

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Moab/Monticello Ranger District
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File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 10, 2016

Kenneth E. Bates
3021 Spanish Valley Drive or Box 165
Moab, Utah 84532

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Bates:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaver C&H Allotment for the 2016 grazing season. This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, item 8(a). A failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. **Please read your instructions thoroughly.**

AUTHORIZED USE FOR 2016

Allotment	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season	Permittee	Non-use	
						Resource protection	Personal convenience
Beaver	181 to 231	Cattle	Cow/Calf	Between 05/12 and 08/31	Kenneth Bates	Partial non-use X	

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Rincon	181	Cattle	05/12 – 05/25
Polar Mesa	181	Cattle	05/26 – 06/15
Rincon	181	Cattle	06/16 – 06/21
Death Trap	181	Cattle	06/22– 07/05
Head of the Mesa	181	Cattle	07/05 – 7/20
South Beaver Mesa *	50	Cattle	5/15 – 8/31

*Livestock will be herded using riding, fencing and salt so that the 50 head do not spend the 3.5 months in one area.

Permitted pack and saddle stock authorized on the allotment for livestock management will not exceed four head.

Best Management Practices

The degree grazing affects future forage production and rangeland health will depend upon intensity, frequency and timing of grazing. Providing plants opportunity to grow and adequate recovery from grazing will have a great influence on long term vegetative productivity and rangeland conditions. It is extremely important that the allotment is monitored closely, which may involve an increase in the amount of riding you or your herd manager does.

Because of weather, your turn on date has been delayed to May 12th on North Beaver Mesa and May 15th on South Beaver Mesa. This will put you at about 86% of your permitted AUMs and you are granted partial non-use for 2016. You plan on hauling water when needed to get proper dispersal and use in response to drought conditions. **South Beaver Mesa has been used in the fall for the past several years. Using it from May until August will require that you keep the animals moving so that you do not end up with high utilization in a few areas that are preferred by cattle.**

Management may need to be adjusted depending upon actual conditions on the ground.

Your allotment should be inspected for range readiness to determine forage growth and fence and water improvement conditions. **The pasture move dates shown above are an estimate, and may change on the basis of actual range conditions.** Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

PROPER GRAZING-USE INDICATORS

Utilization standards, such as riparian stubble height and upland utilization, are a couple of the indicators used in achieving or moving towards desired rangeland conditions. This is especially true if the patterns and levels of use have been consistent and repetitive over a number of years. They are also valuable for interpreting the cause of unsatisfactory trends in rangeland conditions and assisting in the determination what adaptive management adjustments (annually or long-term) need to be made for an allotment. They are not the desired conditions or the management objectives themselves. Actual desired conditions and objectives are discussed in the 1986 Forest Plan and/or the Castle Valley Allotment Management Plan.

Utilization indicators are displayed in the Forest Plan and allotment grazing authorization decisions, as a type of performance standards. The term standard implies that some form of management actions will be implemented to resolve an identified problem and provide for meeting the desired condition, goals, and objectives identified in the Forest Plan or Allotment Management Plan. Management actions are typically developed through some form of adaptive management process during Allotment Operation Instruction meetings and/or during the Allotment Management Plan development. Both within-season and end-of-season use indicators or standards, along with other required management practices (such as managing duration and timing of grazing), are a total package that, when implemented and adhered to, will result in a reasonable expectation that long-term desired condition objectives will be achieved.

The proper use criteria listed in the box below are within the ranges identified in the 1990 Forest Plan amendment. However, these more specific criteria have been established through the completion of the Beaver Allotment EA in 2011.

Proper Use Criteria for Beaver Allotment			
Upland Vegetation			
Management System	Percent Use of Key Species		
	May/June pastures	July/Aug pastures	Sept/Oct
Deferred Rotation	40	40-50	50

Browse Utilization on Key Woody Shrubs
 Browsing hits on new leaders of key upland woody shrubs should not exceed 45%.

* Key upland herbaceous and browse species selected will depend upon the plant species in the present plant community, the present ecological status, and the potential natural communities for the specific sites monitored.

Soil Disturbance**
 Slopes 0-25% - No more than 30% soil disturbance
 Slopes 26-40% - No more than 20% soil disturbance
 Slopes over 40% - No more than 10% soil disturbance

Slopes over 40% are generally not classified as capable of supporting long-term grazing by livestock.

