.	Season
Okelberry Ranch LLC	Little West Fork Herd	1,200	3	7/1 to 9/30

TRAILING PROVISIONS

The Little West Fork herd is not to enter the *Big Glade pasture of the Twin Peaks Allotment* until 26 June. From the Big Glade pasture the herd is to trail across the West Daniels Allotment to Highway 40, across Highway 40, east over the hill somewhat parallel to the highway and onto the Project Lands south of the rock quarry, north between the Strawberry River and the East Daniels Cattle allotment boundary fence to road #143, east along road #143 to road #049, north along road 049 onto the Mill B Allotment. Then northeast up Wide Hollow to the ridge, on to the Little West Fork Allotment and toe the starting pasture. During this time of trailing the sheep are to be kept out of the riparian area of the Strawberry River.

In the fall if this herd needs to be trailed to the Wallsburg area the route is to be across the Mill B allotment, down across the Mill B allotment (staying out the Strawberry River riparian area and the rehabilitated reservoir area) to the Mill B corral, south along road #049 to the junction with road #143, west across the Strawberry River and along road#143 to Dock Flat, south from Dock flat to the pond near highway 40, Across highway 40 and along road #113 to the Big Glade then off onto private ground. The trailing in the fall is to be completed prior to the off date (9/30).

Trailing authorized by these Annual Operating Instructions is to occur between 07/01 and 09/30. Forest Service is to be notified at least two days in advance of any trailing during the permitted grazing season.

If trailing is needed outside the grazing season the permittee must make a request for a trailing permit at least 10 days before he intends to trail.

GRAZING ROTATION:

Sequence	Unit	Allotment
1st	Low Indian Spring	Little West Fork
2nd	Up Indian Spring	Little West Fork
3rd	Buck Basin	Little West Fork
4th	Mid Lt West Fork	Little West Fork
5th	Up Lt West Fork	Little West Fork

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 sheep 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 $0.34/sheep 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 19, 2026, at the Heber Ranger Station. Those in attendance were Brian and Ann Okelberry 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. No projects currently scheduled.

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.

Utilization Standards by Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) Class

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 Limits[2]					
Class I	90%	45%	35%	55%	45%
Class II	80%	50%	40%	60%	50%
Class III	70%	60%	50%	65%	55%
Willow Utilization[2]					
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 of the RHCAs based on the annual average of the current year's growth.

Forage Utilization Standards

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 upland areas.

Maintain adequate ground cover to filter runoff and prevent detrimental erosion in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) as follows.

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) Ground Cover Requirements

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 as 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 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 boundaries and allotment improvements locations.

3. The permittee is required to complete an "actual use" form, which is attached and includes space to record of livestock losses, on and off dates, pasture rotation dates and the permittee's maintenance costs. This form along with the Annual Operating Instructions folder is to be returned to the Heber-Kamas Ranger District by November 31 of this year.

4. 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. Sheep 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 sheep before they enter the Forest. The arrangements for counting sheep on must be agreed to and finalized with Amber Helmus or Daniel Jauregui.

Careful attention to herding is required on the allotment to control sheep 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. Sheep are to be moved out of the pasture before standards are exceeded. Once sheep 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.

Sheep are not to be bedded more than twice in the same area during the grazing season. Locate livestock bed grounds outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Area. Grazing of riparian areas should be incidental to watering of livestock.

Salt should be placed at least 100 yards from water sources and riparian areas so that sheep do not spend excessive time near water. **All salt bags are to be removed from Forest Service administered lands.**

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 Little West Fork Allotment

PERMITTED/AUTHORIZED USE:

Permittee	Allotment	Sheep No.	Horse No.	Season
Okelberry Ranch LLC	Little West Fork Herd	1,200	3	7/1 to 9/30

Unit	Number of Sheep	Date Entered	Date Left	Number Of Days	Losses Poison	Predators	Other
				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)

Little West Fork Herd

