



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

Moab/Monticello Ranger District  
62 East 100 North  
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File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 13, 2016

La Sal Livestock LTD.  
c/o Lowery Redd  
P.O. Box 368  
La Sal, Utah 84530

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Redd:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Chicken Creek and La Sal C&H Allotments 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
La Sal	820-1000	Cattle	Cow/Calf, Bull (~40) and Yearlings	05/25 – 08/31	La Sal Livestock Ltd.		
La Sal (Dark Canyon)*	70	Cattle	Cow/Calf	09/01 to 09/16	La Sal Livestock Ltd.		
State and Private Lands				09/01 – 10/14			
Chicken Creek	1000	Cattle	Cow/Calf, Bull (~40) and Yearlings	10/15 – 10/28	La Sal Livestock Ltd.		
Private Land				10/29 – 11/06			
La Sal (Pine Ridge)**	700	Cattle	Cow/Calf	11/07- 11/08	La Sal Livestock Ltd.		
La Sal (Lackey Fan)*	100	Cattle	Cow/Calf	11/09 - 11/20	La Sal Livestock Ltd.		
La Sal (Horse Pasture)*	2	Horse	Mature	06/16 to 10/15	La Sal Livestock Ltd.		



\*On-off portion of permit, livestock use the area in conjunction with non-FS lands.

\*\*Trail through when driving cattle off allotment

The private and state land use is included for information purposes only.

## **GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE**

La Sal:

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Approximate Dates</b>
Buck Hollow (west side)	820	C/C & Bulls	05/25 – 06/01
Buck Hollow (east side)	820	C/C & Bulls	06/02 – 06/15
Buck Hollow (Carpenter Basin)	180	Yearlings	06/21 – 07/04
Buck Hollow (Lackey Basin)	180	Yearlings	07/05 – 07/19
Coyote	820	C/C & Bulls	06/16 – 07/08
Coyote (Pole Canyon)	180	Yearlings	07/20 – 08/03
La Sal Creek	820	C/C & Bulls	07/09 – 08/03
La Sal Pass	1000	C/C, Bulls and Yearlings	08/04 – 8/31

See above for schedule for on-off portions and state and private lands.

Chicken Creek:

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Kind</b>	<b>Approximate Dates</b>
Chicken Creek	1000	C/C, Bulls and Yearlings	10/15 – 10/28

Permitted pack and saddle stock authorized on the allotment for livestock management will not exceed four head. This is separate from the 2 head that is on your permit and you are billed for.

### **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.

There are several new management strategies that are going to be attempted this year. This year you plan on using electric fencing to keep livestock on the west side of Buckhollow between 7 to 10 days. Usually they head east after entering the allotment. You are also going to graze yearlings in Carpenter Basin, Lackey Basin and Pole Canyon over about a 6 week period before they join the pairs in La Sal Creek or La Sal Pass. You also may attempt to put up electric fence in Coyote unit to help “spilt” the unit. The purpose of this is to lessen the grazing duration times for each area. You also plan on having a rider moving cattle out of the Deer Springs area while cattle are using the La Sal Creek unit.

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 La Sal or Chicken Creek Allotment Management Plans.

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.

Desired goals in the 1986 Forest Plan include:

- Bring livestock obligation in line with rangeland carrying capacity
- Maintain upward or stable trends in vegetation and soil condition.

Management Objectives in the 1979 La Sal Allotment Management Plan include:

- Increase desirable species composition, forage production and ground cover density to its estimated potential.
- Prevent resource damage to the watershed areas in the head of Pole Canyon, Lackey Basin and La Sal Pass.

Management Objectives in the 1984 Chicken Creek Allotment Management Plan include:

- Relieve grazing pressure on riparian vegetation.
- Increase ground cover density and range condition class

The 1990 Forest Plan Amendment for Range Proper-Use Criteria states proper use as ranging from 40-65% use of upland key species depending on the grazing system applied and from 30-60% use of riparian key species depending season of use. This amendment kept the existing provision that proper use criteria are to be established on an allotment by allotment basis and as given in the AMP and AOIs.