**This is current year disturbance attributed to cattle use within the key area monitored. Soil Disturbance includes both subsurface and surface soil alteration which adversely impacts soil health, function and productivity.

Riparian proper use criteria are not given because there are not accessible riparian areas on the Beaver allotment. However, Forest Plan Proper Use Criteria apply if there is incidental use.

The intent is not that each pasture unit should be grazed to the maximum level each year. Intensity can be controlled by controlling the duration of time that livestock are grazing an area. In large pasture units, with long duration times (more than 2 to 3 weeks) this can be a challenge. However, some control of duration within a pasture can be done by riding, salting and when possible controlling access to water.

It is your responsibility as the permittee to recognize if use levels are reaching the maximum and promptly move all cattle as necessary. If you need some assistance, or methods and tools for determining proper use, please contact Tina Marian.

If proper use has been reached in the unit being grazed before you are scheduled to move on as planned in this letter, your cattle are to be herded to the next scheduled unit. **When proper use is reached in the last unit grazed, all cattle are to be removed from the allotment, even if this date is prior to the end of your grazing season.** Cattle found on the Allotment before or after the permitted grazing season will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit non-compliance actions will be initiated.

You should be aware that Forest Service policy provides that “an authorized officer may require the permittee to monitor and report information on compliance with the grazing permit, allotment management plan and annual operation instructions as a term and condition of your permit.”

To facilitate livestock moves, gates may be opened a few days prior to the scheduled move date only when moving into an adjacent pasture. Gates must be closed and the grazed pasture entirely cleaned of livestock no later than five days following the scheduled move date. **Grazed pastures must be kept clean of livestock following a pasture move.** This is important to plant recovery after being grazed, especially in areas that cattle are drawn to.

Please use the Grazing Response Index enclosed in your folder to track duration of use, intensity of use and time of use for each grazing unit. This is a helpful tool in assessing grazing impacts to the range vegetative resources.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

Since 2006, a schedule to bring structural improvements up to Forest Service standards has been developed each year during the Annual Operating Meetings. The development of a schedule will continue in 2016.

For 2016, you will please complete heavy maintenance on the old pasture division fence that runs through South Beaver Mesa as shown on the map attached.

Several ponds were cleaned in 2014 so there will be no water development agreements for this year. We do encourage you to line the bottoms of the newly cleaned ponds with bentonite so that they hold water more effectively.

When you complete your fence and spring/pond agreements you must fill out and sign the Improvement Agreement Form (pink) that is found in your folder. Please provide photographs of before and after conditions to assist in documenting compliance with maintenance requirements. Contact Tina when you complete your maintenance so she can schedule a timely inspection.

If you fail to bring the above agreed improvements up to standard and fail to have it inspected by Forest Service staff by **August 31, 2016** you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2017 until the agreement and inspection is completed.

Range improvements are essential in ensuring that livestock are well distributed and that Forest standards and guides are met.

- Improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the pasture and that failure to do so is a violation of their permit and action will be taken when violations are documented.
- If improvements have not been maintained, then develop a schedule to bring them up to standard.
- Until all improvements are functional it is not appropriate to authorize full numbers or season of use, unless assurances can be made that utilization standards will not be exceeded.

The maintenance of all structural improvements listed under part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, Special Terms and Conditions: *Construction and Maintenance of Structural Improvements* is a requirement and should be completed prior to your entry onto the Forest. The allotment permittee or permittees are responsible for the maintenance of all structural range improvements on this allotment. For allotments managed by an Association or Herd Manager specific maintenance responsibilities may be assigned to individual permittees by the Association President or Herd Manager.

If you wish to use forest products (trees and oak brush) from the National Forest to maintain your fences/spring enclosures on your allotment, you must receive authorization from either the Moab or Monticello Office prior to cutting.

NEPA and PLANNED PROJECTS

An Environmental Assessment was completed for the Beaver Allotment in 2011. An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is currently being developed to implement the decision that was made. The AMP shall become a part of Part 3 of the Term Grazing Permit. A monitoring plan is part of the AMP and a map which shows current key areas on the Beaver Allotment that are to be monitored is enclosed.

MISCELLANEOUS

Refer to Special Terms and Conditions in Part 3 of Term Grazing Permit for specific instructions pertaining to maintenance standards for range stock water developments, range fences, corrals, and herding standards.

All permitted livestock must be branded with your registered brand as documented in your Term Permit before they enter the National Forest.

