USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest | Carson Ranger District
1536 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
775-882-2766

File Code: 2230; 2210
Date: April 20, 2016

Borda Land & Sheep Co.
Ted Borda
1432 Ezell St.
Gardnerville, NV 89410

Dear Mr. Borda,

This letter will document the Annual Operating meeting held between Borda Land & Sheep Company, and the USFS, on April 12, 2016, and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2016 grazing season on the Leviathan S&G, Cottonwood S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, Dumont S&G, Mt. Rose S&G, Silver Creek S&G, Lost Cannon C&H, and Piute C&H Allotments. This AOI covers use on the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts. This AOI is made part of your grazing permits consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). 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 to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. The use permitted in your Term Grazing Permits' are listed below along with the authorized use for the 2016 season:

PERMITTED USE:

Allotment	Number of Livestock	Season of Use
Leviathan S&G	1,460 ewes/lambs	6/21-9/20
Cottonwood S&G	3,274 head months	5/1-9/30
Bagley Valley S&G	722 head months	6/1-10/20
Dumont S&G	3,233 head months	6/1-10/20
South Swauger S&G	1200 ewes/lambs	7/6-7/26
North Swauger S&G	1200 ewes/lambs	7/27-8/10
South Swauger S&G	1200 ewes/lambs	8/11-8/28

AUTHORIZED USE:

Due to a 2015 wildfire on the Carson Ranger District, a displaced permittee will be authorized to graze the North and South Swauger Allotments in lieu of Borda Land & Sheep Co. for the 2016 grazing season. This use will be covered in a separate AOI issued to F.I.M. Corp.. Borda Land & Sheep Co. will not be authorized to graze the North and South Swauger Allotments for the 2016 grazing season.

Band 1

Allotment	Grazing Unit	Number of Livestock	Head Months	Season of Use	Days
Mt. Rose S&G		770 ewes	3,266	5/15-9/20	129
Dumont S&G	Silver King Unit	770 ewes	1,038	9/21-10/31	41

Band 1: Mt. Rose S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, Dumont S&G, Lost Cannon C&H and Silver Creek S&G: Sheep will be trucked to the Thomas Creek parking lot and complete the 1,000 acre Arrowhawk targeted grazing fuels reduction project. Once you have completed this targeted grazing project, you may continue to graze the rest of the allotment. Keep sheep in the higher elevations out of the medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusa)* patches on the north and northeast side of the allotment, and away from the Hunter Creek trailhead. Sheep will graze the Hunter Lake Road corridor moving up to Hunter Lake. Utilize Bronco Creek road and dry meadow prior to Big Meadows and Davis Meadow- stretching entrance into these meadows until **July 15** to provide for critical deer fawning requirements. Avoid camping sheep on the newly constructed Tahoe Rim Trail to prevent trail damage; however, please notify the Carson Ranger District if trail damage occurs. Once utilization has been met on the west side of the allotment, sheep will be trailed either back to the Thomas Creek area, or to private land where they will exit the allotment. The dry ewes will come out of Mt. Rose S&G, and trail through Bagley Valley S&G on or around September 20th to access Dumont S&G. Sheep will graze the Silver King Unit from September 21st to October 31st when they will trail back to the home ranch.

Band 2

This band begins the season on a targeted grazing fuels reduction project in Carson City, Nevada, then goes to the Pine nuts on BLM. This band uses both the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts.

Allotment	Grazing Unit	Number of Livestock	Head Months	Season of Use	Days
Bagley Valley S&G	Trailing Livestock	740 ewes/lambs	24	8/1	1
Dumont S&G	Silver King Unit	740 ewes/lambs	1,095	8/2-9/15	45
Lost Cannon C&H	Trailing Livestock	740 ewes/lambs	24	9/16-9/17	1
Silver Creek S&G		740 ewes/lambs	316	9/18-9/25	13

Band 2: Bagley Valley, Dumont S&G, Lost Cannon C&H, Silver Creek S&G: The tentative grazing plan is to enter the Dumont Allotment (trailing through Bagley) on or around August 1st, and graze until September 15th. Sheep will then trail to the Lost Cannon and Silver Creek Allotments on the Bridgeport Ranger District. The lambs will be sold and separated, and the remaining will be trailed back to the Silver King Unit to graze from September 25th to October 31st.