**For the La Sal allotment proper use criteria in 2016 is:**

<b><u>Upland Areas:</u></b>	<b><u>Use of Key Species</u></b>
Spring/Summer	40-45%
Fall	50-55%
<b><u>Riparian Areas:</u></b>	<b><u>Use of Key Species</u></b>
Spring (Early and rapid growth)	50-60%
Summer (Moderate growth)	45-50%
Fall (Slow growth)	30-40% or 4-5 inches stubble or regrowth

**For the Chicken Creek allotment proper use criteria in 2016 is:**

<b><u>Upland Areas:</u></b>	<b><u>Use of Key Species</u></b>
Spring/Summer	40-45%
Fall	50-55%
<b><u>Riparian Areas:</u></b>	<b><u>Use of Key Species</u></b>
Maximum 45 percent use, or retain a minimum 3-inch stubble height of	
Most palatable forage species, or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric	
greenline species, whichever occurs first.	

**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 the pasture move.** This is important to plant recovery after being grazed, especially in areas 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.**

## **IMPROVEMENTS**

Since 2006, the Forest Service has entered into structural improvement agreements with each permittee which will continue for this season. The purpose of these agreements and the following inspections is to document how and if range structural improvements are being maintained.

Thank you for completing the fence around Chicken Creek in 2015. We were not able to get to Lackey fence to inspect it, so you agreed to send in photos of it this year. The 4 way pond in Buckhollow was too full of water all of last year to clean.

**2016 FENCE AGREEMENTS: You agreed to heavy maintenance or reconstruction of fence # 42063 – Pine Ridge Trial fence as shown on the map attached.**

**2016 POND AGREEMENTS: You agreed to clean Ponds #44225 (Black Ridge Pond #5), 44226 (Buck Hollow Pond #3), 44267 (Mail Trail Pond #2) and 44084 (Photo Pond) in Buck Hollow as shown on the map attached.**

When you complete your fence and spring agreements you must fill out and sign the Improvement Agreement Form (pink) that is found in your folder. I suggest that you provide photographs of before and after conditions to assist in documenting compliance with maintenance requirements. I also encourage you to 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 by **Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016** you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2017 until the agreement is fulfilled.

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 into each pasture. 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.

**There are many troughs on the Forest that do not have wildlife escape ramps and are thus not meeting improvement maintenance standards. All troughs on the allotment need to be equipped with a wildlife escape ramp. You can obtain them from the Forest Service office. We understand that this will not all be completed in one year and will be emphasizing getting wildlife escape ramps installed in all troughs over the next few years.**

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**

The La Sal and Chicken Creek allotments are scheduled to have an environmental analysis completed in 2016/2017 to meet the requirements of Public Law 104-19, Section 504(a): Establish and adhere to a schedule for the completion of National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) analysis and decisions on all allotments within the National Forest System unit for which NEPA is needed (PL 104-19 section, General Provision 1995).

The La Sal Sustainability Collaboration (LSSC) was formed which will meet for the purposes of sharing information about the management and resources of the allotments and by consensus form recommendations to be considered with the planning of the management of the allotments.

The Lackey Basin Aspen Restoration Project is planned to be implemented this year. This could impact your plans with your yearlings using the steeper areas in Lackey and Pole canyons.

## 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. **Because of the size of your operation, it is necessary to have a full-time rider to ensure cattle are being distributed properly and in the right pastures at the planned for times.**

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.

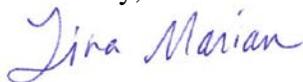
Enclosed in your AOI folder you will find an Actual Use Record sheet. As your 2016 grazing season progresses, please fill out this form in detail and return it promptly at the end of the grazing season. There are also extra sheets included in the folder where you are encouraged to document management 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 through the "lock box" process is received prior to livestock entering NFS lands.

I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please 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 Grazing Plan Map

