Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest – Spanish Fork Ranger District

SHARPES VALLEY ALLOTMENT RMU #00846
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
2025

PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Permitted Use	Authorized Use
Jimmy Lee and Janet H. Larson	32 Cow/Calf Pair May 01 to Oct. 31	32 Cow/Calf Pair May 01 to Oct. 31

GRAZING ROTATION

The Sharpes Valley Allotment is managed with a deferred grazing system by controlling access to water troughs. Water is turned on and/off to move cattle from one area to another.

Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Sharpes Valley	32 Cow/Calf Pair	May 01 to Oct. 31	184

- *The above rotation dates are flexible based on utilization standards listed below.*

FOREST PLAN AND ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which was approved in 2003, and the Allotment Management Plan for the Sharpes Valley allotment, which was approved on March 8, 2007, list the following standards, guidelines, and objectives:

Upland Forage Utilization

Standard: Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels on non-riparian vegetation types based on the annual average of the current year's growth. However, through June 15 at Strawberry Reservoir Management Area and through June 1 at the Vernon Management Area, minimum canopy cover and

height requirements for greater sage grouse habitat take precedence over the forage utilization standards in the following table.

Forage Utilization Standards

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

It is the permittee's responsibility to make sure allowable use standards are not exceeded. When utilization standards are met the permittee will be required to remove cattle from the entire pasture or allotment. Use of the rest unit will not be allowed.

Riparian Forage Utilization

There are no riparian areas on the allotment.

Additional Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines

Guideline: Manage approximately 80 percent of potential greater sage grouse breeding and winter habitat areas in the Vernon Management Area to support the percentages and heights of canopy cover listed in the table below. Breeding habitat should retain the given height levels of grasses and a diversity

of forbs annually through June 1 in the Vernon Management Area. Vegetation should be maintained in a mosaic of openings and shrubs.

Vegetation Requirements in the Vernon Management Area

Greater Sage Grouse Breeding Habitat		
Vegetation type	**Minimum % Canopy Cover**	**Minimum Height Canopy Cover**
Sagebrush	15 to 25%	16 to 32 inches
Vegetation type	**Minimum % Canopy Cover**	**Minimum Height Canopy Cover**
Grasses	Greater than 15%	Greater than 6 inches
Vegetation type	**Minimum % Canopy Cover**	**Minimum Height Canopy Cover**
Forbs	Greater than 10%	Greater than 6 inches

Greater Sage Grouse Winter Habitat		
Vegetation type	**Minimum % Canopy Cover**	**Minimum Height Canopy Cover**
Sagebrush	10 to 30% (above snow)	10 to 14 inches (above snow)

- There is no sage grouse breeding habitat on the Sharpes Valley allotment.

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

Standard: Locate livestock salt grounds outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs).

Standard: Locate new livestock troughs, tanks, and holding facilities out of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). For existing livestock handling facilities inside RHCAs, assure that facilities do not prevent attainment of aquatic Forest Plan management direction. Modify, relocate, or

close existing facilities where aquatic Forest Plan management direction cannot be met.

Guideline: Minimize trailing livestock through Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). Close or relocate livestock driveways to minimize impacts to RHCAs.

Guideline: Subject to valid existing rights, free-flowing water and associated riparian vegetation communities should be retained at developed spring sites. If possible, existing spring developments should be modified to return water to riparian ecosystems within the source drainage.

Guideline: Avoid equipment operation in stream courses, open water, seeps, or springs. If use of equipment in such areas is required, impacts should be minimized.

Guideline: Limit equipment operation in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). If the use of equipment in these areas is required, incorporate additional mitigation to minimize adverse impacts.

Guideline: Implement intensive grazing management that provides periodic rest designed to achieve and maintain desired vegetation community composition and structure.

Guideline: 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.

Standard: Provide wildlife escape ramps in all developed water sources.

Guideline: Provide for wildlife movement through and/or around structures or project sites such as fences, spring developments, guzzlers, roads, and ditches.