Place salt blocks away from water, roads, meadows and other open areas so as to draw livestock into areas that receive light utilization. When livestock leave a pasture move the salt out of the pasture as well.

You will furnish sufficient riders or herders to achieve proper distribution of livestock.

Certified Weed Free Hay must be used if you do any supplemental feeding of horses on the allotment while gathering or moving cattle.

If you find the need to use mechanical clearing (tractors, bulldozers etc.) of fence lines or to clean ponds or other water improvements, you must have proper archeological clearance and permission from the District Ranger.

Enclosed in your AOI folder you will find an Actual Use Record sheet. As your 2016 grazing season progresses, please fill out this form in detail and return it promptly at the end of the grazing season. There are also extra sheets included in the folder where you are encouraged to document management on your allotment.

PAYMENT OF FEES

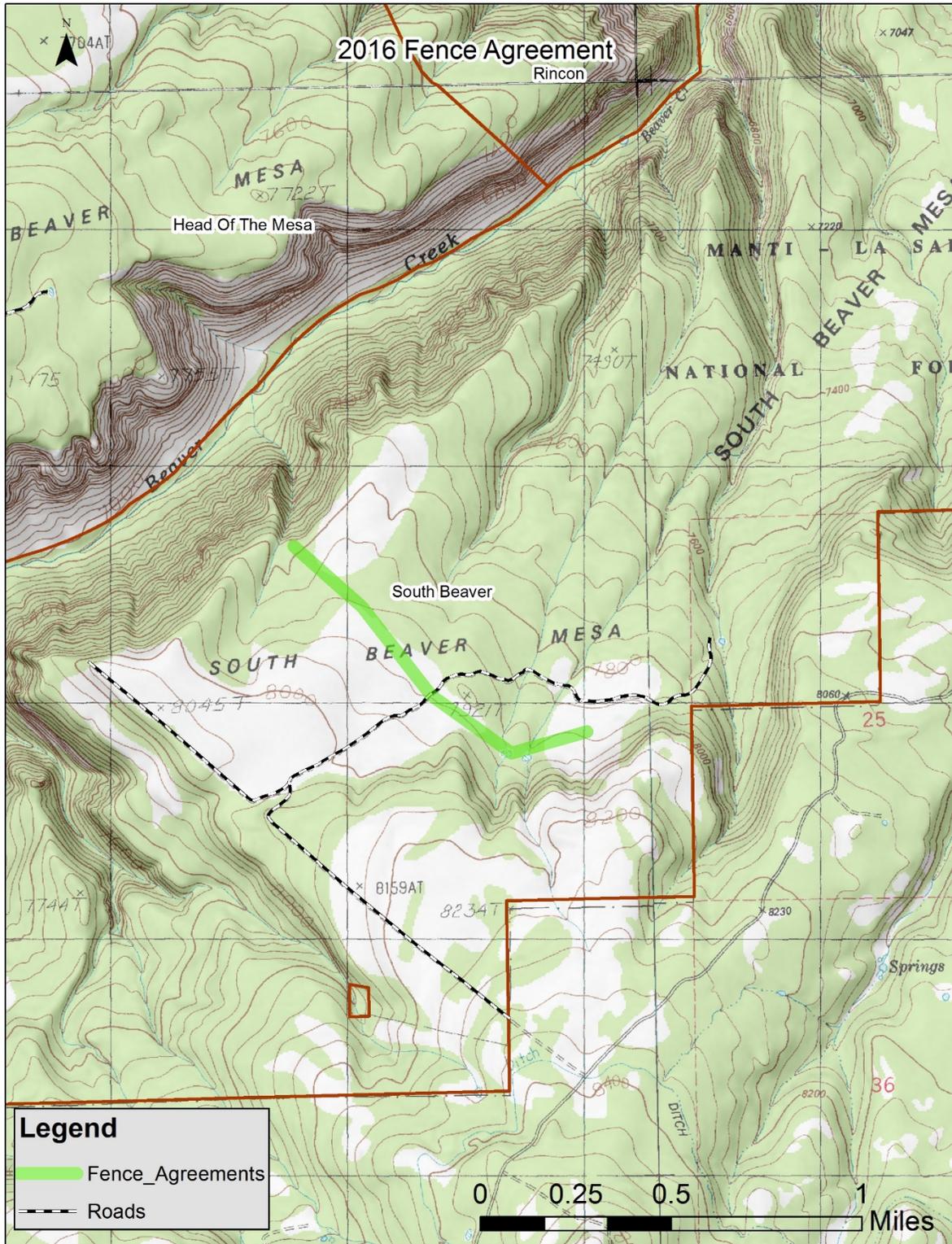
The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be on Forest Service-administered lands unless the fees specified in the Bill for Collection are paid and confirmation of payment is received prior to livestock entering NFS lands.

