United States Department of Agriculture **Forest Service** **Manti-La Sal National Forest**

Sanpete Ranger District
540 North Main Street
Ephraim, UT 84627
Phone # (435) 283-4151
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File Code: 2210/2230
Date: May 17, 2016

Steve Bearnson
Herd Manager
Lasson C&H Allotment
1008 N 1750 W
Salem, Utah 84653

Dear Steve:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Lasson 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.**

The Term Grazing Permit on the Lasson C&H Allotment is as follows:

Permittee	Number
Bearnson Ranches	280

AUTHORIZED USE FOR 2016

Allotment	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season	Permittee	Non-use	
						Resource protection	Personal convenience
Lasson	280	Cattle	Cow/calf	07/01 - 9/30	Bearnson, Steve		

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture		Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Trail on		280	Cattle	07/01 - 07/05 or ***Enter at Range Readiness***
Dry Canyon	Unit 1	280	Cattle	07/06 - 07/30
Lake Fork	Unit 4	280	Cattle	07/31- 08/29
West Fork	Unit 3	280	Cattle	08/30 - 09/25
Trail Off		280	Cattle	09/26 - 09/30 **(Trail Off)**

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

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 are tools used in achieving or moving towards desired rangeland conditions. Utilization standards are not the desired conditions or management objectives themselves, they are indicators. Desired conditions and objectives are discussed in the 1986 Forest Plan and/or the Allotment Management Plan.

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

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 on season of use. (see Forest Wide Proper Use Criteria below).

Forest Wide Proper Use Criteria

Unless specified elsewhere in the Forest Plan or in an allotment management plan, the following Proper Use Criteria is applied:

Cattle Allotments

1. **Uplands**

Management System	Veg. Type	% Use of Key Species
Season Long Use	All	40-50%
Deferred Rotation	All	45-60%
Rest Rotation	All	55-65%

2. **Riparian Areas**

Spring (Early and rapid growth)	50-60%
Summer (Moderate growth)	45-50%
Fall (Slow growth)	30-40% or 4 -5 inches stubble or regrowth

There is a difference between where percentage utilized is applied and where stubble height is applied to determine proper use in riparian areas. Percent utilized is used for plant species that are within the larger riparian area (the area that is influenced by the stream and the water table) but not along the greenline. The greenline is the first perennial vegetation on or near the stream's edge that is at least one foot wide. Stubble height measurements are used to determine proper use along the greenline. The plant species considered are typically water loving species (hydric species) such as sedges.

It is your responsibility as the permittee to recognize when proper use has been reached and promptly move all cattle as necessary. If you need some assistance, or methods and tools for determining proper use, please contact Karlton Moss.

When proper use has been reached in the unit being grazed, 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, <u>even if this date is prior to the end of your grazing season.</u>** 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.

<u>IMPROVEMENTS</u>

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.

I encourage you to contact Karlton when you complete your maintenance so he can schedule a timely inspection. I also suggest that you provide photographs of before and after conditions to assist in documenting compliance with maintenance requirements.

If you wish to use forest products (trees and oak brush) from the National Forest to maintain your fences/spring exclosures on your allotment, you must receive a 2400-1 permit from the Sanpete Office prior to cutting.

NEPA and PLANNED PROJECTS

Not applicable at this time.

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 through the "lock box" process is received prior to livestock entering NFS lands. Five or more days notice must be given to the Forest Officer in charge for tagging and/or dye-marking and counting prior to the date livestock will be turned on the Forest range.

I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please don't hesitate to call Karlton Moss (435-636-3304) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kyle Beagley
KYLE BEAGLEY
District Ranger

MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST

Ranger District Sanpete Year 2016

Allotment Lasson C&H

GRAZING USE RECORD

This form is to be completed by the herd manager and sent to the District Ranger's office at the end of the grazing season.

	Estimated Use			Actual Use		
Units in Order of Use	No. of Days	From	To	Entered	Left	Numbers
Dry Canyon Unit 1	30	July 1	July 30			
Lake Fork Unit 4	30	July 31	Aug 29			
West Fork Unit 3	32	Aug 30	Sept 30			
York Canyon Unit 2 **(REST)**	0					

