

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest – Spanish Fork Ranger District
WEST COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT RMU #00843
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2026



PERMITTED USE

Permittee	FS Permitted Use	BLM Permitted Use	Authorized Use
Randy and Angie Allinson	20 Cow/Calf Pair May 15 to Oct. 15	8 Cow/Calf Pair	28 Cow/Calf Pair May 01 to Oct. 31
Permittee	FS Permitted Use	BLM Permitted Use	Authorized Use
James R. Gowans Living Trust	55 Cow/Calf Pair May 15 to Oct. 15	20 Cow/Calf Pair	75 Cow/Calf Pair May 01 to Oct. 31
Permittee	FS Permitted Use	BLM Permitted Use	Authorized Use
Onaqui Land and Cattle LLC	55 Cow/Calf Pair May 15 to Oct. 15	20 Cow/Calf Pair	75 Cow/Calf Pair May 01 to Oct. 31
Total	130 Cow/Calf Pair	48 Cow/Calf Pair	178 Cow/Calf Pair

- BLM will bill Gowans for 13 cows for the 2026 grazing season



GRAZING ROTATION

The West Cottonwood Allotment has seven pastures. The Lower Oak Brush 7, Upper Oak Brush 7, Cottonwood 8 and South 10 pastures are on Forest Service land. The Upper Cottonwood 1, Lower Cottonwood 1 and South 2 pastures are on BLM land. Oak Brush 7 Pastures and Cottonwood 1 Pastures are managed together. The allotment is managed with a five pasture modified rest rotation. Three pastures are grazed and two pastures are rested each season. This year, the two rest pastures (L. Oakbrush 7 and South 10) will be briefly used as pass through pastures, as permittees will need to push cows through these pastures on the way to subsequent pastures anyway. The number of grazing days has been modified temporarily from 05/15 to 05/01 and from 10/15 to 10/31 to facilitate studies for a proposed increase as the result of past wildfires. The grazing rotation for the 2026 season is listed below.

Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Lower Cottonwood 1	171 Cow/Cal Pair	May 01 to May 14	14
Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Upper Cottonwood 1 (7 Day Pass Through)	171 Cow/Cal Pair	May 15 to May 21	7
Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Lower Oakbrush 7	171 Cow/Cal Pair	May 22 to June 27	37
Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Upper Oakbrush 7	171 Cow/Cal Pair	June 28 to Aug. 03	37
Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Cottonwood 8 (7 Day Pass Through)	171 Cow/Cal Pair	Aug. 04 to Aug. 10	7



Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
South 10	171 Cow/Cal Pair	Aug. 11 to Sept. 15	36
Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
South 2	171 Cow/Cal Pair	Sept. 16 to Oct. 17	32
Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Lower Cottonwood 1	171 Cow/Cal Pair	Oct. 18 to Oct. 31	14
Pasture:	Livestock Numbers:	Dates of Use:	Days:
Upper Cottonwood 1 Cottonwood 8 (7 Day Pass Through)	REST	REST	14
			Total Days:
			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 West Cottonwood allotment, which was approved on October 10, 1995, 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.



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%

Riparian Forage Utilization

Standard: Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA) based on the average current year's growth.

Utilization Standards by RHCA Class

RHCA Class	Minimum Percent of Stream Length	Minimum Greenline Stubble Height by Season of Use – Very Early to Early in Early Season	Minimum Greenline Stubble Height by Season of Use – Very Early to Early in Late Season
Riparian Class III	70%	3 inches	4 inches



RHCA Class	Minimum Percent of Stream Length	Forage Utilization Limits by Season of Use – Very Early to Early in Early Season	Forage Utilization Limits by Season of Use – Very Early to Early in Late Season
Riparian Class III	70%	60%	50%
RHCA Class	Minimum Percent of Stream Length	Willow Utilization by Season of Use – Very Early to Early in Early Season	Willow Utilization by Season of Use – Very Early to Early in Late Season
Riparian Class III	70%	Not Applicable	35%

- *Note:* For minimum Greenline Stubble Height the 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.
- *Note:* Forage utilization limits are based on percent of total average annual growth.
- *Note:* There are no willow utilization standards for early season use.

