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

Sanpete Ranger District
540 North Main Street
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Phone # (435) 283-4151
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File Code: 2210/2230
Date: May 18, 2014

Mr. Randy Larson
Buck Ridge S&G Allotment
Box 336
Ephraim, Utah 84627

Dear Randy:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Buck Ridge S&G Allotment for the 2014 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 Buck Ridge S&G Allotment is as follows:

Permittee	Number
R. Larson Sheep Co.	1100

AUTHORIZED USE FOR 2014

Allotment	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season	Permittee	Non-use	
						Resource protection	Personal convenience
Buck Ridge	1100	Sheep	Sheep	07/01 - 09/27	Larson, Randy		

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Long Flat Unit 2	1100	Sheep	07/01 or ***Enter at Range Readiness*** - 08/01
Big Bear Unit 4	1100	Sheep	08/02 - 08/24
Buck Ridge Unit 3	1100	Sheep	08/25 - 09/04
Cherry Flat Unit 1	1100	Sheep	09/05 - 09/27

- As your grazing season approaches, we plan to conduct an inspection of the allotment to determine range readiness. We would like to invite you to attend this inspection. The date for sheep entering the allotment will be set after range readiness is determined.

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 25-45% 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:

Sheep Allotments

1. Uplands

Use category	% Use of Key Species
Light Use	**0-25%**
Moderate Use	**26-45%**
Heavy Use	**greater than 46%**

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**

It is your responsibility as the permittee to recognize when proper use has been reached and promptly move all sheep 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 sheep are to be herded to the next scheduled unit. **When proper use is reached in the last unit grazed, all sheep are to be removed from the allotment, <u>even if this date is prior to the end of your grazing season.</u>** Sheep 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 sheep.

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 2014 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.

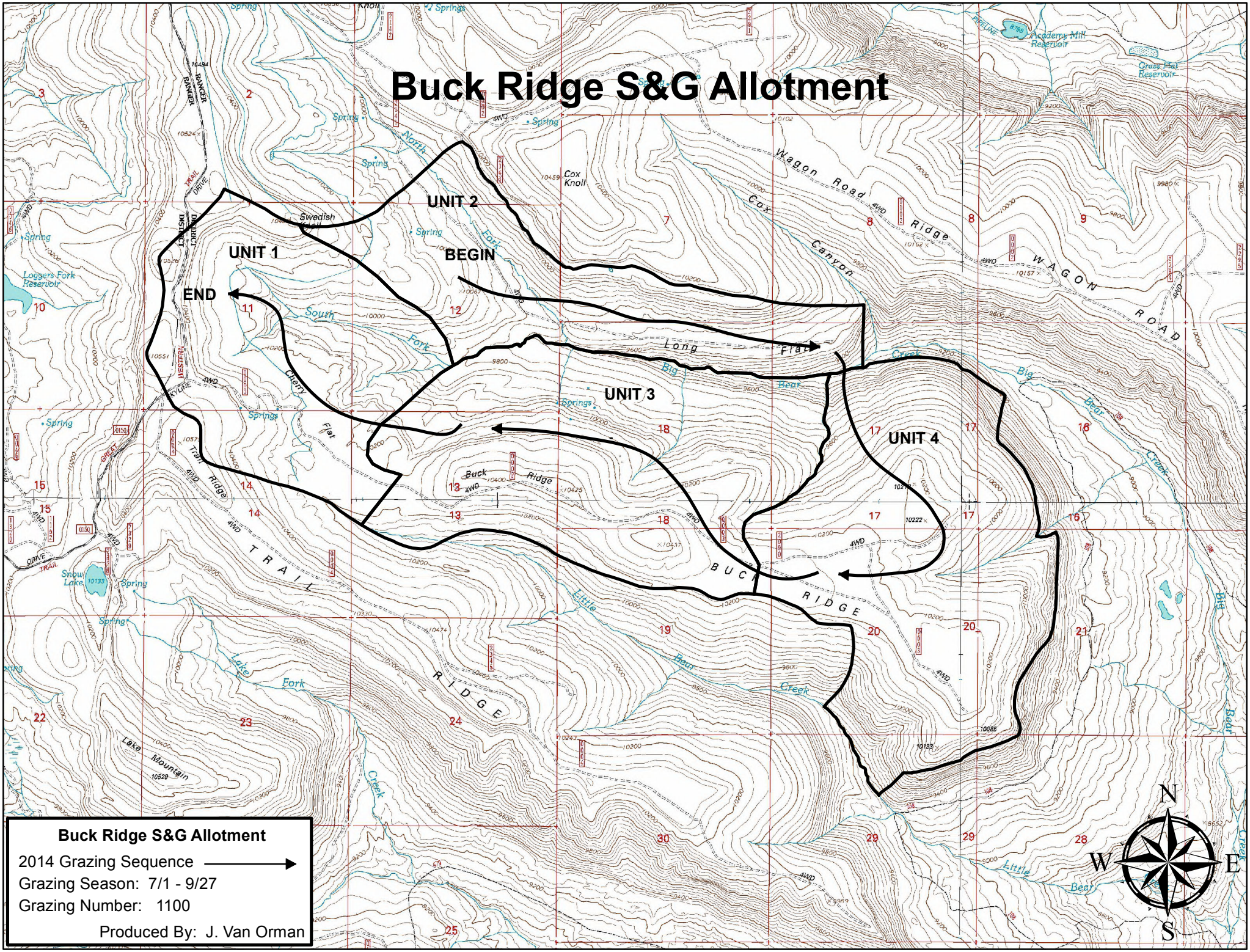
PAYMENT OF FEES

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 (435-283-4151) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kevin Draper
KEVIN DRAPER
District Ranger


Buck Ridge S&G Allotment
UNIT 1
UNIT 2
UNIT 3
UNIT 4
BEGIN
END
Buck Ridge S&G Allotment
2014 Grazing Sequence
Grazing Season: 7/1 - 9/27
Grazing Number: 1100
Produced By: J. Van Orman
N
S
E
W