



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Moab/Monticello Ranger District
62 East 100 North
P.O. Box 386
Moab, UT 84532
Phone # (435) 259-7155
Fax # (435) 259-7737

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 25, 2016

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

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Bates:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Brumley Ridge 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
Brumley Ridge	300	Cattle	Cow/calf	06/06 to 10/19	Kenneth Bates		

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Class	Approximate Dates
Lower Brumley	300	CC&Bulls	06/06 - 06/20
Mill Creek	300	CC&Bulls	06/21 – 07/25
Geyser Pass	300	CC&Bulls	07/26 - 08/31
Upper Brumley (Gold Basin)*	300	CC&Bulls	09/01 - 09/15
Upper Brumley (Boren Mesa)*	300	CC&Bulls	09/16 - 09/30
Upper Brumley (Brumley Ridge)*	300	CC&Bulls	10/01- 10/10
Lower Brumley	300	CC&Bulls	10/11 - 10/19 (Trail off)
South Mesa	--	--	Rest or May use if need to move through other units earlier than planned

* As discussed during the AOI, the Upper Brumley pasture is large and somewhat naturally divides into about three main areas: Gold Basin, Boren Mesa and Brumley Ridge. The majority of the herd will move to each area as approximated in the above schedule. However, because there are no fences separating each area, it is expected that some animals may wander from the main herd and be grazing in a different area of the pasture than what is indicated in the schedule above.



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.

You plan on using Mill Creek first which was used last in 2015 and for a short duration. Also, you plan on resting South Mesa if the grazing schedule goes as planned.

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 2011 Brumley EA.

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 Brumley Allotment EA in 2011, in order to provide effective ground cover and to ensure plant recovery from grazing on the Brumley allotment.

Proper Use Criteria

Maximum Forage Utilization Based on the Average Current Year's Growth (includes use by livestock and wildlife)			
Uplands			
Management System	Percent Use of Key Species*		
	June pastures	July-Aug pastures	Sept-Oct pastures
Deferred Rotation	40	40-50	50
Rest Rotation	40	40-50	50

Note: Management systems that may be used on the allotment include but are not limited to those listed above.

Browse Utilization on Key Woody Shrubs: Riparian and Upland (non-Aspen)
 Browsing hits on new leaders of key riparian (willow) and upland woody shrubs should not exceed 45%.

Forage Utilization on Key Species*: Riparian, Greenline, and Wetland**

Table 1. Forage Utilization on Key Species for Riparian, Greenline and Wetlands.

Vegetation Type	Percent Utilization by Season Used –measured in general riparian area.			Stubble Height- measured on the Greenline	Comments
	June	July/Aug	Sept/Oct		
Greenline/Riparian Hydric Species	≤ 45	≤ 45	≤ 40	4-5"	Utilization % at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.
Hydric species in wetlands** not influenced by streams	≤ 45	≤ 45	≤ 40	4-5"	Utilization % at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.
Non-hydric species in riparian areas	≤ 45	≤ 45	≤ 40	2-3"	Utilization % at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.

** The key 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.*

***Typically perennially wetlands are not grazed, this refers to seasonal wetlands.*

Proper Use Criteria continued:

Soil Disturbance

Riparian, Wetlands, Springs and Seeps

Stream bank alteration – *Current year stream bank alteration due to shearing, trampling and trailing – no more than an average of 30% of the **reach area monitored.

Wetland, spring or seep soils – No more than an average of 30% of the wetland, spring or seep area will be disturbed by *current year trampling or trailing.

**Current-year alteration is discernible from previous years' alteration because of weathering effects of freeze/thaw cycles, rain events, and erosion by stream flow or vegetative regrowth.*

***A stream reach is the length of the stream selected for monitoring. A suitable size is usually no less than 100m long and ideally it should have a variety of flows.*

Upland Soils –

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

– Generally slopes over 40% are too steep for cattle and do not get used.

****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*

Browse Utilization on Aspen Suckering

Midseason browse should be avoided over consecutive years. Intensity of terminal leader browse should be minimized during mid- and late season. Repeat browsing of suckers within a growing season should be avoided.

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.

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 2015 fence agreement and for the photos you sent.

FENCE AGREEMENT: For 2016, the Clark’s lake fence from the bottom by the lake up the south facing slope will be the agreed upon fence to inspect and make sure it is to permit standards as shown on the attached map.