It is the permittee’s responsibility to make sure allowable use standards are not exceeded, especially in riparian areas. Permittees are encouraged to herd cattle away from riparian areas since they are generally the first areas utilized. If use along riparian areas reaches Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, even if forage remains on the uplands, permittees will be required to remove cattle from the entire unit or allotment. Use of the rest unit will not be allowed.

Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA)

Portions of *watersheds* where *riparian*-dependent resources receive primary emphasis and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines. RHCAs include traditional *riparian* corridors, *wetlands*, *perennial* and *intermittent* streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic *ecosystems*. There are three RHCA classes of varying widths offering 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).



Additional Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines

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

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) Ground Cover Requirements

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

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.

Allotment Management Plan Objectives

- Reach at least the mid-seral ecological status on all vegetative sites including uplands and riparian areas.

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

- ✓ Forest Service and permittees will continue to work with UGIP to push forward the South Pine Canyon project.

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	West Cottonwood/Onaqui Allotment Boundary Fence	1.38 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire.	Onaqui L&C	843033
2	West/East Cottonwood Allotment Boundary Fence	1.56 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire and metal spiral stays.	Gowans	843031
3	Upper Oak brush 7/ Cottonwood 8 Pasture Boundary Fence	0.6 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire.	Onaqui L&C	843036
4	Upper Oak Brush 7/ South 10 Pasture Boundary Fence	1.59 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire.	Gowans	843030
5	Upper/Lower Oak Brush 7 Pasture Boundary Fence	1.07 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire.	Onaqui L&C	843032
6	Cottonwood 8/South 10 Pasture Boundary Fence (South Oak Brush)	0.19 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire with metal spiral stays.	Gowans	843034
7	Cottonwood 8/South 10 Pasture Boundary Fence #2 (South Pine)	204 feet of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire.	Gowans	843034-2
8	Lower Oak Brush 7/ South 10 Pasture Boundary Fence	0.82 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire with metal spiral stays.	Onaqui L&C	843035
9	Lower Oak Brush 7/Upper Cottonwood 1 Pasture Boundary Fence (FS/BLM Boundary Fence)	0.74 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire.	Onaqui L&C	843BLM13
10	South 10/South 2 Pasture Boundary Fence (FS/BLM Boundary Fence)	0.91 miles of steel posts and 4 strand barbed wire and metal spiral stays. 0.37 miles of wood posts and 4 strand barbed wire.	Allinson	843BLM13



Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
11	South 10/Upper Cottonwood 1 Pasture Boundary Fence (FS/BLM Boundary Fence)	0.45 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire and spiral stays.	Onaqui L&C	843BLM13
12	Upper Cottonwood 1/ Lower Cottonwood 1 Pasture Boundary Fence	1.4 miles of steel posts with 3 strand barbed wire and metal spiral stays.	Gowans	843BLM21
13	Upper Cottonwood 1/ South 2 Pasture Boundary Fence	0.87 miles of steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire and metal spiral stays.	Allinson	843BLM23
14	Lower Cottonwood 1/ South 2 Pasture Boundary Fence	Need to GPS. Approximately 1 mile steel posts with 4 strand barbed wire and metal spiral stays.	Allinson	BLM
15	Lower Cottonwood 1/ BLM ABF #1	1 mile steel post with 4 strand barbed wire.	BLM	843BLM22
	BLM Allotment Boundary Fences	Need to GPS BLM Allotment Boundary Fences.	BLM	Various Numbers
16	BLM/FS Cattle Guard #1 (Black Spring)	Green channel steel. 12 feet by 8 feet.	BLM	843CG2
17	BLM/FS Cattle Guard #2 (South Oak Brush)	Cement.	BLM	843CG3
18	BLM/FS Cattle Guard #3 (South 2/Pasture 9)	Need description.	BLM	843CG7
19	Upper Cottonwood 1/ Lower Cottonwood 1 Pasture Boundary Fence	Cement.		843CG6
20	West Cottonwood/Onaqui Allotment Boundary Fence Cattle Guard	Yellow channel steel. 8 feet by 8 feet.		843CG1



Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
21	Upper/Lower Oak brush 7 Pasture Boundary Fence Cattle Guard	Cement.	Forest Service	843CG5
22	Cottonwood 8/South 10 Pasture Boundary Fence #2 Cattleguard (South Pine)	Red channel steel with cement supports. 12 feet by 8 feet.	FS	843CG4
23	West Cottonwood Corral	Steel panel corral.	All Permittees	843BLM20
24	South Oak Brush Pipeline Spring #1	24 inch diameter galvanized steel culvert head box.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006S1
25	South Oak Brush Pipeline Spring #2	24 inch diameter galvanized steel culvert head box.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006S2
26	South Oak Brush Pipeline	6.40 miles of 2 inch diameter polyethylene pipe on Forest Service. 2.3 miles on BLM.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006P 843BLM6P
27	South Oak Brush Pipeline (Black Crook Spur) Trough #1	200 gallon torpedo trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T1
28	South Oak Brush Pipeline (Black Crook Spur) Trough #2	200 gallon Powder River trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T2
29	South Oak Brush Pipeline (Black Crook Spur) Trough, #3	200 gallon Powder River trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T3
30	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough # 4 (Off shoot trough) (South 10)	500 gallon Powder River trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T4



Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
31	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #5 (Upper Oak Brush 7) (Deer Hunters Camp)	1000 gallon, round fiberglass trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T5
32	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #6 (Upper Oak Brush 7)	400 gallon steel, rectangular trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T6
33	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #7 (South 10)	400 gallon steel, rectangular trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T7
34	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #8 (Lower Oak Brush 7)	500 gallon, round fiberglass trough.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T8
35	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #9 (Lime Tank) (Lower Oak Brush 7/South 10)	Two tire troughs, one in Lower Oak Brush 7 and one in South 10. GPS new locations.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T9
36	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #10 (FS/BLM boundary) (Lower Oak Brush 7/Upper Cottonwood 1)	5000 gallon, yellow round metal band trough with concrete base.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843006T10
37	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #8 (BLM) (Upper Cottonwood 1)	5000 gallon, yellow round metal band trough with cement base.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843BLM6T 11
38	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough Removal #4 (BLM)	300 gallon, half round trough.	None	843BLM6T R2
39	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough Removal #5 (BLM) (Lower Cottonwood 1)	700 gallon Powder River trough.	None	843BLM6T R3



Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
40	South Oak Brush Pipeline Trough #9 (BLM) (Lower Cottonwood 1)	5000 gallon, yellow round metal band trough with cement base.	Onaqui L&C Gowans	843BLM6T12
41	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Spring Source #1	Water is collected with buried perforated pipe and gravel.	Allinson	843009S1
42	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Spring Source #2	Buried water collection.	Allinson	843009S2
43	South Pine Canyon Pipeline	2.23 miles of 2 inch diameter polyethylene pipe on Forest Service. 2.92 miles on BLM.	Allinson	843009P 843BLM9P
44	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Trough Removal #1 (South 10)	100 gallon steel casing.	None	843009TR
45	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Trough #2 (South 10)	1000 gallon, round fiberglass trough.	Allinson	843009T2
46	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Trough #3 (South 10)	Powder River trough. 250 gallons.	Allinson	843009T3
47	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Overflow Pond (South 10)	Earthen Dam. 20 feet by 15 feet by 2 feet.	Allinson	843009PO
48	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Trough Removal #2 (BLM) (South 2)	100 gallon steel metal casing.	None	843BLM9T R1
49	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Pond (BLM) (South 2)	3500 gallon earthen pond.	Allinson	843BLM9P O



Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
50	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Trough Removal #3 (BLM) (South 2)	100 gallon steel metal casing.	None	843BLM9T R2
51	South Pine Canyon Pipeline Trough #4 (BLM) (South 2)	5000 gallon, yellow round metal band trough with cement base.	Allinson	843BLM9T 4
52	Skunky Trough (BLM)	Spring source is buried perforated pipe. 5000 gallon, yellow round sheet metal trough with cement base. Old trough about 500 feet southeast needs to be removed (Need to GPS old trough).	Gowans	843BLM1S 843BLM1T

We look forward to working with you this coming grazing season. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Cody Miller at 385-268-2019.



WEST COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS 2026

SIGNATURES:

PERMITTEE

DATE

PERMITTEE

DATE

PERMITTEE

DATE

SPANISH FORK DISTRICT RANGER

DATE

