NORTH CREEK C&H
2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

These are your annual operating instructions and are part of your term grazing permit, as specified in part 2, item 8(a), and Part 3, (management practices) item 2.

Permitted Number and season of use:

Mex and Sons 230 c/c 6/1 – 10/15

Authorized use:

Mex and Sons 230 c/c 6/1 – 10/15

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT Deferred Rotation Grazing System		
Grazing Rotation	**Move Dates**	**Special Instructions**
Flatiron	6/1 – 7/15	Cleanly move livestock through all pastures
Cartwheel	7/6 – 8/15	
North Creek	8/16 – 9/15	
Hillside	9/16 – 10/15	

RUNNING GRI SCORES			
Grazing Rotation	**2013 GRI Score**	**2014 GRI Score**	**2015 GRI Score**
Flatiron	+4	+3	+1
Cartwheel	+1	0	+1
Hillside	-2	0	-1
North Creek	0	0	+1

*Running total GRI scores are corrected based on monitoring information where necessary, and may not match your records.

Do not allow livestock to stay later than dates scheduled or change pasture rotations within this instruction at any time, unless authorized through amendment of this document. If forage conditions show greater than 50% utilization, you will move your livestock prior to the dates listed. If you feel that you need to stay in a pasture longer, or you feel there is a need to change the pasture rotations, you will need to make a request to your Rangeland Management Specialist. Any request to stay must be made prior to your exit date. No extension will be approved unless documentation shows that overall rangeland management objectives can be met with extended use in that pasture or use area.

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Livestock management in 2016 will focus on the following:

- Follow your rotation as scheduled.
- Use your Grazing Response Index

Range conditions, livestock distribution, compliance with annual operating instructions, forage utilization, etc. may be inspected during the summer field season. Cattle counts may also be conducted at any time as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(f) of your permit.

Monitoring and Administration: All permittees are required to keep Actual Use and Fence Maintenance records. In addition, you are required to utilize the Grazing Response Index for this allotment. An informational instruction sheet is included with this Annual Operating Instruction. If you require training on how to use the Grazing Response Index, please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist Brian Hoefling at 970-327-4261. These records will be requested by the administering office at the end of the grazing season.

For reference the target is a neutral GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are "Fair" or greater. The target is a positive GRI score averaged over three years by pasture where conditions are "Poor".

Range Improvements: Maintenance of allotment boundary fences will be completed prior to turning out on the allotment. Maintenance of all other assigned range improvements must be completed prior to turning out in that unit. Maintenance will be completed according to the specifications outlined in part 3 of the term grazing permit. Reconstruction or construction of range improvements will not occur without a signed and approved permit modification, and cultural resource survey, where needed. ATV's may be used to assist in fence maintenance activities. Using ATV's or UTV's for salting or moving livestock is not authorized other than on established designated routes.

Salting: Salt will be placed no closer than 1/4 mile to all water sources, roads, trails, timber regeneration areas, meadows, or other key areas where forage utilization is of concern.

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Grazing Fee: $2.11/HM.

This figure is calculated according to a formula established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and has continued under a Presidential Executive Order issued in 1986. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot fall below $1.35 per head month and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level. The formula considers three main factors – the average annual change in beef prices, leasing rates for the grazing on private land in 11 western states, and the cost of livestock production.

Other: Additional standards and instructions may be forthcoming regarding your grazing management as a result of the Gunnison Sage grouse Federal Endangered Species listing.

Matthew D. Zumstein

District Ranger