SPRING AGREEMENT: For 2016, you will please assist with the re-development of the Lower Brumley spring as shown on the attached map. The spring moved uphill so a new collection box will be installed with a small enclosure built and a trough installed (see attached map).

Also, the installation of the South Mesa trough that will require pipe crossing BLM land will need to be approved by the BLM and then the trough installed (see attached map).

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 19th, 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

An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is currently being developed to implement the decision that was made in the 2011 EA. 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 Brumley Allotment that are to be monitored is attached.

There is a mountain bike race scheduled that includes trail and roads within the Brumley allotment. Please let us know if there are any substantial impacts to your management as a result of these races.

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. For the Brumley allotment the standard is that a full-time rider will be provided.

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

We have received confirmation of payment of your 2016 grazing bill. Thank you!

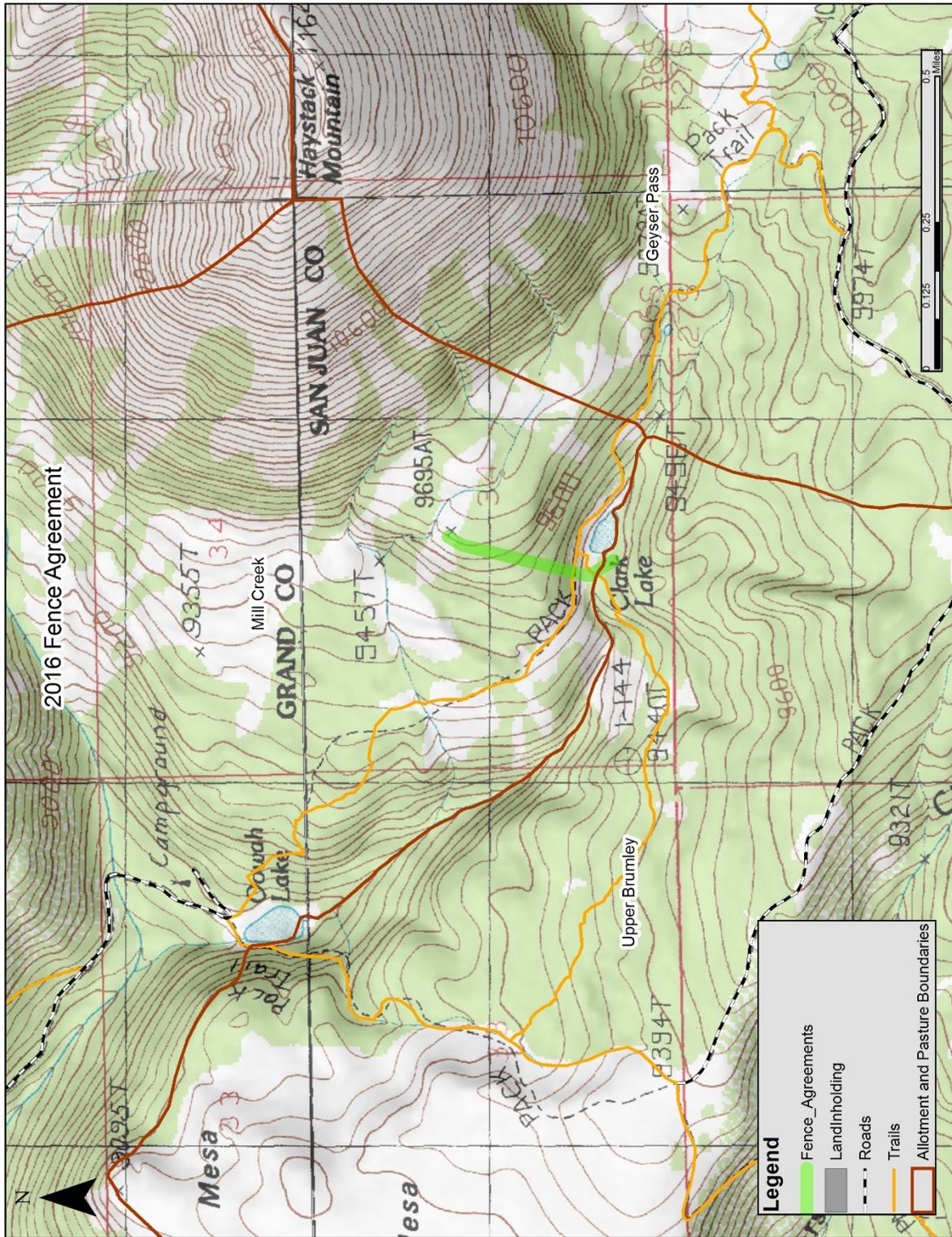
I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