Guideline: Defer livestock grazing in areas disturbed by wildland fire or other natural events until vegetation has reestablished sufficiently, but for no less than two growing seasons.

Standard: Only certified noxious weed-free hay or feed is allowed on National Forest land, including hay or feed for use by recreational livestock. Any materials such as hay, straw, or mulch that are used for rehabilitation and reclamation activities shall be certified weed-free.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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.

Salt: Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution. Place salt where use is light, such as ridge tops and areas away from water. Avoid stock tanks, wet meadows, and creek bottoms. Place salt away from roads and developed trails.

State Livestock Health Laws: All owners of livestock must comply with state livestock health laws.

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.

Off Road Vehicle Use: Off road vehicle use for reconstruction or maintenance of range improvements (when hauling materials only) listed in these operating instructions is hereby authorized. ATV's or trucks can be used to check water. ATV's or trucks can be used to haul salt on system and non-system roads or trails. No new trails or roads can be made. Use of off-road vehicles is limited to periods of time when weather and ground conditions are such that rutting, and soil movement will not occur. Any other off road vehicle use shall be approved in advance (location and time) by the District Ranger or his/her representative. Absent this approval, travel restrictions described in the Forest Supervisors Order of May 27, 2005, and in the Uinta National Forest Summer Travel Map (2007) apply.

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 or 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 violation of the grazing permit.

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

✓ Permittee will repair southwest boundary fence.

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 #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
1	Bennion/Sharpes Valley Allotment Boundary Fence *(Sharpes/East Reservoir Unit)*	0.91 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire and spiral stays.	Larson	846005
2	Sharpes Valley/ Sabie Mountain Allotment Boundary Fence (Sharpes/Sabie Creek Unit)	1.49 miles of railroad ties, cedar posts or steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire and spiral stays.	Larson	846003
3	Old Burn/Seeding Fence *(Abandoned)*	1.77 miles of wood posts with 4 strand barbed wire.	None	846004
4	Sharpes Valley/Private Land Cattle Guard	Channel Steel. 12 feet by 8 feet.	Tooele County	846CG1
5	Upper/Lower Pasture Cattle Guard	Need Description.	Tooele County	846CG3
6	Sharpes Valley/Bennion ABF ATV Cattle guard	ATV cattle guard.	Forest Service	846ATVCG1
7	Sharpes Pipeline Spring	Spring source is buried perforated pipe and gravel. 1.07 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe.	Larson	846001S

8	Sharpes Pipeline	1.07 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe.	Larson	846001P
9	Sharpes Pipeline Upper Trough	583 gallon Powder River trough. 14 feet by 46 inches by 20 inches.	Larson	84600T1
10	Sharpes Pipeline Lower Trough	700 gallons rubber tire trough set in cement.	Larson	84600T2
11	Little Valley Spring Source	Need to GPS proper location.	Mitchell Ajax Larson	823009S
12	Little Valley Pipeline Solar Pump, Solar Panels Protection Fence	Need to GPS and describe.	Mitchell Ajax Larson	823009 Pump
13	Little Valley Storage Tanks and Protection Fence	Need to GPS and describe.	Mitchell Ajax Larson	823009 Storage
14	Little Valley Pipeline	Approximately 3670 feet or 0.70 miles of buried 2 inch SDR 9 fusion pipe. From trough on Little Valley to trough on Sharpes Valley. Need to GPS.	Larson	846009P2
15	Little Valley Pipeline Trough #2	13 foot diameter rubber tire trough with cement base. Need to GPS.	Larson	846009T2
16	Wild Cat Water Development *(Abandoned)*	Spring source is buried perforated pipe and gravel. Need to GPS proper location. 449 feet of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. Two round steel troughs. 500 gallons total. 6 feet by 30 inches.	None	846002S 846002P 846002T

We look forward to working with you this coming grazing season. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Linda Appel at 801-794-6767.