Band 3

This band comes off of a BLM permit, and then uses both the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts.

Allotment	Grazing Unit	Number of Livestock	Head Months	Season of Use	Days
Cottonwood S&G	Leviathan & Haypress Units	725 ewes/lambs	262	5/20-5/30	11
Bagley Valley S&G	Trailing Livestock	725 ewes/lambs	24	5/31	1
Dumont S&G	Silver King Unit	725 ewes/lambs	715	6/1-6/30	30
Bagley Valley S&G	BLM UNIT	725 ewes/lambs		7/1-7/7	
Leviathan S&G	Leviathan	725 ewes/lambs	906	7/8-8/14	38
Bagley Valley S&G	Trailing Livestock	725 ewes/lambs	238	8/15-8/24	10
Dumont S&G	Silver King Unit	725 ewes/lambs	524	8/25-9/15	22
Lost Cannon	Trailing	725 ewes/lambs	167	9/16-9/22	7

Band 3: Cottonwood S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, Leviathan S&G, Dumont S&G Lost Cannon C&H, Silver Creek S&G: The tentative grazing plan is to enter the Cottonwood Allotment via Leviathan Mine Road on the north end on or around May 20th, and graze the Leviathan and Haypress Units until June 1st or until utilization has been met. Sheep will then trail out to BLM Bagley Valley and enter the Dumont Allotment on or around June 1st until June 30th. Sheep will then trail out to BLM Bagley Valley, utilizing the Forest Service portion for water and trailing from July 1st to July 8th. Sheep will move north again to utilize the Leviathan Allotment on or around July 10th through August 14th, or until utilization has been met. Sheep will then move south to Bagley Valley on or around August 14th to August 24th and then continue to the Dumont Allotment. Sheep will graze Silver King Unit until September 15th. Sheep will then be trailed to the Bridgeport Ranger District via Lost Cannon and Silver Creek Allotments where the lambs will be sold, and the remaining will be trailed back to the Dumont Allotment to graze Silver King Valley from September 25th to October 31st.

Band 4

This band comes off of a BLM permit, and grazes on the Bridgeport Ranger District.

Allotment	Grazing Unit	Number of Livestock	Head Months	Season of Use	Days
Lost Cannon C&H		735 ewes/lambs	652	5/20-6/15	27
*Silver Creek S&G**		735 ewes/lambs	1,885	6/16-9/1	78
Piute C&H		735 ewes/lambs	507	9/2-9/22	21

*The Wolf Creek meadows will be rested for the 2016 grazing season. There will be no sheep use directly around Wolf Creek.

Band 4: Lost Cannon C&H, Silver Creek S&G, Piute S&G: The tentative grazing plan is to enter the Lost Cannon Allotment on or around May 20th, and graze until June 15th. Sheep will then trail out to Silver Creek Allotment and graze until September 1st when they trail out to Piute C&H. Sheep will trail back to Silver Creek Allotment on or around September 22nd where the lambs will be sold and separated.

After Bands 1-3 converge at Silver Creek Corrals to separate and sell the lambs:

Allotment	Grazing Unit	Number of Livestock	Head Months	Season of Use	Days
Lost Cannon C&H		1200 dry ewes	395	9/21-9/30	10
Dumont S&G	Silver King Unit	730 dry ewes*	888	9/25-10/31	37

* There will be an additional 770 dry ewes in Dumont at this time. They are accounted for under band 1. A total of 1500 dry ewes will be in Dumont.

Grazing plan after September 21st: Three bands that consist of ewes and lambs will all converge at the corrals in Silver Creek S&G on or around September 21st for separating. 1200 dry ewes will graze the Lost Cannon C&H Allotment from September 21st to September 30th. Once the lambs have been sold, 500 ewes and 700 lambs will trail out to the home ranch. Another band of ewes will trail (3 days) back to Dumont S&G- reaching Dumont by September 25th. This band will meet up with band 1 (Mt. Rose band) of ewes for a total of 1500 ewes grazing the Silver King Unit in Dumont S&G until October 31st, or utilization has been met.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT:

Actual turn on date will depend on range readiness. For the purpose of livestock accountability, contact the Carson Ranger District **five to seven days prior to turnout** and when you make unit moves. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions of the allotment.