Number of horses kept on allotment for management purposes_____

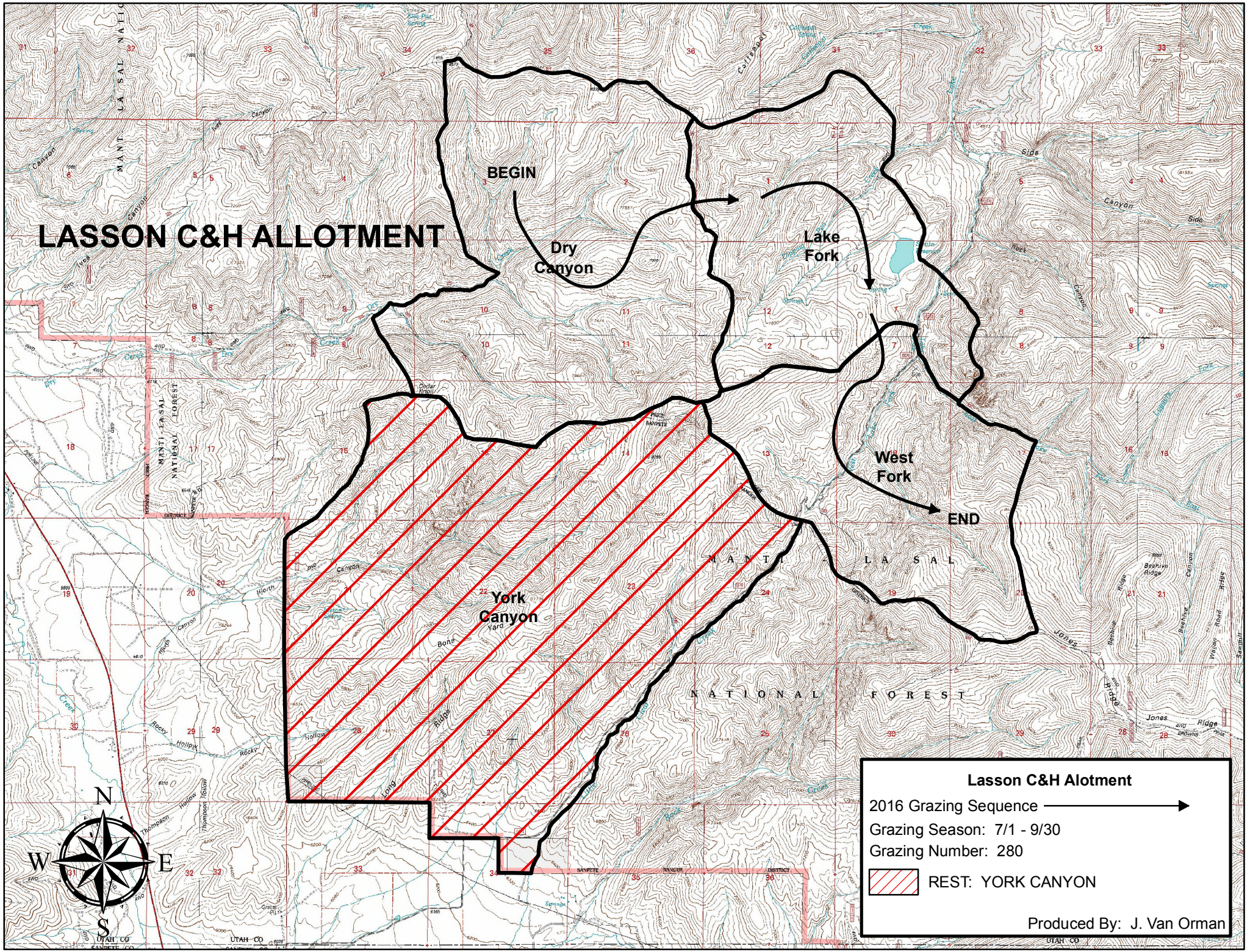
ACTUAL LOSS RECORD

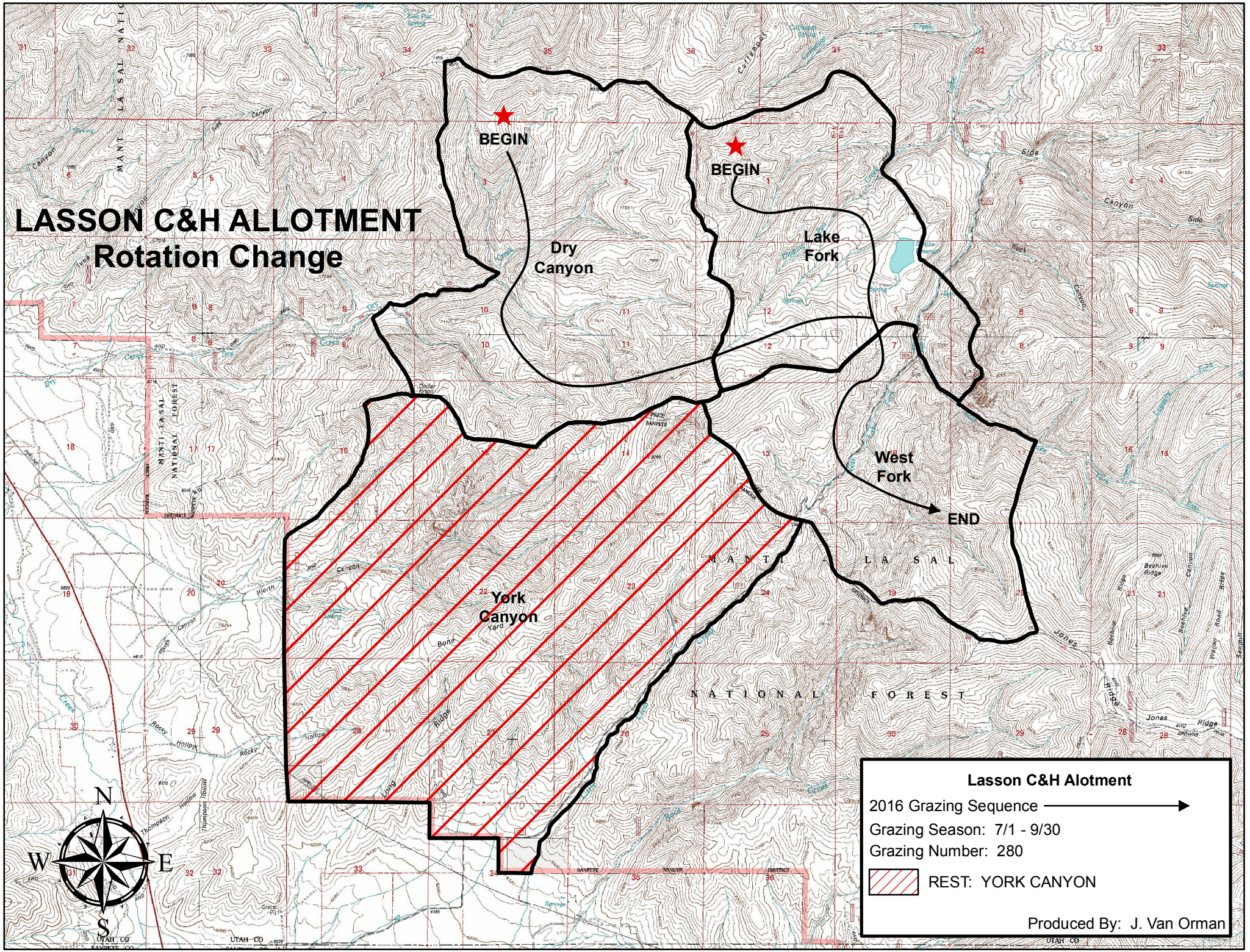
Cause of Loss	Cows or Ewes	Calves or Lambs	Bulls
Predators			
Poisonous Plants			
Other			