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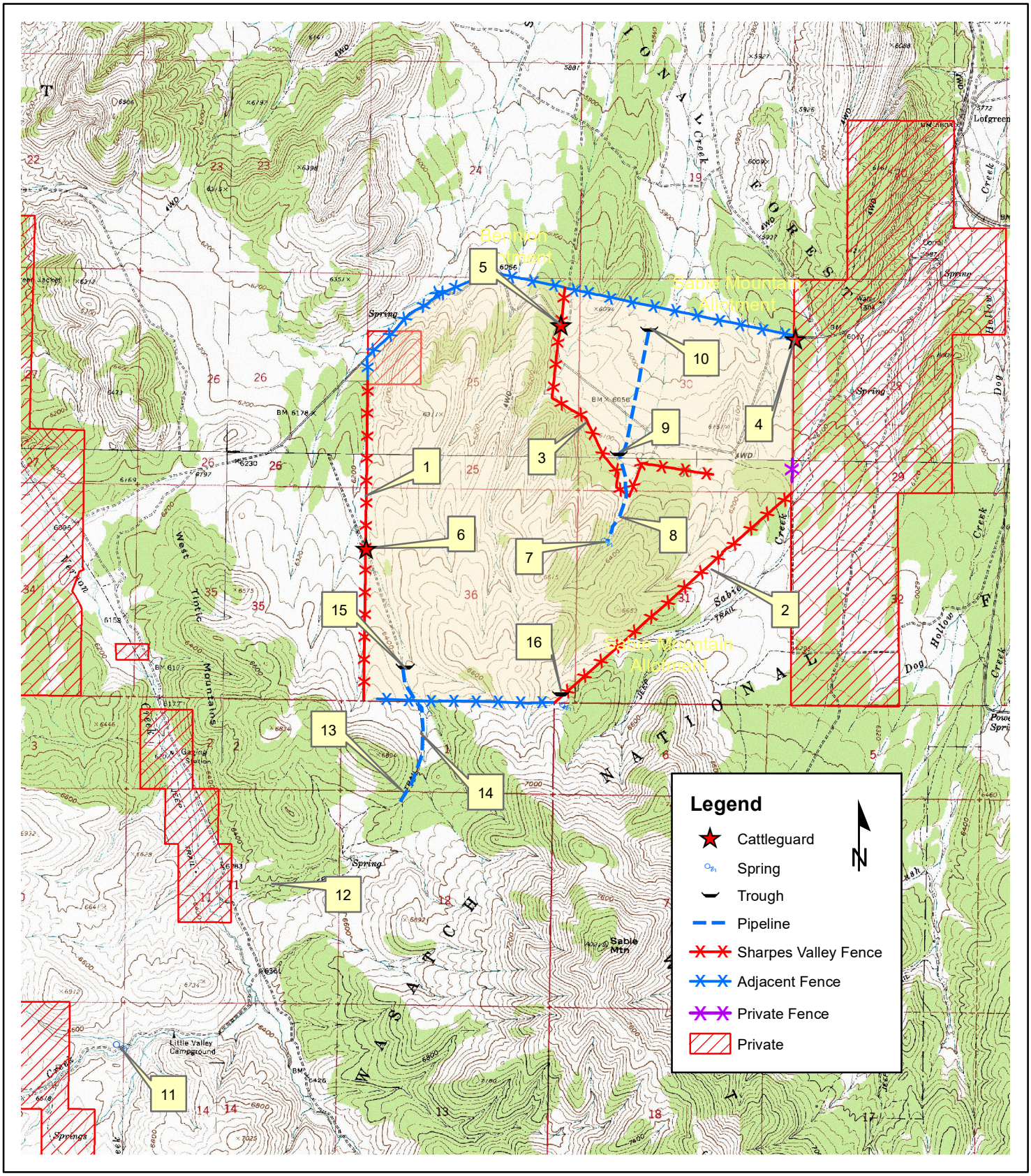
SIGNATURES:

PERMITTEE	**DATE**
SPANISH FORK DISTRICT RANGER	**DATE**



Sharpes Valley Allotment 2025

Uinta-Watach-Cache National Forest
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