The schedule dates of use are flexible as long as they are within the permitted use parameters, but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made to the above dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Graze the allotments using open herding in a once over pattern. Do not bed or noon sheep in riparian or aspen stands (with the exception of Silver King meadow- move sheep every day in meadow). Do not bed or noon sheep within 100 yards of water or meadows. Sheep will not bed in the same place for more than four days at a time.
Herd sheep in a manner which avoids stream use for longer than what is needed to water the flock. Route sheep so as to avoid fish-bearing portions of streams to the extent practicable.

Use sites in riparian conservation areas for watering your sheep which are armored (such as rocky/boulder country) versus areas that could be easily trampled by your sheep. Have herders locate camping and sanitation facilities outside of riparian conservation areas.

Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile from water, (springs, seeps, and streams), roads, and trails. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails used by the public. All garbage associated with managing your livestock/Herder's Camp on Forest Service allotments must be removed from National Forest System lands. Herder's camp must be kept clean at all times.

Additional management standards incorporated from the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the East Alpine Rangeland Project signed on September 28, 2012:

Cottonwood S&G:

- ✓ Due to noxious and invasive weeds, River Ranch Unit will be rested until resource conditions improve.
- ✓ Use is not to exceed a maximum of 122 days grazed.

Bagley Valley S&G:

- ✓ Alternate use between BLM and FS administered lands.
- ✓ Use is not to exceed 12 days grazed.

Dumont S&G:

- ✓ Avoid trailing sheep on established hiking trails to reduce conflicts with trail users, and to minimize damage to trails.
- ✓ Trail sheep on the east side of the Carson River trail in the East Carson Unit except when unavoidable. Fix any minor trail damage caused by sheep traverse in these areas, and notify the Carson Ranger District.
- ✓ Use is not to exceed 97 days grazed.
- ✓ Be cognizant of the new allotment boundaries: Little Antelope Trail, Poison Creek, and Silver King Creek.
- ✓ Cross over to the Snodgrass Unit at the point where the Snodgrass Trail and Silver King Trail converge.

INVASIVE WEEDS:

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock is concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. It is *strongly* recommended that all livestock entering the National Forest be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 3 days prior to entering the Forest.

You are required to avoid noxious weeds, and known rare plant populations. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with noxious weeds, as the Forest Service may be unaware of some populations.

ALLOWABLE USE:

Mt. Rose S&G, Leviathan S&G, Lost Cannon C&H, Piute C&H:

Riparian Sites:

- In meadows that are in late seral status (fifty percent or more of the relative cover of the herbaceous layer is late seral with high similarity to the potential natural community, a diversity of age classes of hardwood shrubs is present, and regeneration is occurring) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to a maximum of **40 percent** (**or minimum four-inch stubble height**).

- In meadows that are **degraded** (such as those in early seral status with a greater than **ten percent** meadow area in **bare soil and active erosion**) **total rest** from grazing is required until they have recovered and have moved to a mid or late seral status.

- In riparian areas browsing on mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) is not to exceed **20 percent** of the annual leader growth and is not to exceed more than **20 percent** of individual seedlings.

- Disturbance of meadow-associated stream banks and natural lake and pond shorelines is not to exceed **20 percent** of the stream reach or **20 percent** of the natural lake or pond shoreline.

- Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

- Pesticide application to livestock is prohibited within riparian conservation areas and critical aquatic refuges.

Upland Sites:

Aspen, Sagebrush, Mountain Brush, and Grassland sites:

- Maximum of **45 percent** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species.

- Maximum of **40 percent** use of current annual growth of shrubs.

Cottonwood S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, Dumont S&G:

Riparian Sites:

- In meadows that are in early seral status (an early stage of succession in a plant community or vegetation type, generally characterized by plant species that are adapted to colonizing disturbed areas with a high proportion of bare soil) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to **30 percent** (**or minimum six-inch stubble height**).

- In meadows that are **degraded** (such as those in early seral status with a greater than **ten percent** meadow area in **bare soil and active erosion**) **total rest** from grazing is required until they have recovered and have moved to a mid or late seral status.

- In riparian areas browsing on mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) is not to exceed **20 percent** of the annual leader growth and is not to exceed more than **20 percent** of individual seedlings.

- Disturbance of meadow-associated stream banks and natural lake and pond shorelines is not to exceed **20 percent** of the stream reach or **20 percent** of the natural lake or pond shoreline.

- Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

- Pesticide application to livestock is prohibited within riparian conservation areas and critical aquatic refuges.

Upland Sites:

Aspen, Sagebrush, Mountain Brush, and Grassland sites:

- Maximum of **45 percent** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species.

- Maximum of **40 percent** use of current annual growth of shrubs.

Silver Creek S&G:

Additional Standards for Silver and Wolf Creeks as described in Biological Opinion 2009-F-0209-R035.

- Livestock utilization of riparian herbaceous cover shall not exceed 30 percent utilization or a 15cm (6in.) minimum stubble height.

- Livestock utilization of riparian woody vegetation shall not exceed 20 percent utilization of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs and 20 percent utilization of individual seedlings.

- Livestock streambank alteration levels shall not exceed 10 percent in the occupied or essential stream reach.

It is your responsibility to monitor utilization and ensure that the allowable use standards are not exceeded. You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and to move or remove livestock from the allotment to prevent exceeding these standards. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with the allowable use standards. Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotments, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian species.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in your permit must be maintained to standards listed in Part 3 of your term grazing permit prior to livestock entering the allotment. If an improvement is inaccessible prior to the on date, you must notify the Carson Ranger District range staff prior to livestock entry into the allotment. If there is a need for any additional improvements and/or major repairs to existing improvements, please contact the Carson Ranger District range staff for assistance. The permittee is responsible for supplying any materials required to maintain improvements to acceptable standards.

Cottonwood S&G:

Haypress Flat Water Trough T10N, R21E, Section 17

*Work with the NRCS and Forest Service to replace the spring development, pipeline, and new sheep troughs. Work will occur in the fall months, and certified weed free gravel is required for the gravel apron underneath the water troughs. Obtain troughs and wildlife escape ramps from Carson Ranger District Range staff.

The following standards apply to water developments:

- Remove sediment and foreign objects from headboxes.
- Repair headbox covers.
- Mend fences protecting spring sources.
- Replace cracked or broken pipelines.
- Remove objects that plug pipelines.
- Clean out sediment from troughs.
- Clean and repair overflows and float valves.
- Reset and level troughs.
- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- Replace broken trough braces.

Dumont S&G:

Silver King Valley Irrigation System T8N, R21E; T9N, R21E (Silver King Valley)

*Minor maintenance to the upper and lower west ditches will occur in 2016. Install outlet pipes in the upper west ditch- by hand. No backhoe use is authorized in 2016. Work with FS and NRCS- reference NRCS Operation and Maintenance Plan for Water Control (Approved July 2002). Follow the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide for mechanized use. Reference the approved Allotment Management Plan for the Dumont S&G Allotment (2013).

GENERAL MANAGEMENT:

Forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance costs are included with this plan. Please complete and return the forms by December 31, 2016.

If you see a wildfire, please contact the Minden Interagency Dispatch Center, at **(775) 883-5995**. As a reminder, if the Bridgeport and/or Carson Ranger Districts enters into fire restrictions during 2016, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

The grazing fee is $0.42 per head month.

Only sheep with the RB brand or an ear tag in the left ear with "Borda" on it are authorized to graze on Cottonwood S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, Dumont S&G, Leviathan S&G, and Mt. Rose S&G, Silver Creek S&G, Piute C&H, and Lost Cannon C&H Allotments.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting a minimum of 35 days prior to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed on March 5, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36CFR261.13; 36CFR212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (e.g. term grazing permit). You and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal, setting up herder's

camp). Please keep a copy of this AOI to provide to a Forest Service officer if asked when traveling off of the MVUM routes.

OTHER:

This summer we will be visiting the allotments to conduct permit compliance monitoring. Our range staff will be in contact with you to discuss any issues or successes that may arise during the grazing season. Furthermore, we look forward to working with you to develop the Allotment Management Plan for the Leviathan S&G Allotment as we complete the Environmental Analysis for the Leviathan-Loope Rangeland Project.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions or any aspect of grazing on the National Forest, please contact our Range Staff, Courtney Ghiglieri at (775) 884-8150, or at cghiglieri@fs.fed.us . If you have any questions regarding the allotments on Bridgeport, please contact Aaron Coogan at 760-932-5852.

Sincerely,

Sally Champion
for
IRENE DAVIDSON
District Ranger