Hours of Permittee or Herder contributed time spent on maintenance of Range Improvements _____ Hours.

Cost of Permittee donated materials used on maintenance of Range Improvements. $_____.

_____
(Signature)


LASSON C&H ALLOTMENT
BEGIN
Dry Canyon
Lake Fork
West Fork
END
York Canyon
MANTI LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
N
S
E
W
Lasson C&H Alotment
2016 Grazing Sequence
Grazing Season: 7/1 - 9/30
Grazing Number: 280
REST: YORK CANYON
Produced By: J. Van Orman


LASSON C&H ALLOTMENT
Rotation Change
BEGIN
BEGIN
Dry
Canyon
Lake
Fork
West
Fork
END
York
Canyon
MANTI LASAL NATIONAL FOREST
N
S
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Lasson C&H Alotment
2016 Grazing Sequence
Grazing Season: 7/1 - 9/30
Grazing Number: 280
REST: YORK CANYON
Produced By: J. Van Orman

Lasson C&H Allotment
2016 Grazing Season

Request for Change of Rotation: See Attached

Permittee Signature: _____ Ranger Signature: Kyle Beagley

Bearnson Ranches, LLC
Steven Bearnson, Manager
1008 North 1750 West
Salem, UT 84653
(801)798-7810

To Manti/LaSal District Forest Ranger,

I am requesting a modification to the Lasson C/H Allotment grazing plan for the 2016 grazing season. My allotment grazing plan outlines the use of the Dry Canyon unit from July 1 through July 31 with 280 head of cattle. Then I am supposed to use the Smith Reservoir unit August 1 through August 31. Current and anticipated stock water availability has prompted my request to instead use Dry Canyon and Smith Reservoir together from July 1 through August 31. I would place salt in the eastern portion of Dry Canyon to encourage the cattle to graze there more in July, then slowly drift into Smith Reservoir unit heavier in August, but leave the gates in the Dry Canyon fence open to allow cattle to drift east into the Smith Reservoir unit for stock water.

My grazing plan I received calls for cattle to be "drifted" onto the range from July 1 to July 5, 2016. I would like to do the "drifting" up the Little Clear Creek road through the York Canyon unit (the current year rest unit) and through a portion of the West Fork unit (September use unit 2016) as I move the cattle to the Smith Reservoir and Dry Canyon units. My cattle are herded 3 miles from Indianola to the Forest by way of the Little Clear Creek road historically. This greatly aids in gathering the livestock off the Forest at season end. Logistically it is near impossible to move 280 pair of cows and calves from Indianola, north up Utah State Highway 89, east up Dry Canyon, and make it to the stock water, in July heat, in one day. Congruently, the lack of a functioning fence in the bottom of Dry Canyon between the Forest land and the DWR land allows any cattle that don't properly "pair up" to return to Indianola (usually at night) in an attempt to return to where they were last "paired." Entering the Forest with the cattle from this direction creates a potential public safety hazard on highway 89, excess stress on my animals, and liability burden on me. With a few extra days labor on my part, I believe this slight modification could be very beneficial to all.

Thank you for your consideration,.

Steven B Bearnson

Bearnson Ranches LLC by: Steven Bearnson

Date: 6-3-16