I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please don't hesitate to call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

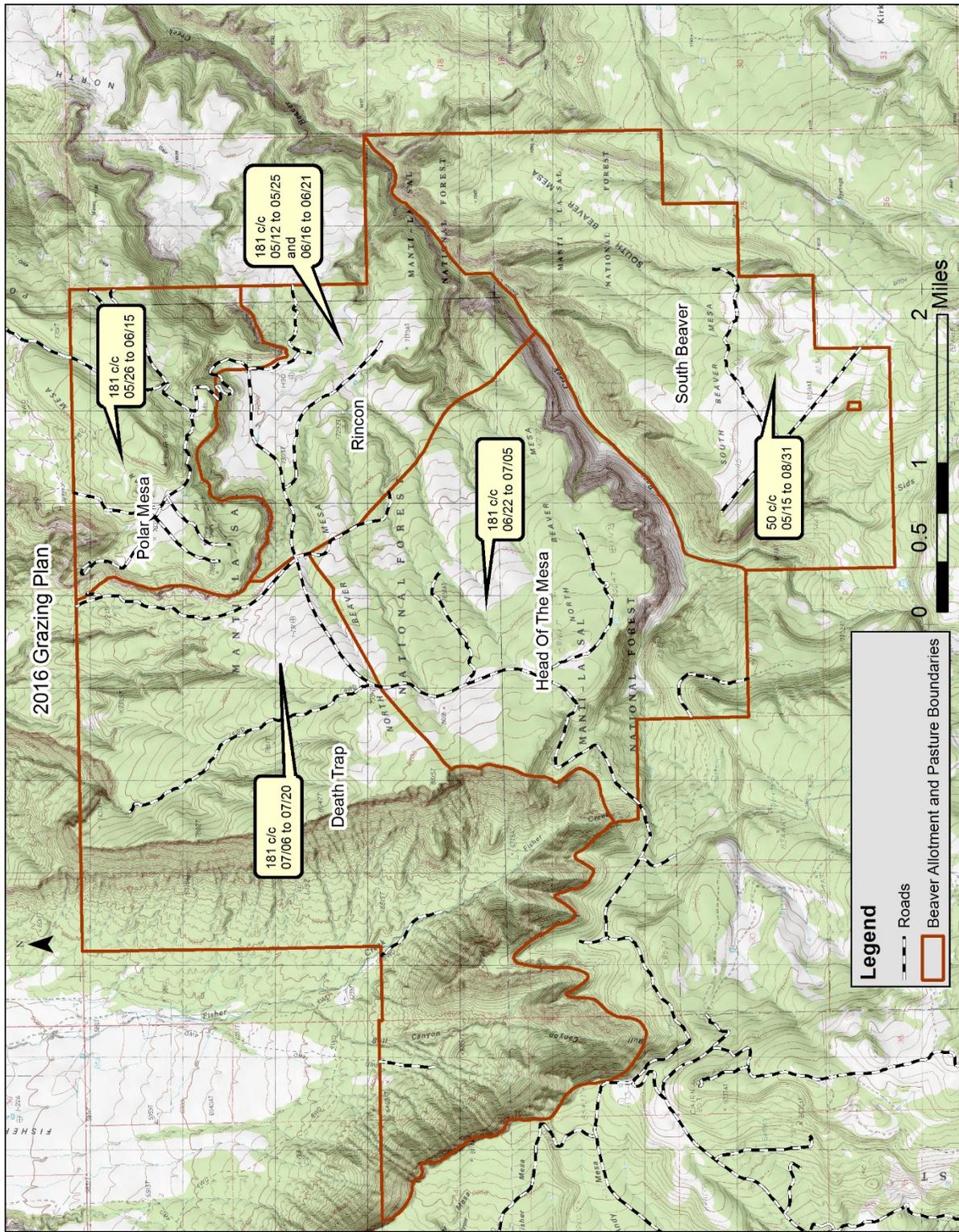
Sincerely,

for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

2016 Fence Improvement to be worked on and inspected this year.



2016 Grazing Plan



Key Areas for Monitoring