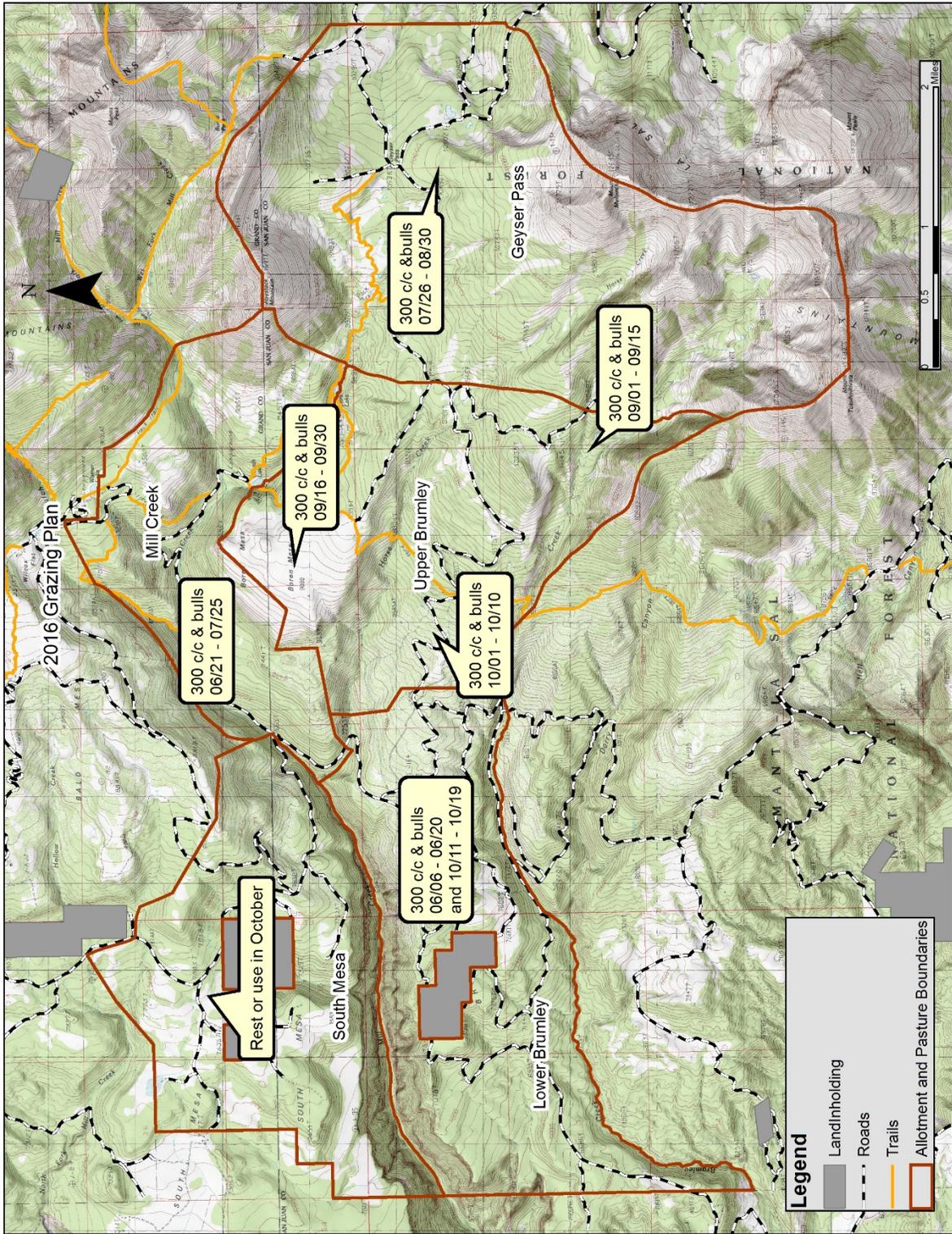


for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

2016 Fence Agreement



2016 Grazing Rotation Plan



Key Monitoring Locations for the Brumley Ridge Allotment

