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

Ferron/Price Ranger District
115 West Canyon RD
P.O. Box 310
Ferron, UT 84523
Phone # (435) 384-2372
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File Code: 2210/2230 Eccles Canyon S&G, Monument Peak S&G
Date: May 29, 2015

Steve and Vivian Stamatakis
2676 West Gordon Creek
Price, UT. 84501

Dear Steve and Vivian,

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Eccles Canyon, and Monument Peak S&G Allotments for the 2015 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 2015

Allotment	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season	Permittee	Non-use	
						Resource protection	Personal convenience
Eccles Canyon	637	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	July 13 - Sept 30	Steve & Vivian Stamatakis		
Monument Peak	333	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	July 1 - Sept 30	Steve & Vivian Stamatakis		

Permitted pack and saddle stock authorized on the allotment for livestock management will not exceed four head. Your allotment will be inspected for range readiness in June, if it is determined that grass growth is sufficient in your early use pastures, you may move on the allotment as planned. **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.

Management Objectives in the Allotment Management Plans include:

- Maximum sustained yield of the forage resource, while providing for soil and watershed stability and improvement.

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 Plan Amendment attached). 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.

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%**

1. Riparian Areas

Spring(Early and rapid growth)	**50-60%**
Summer (Moderate growth)	**45-50%**
Fall (Slow growth)	**30-40% or 4 -5 inches stubble on the Greenline 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 Corinne Dalton.

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."

ACTUAL USE RECORDS

The Actual Use records you or your Herd Manager receives at the beginning of each season must be returned to the Ferron District office by **October 15th** of the same year. The completed records are placed in the allotment folder and are made part of the management record. The records and any notes you provide, are reviewed each year for planning next grazing season. Not only is the information used locally, it is used nationally as we are required to post actual use to a national data base.

IMPROVEMENTS

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 Corinne when you complete your maintenance so she 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 authorization from the Ferron 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 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.
- Please avoid areas that were burned in the Seeley Fire. Avoid any use of Aspen especially in the burn scar areas.

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 National Forest System lands. Bills can also be paid online at http://www.fs.fed.us/billpay/. 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 look forward to working with you this summer. Please don't hesitate to call Corinne Dalton at (435-636-3588) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Darren Olsen
District Ranger

Allotment ECCLES S&G To be completed by herd manager and returned at the end of grazing season				GRAZING USE RECORD Ferron/Price Ranger District			Year 2015				
	Estimated Use			Actual Use			# Livestock		Losses		
Unit in Order of Use	#'s	From	To	Entered	Left	Permittees	Authorized	Actual	Predator	Poison Plants	Other
Trail on	954	07/13	07/22								
East	954	07/23	08/01								
West	954	08/02	08/11			Steve and VivianStamatakis	637				
Huntington	954	08/12	09/09			John and Vera Erramouspe	317				
Winters	954	09/10	09/19								
Eccles	954	09/20	09/30								
Trail Off	954	09/30									

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

This is only a guide, move livestock immediately upon reaching utilization levels.

Do not Bed next to streams.

Graze riparian areas lightly.

Hours spent on Maintenance of Improvements_____hours

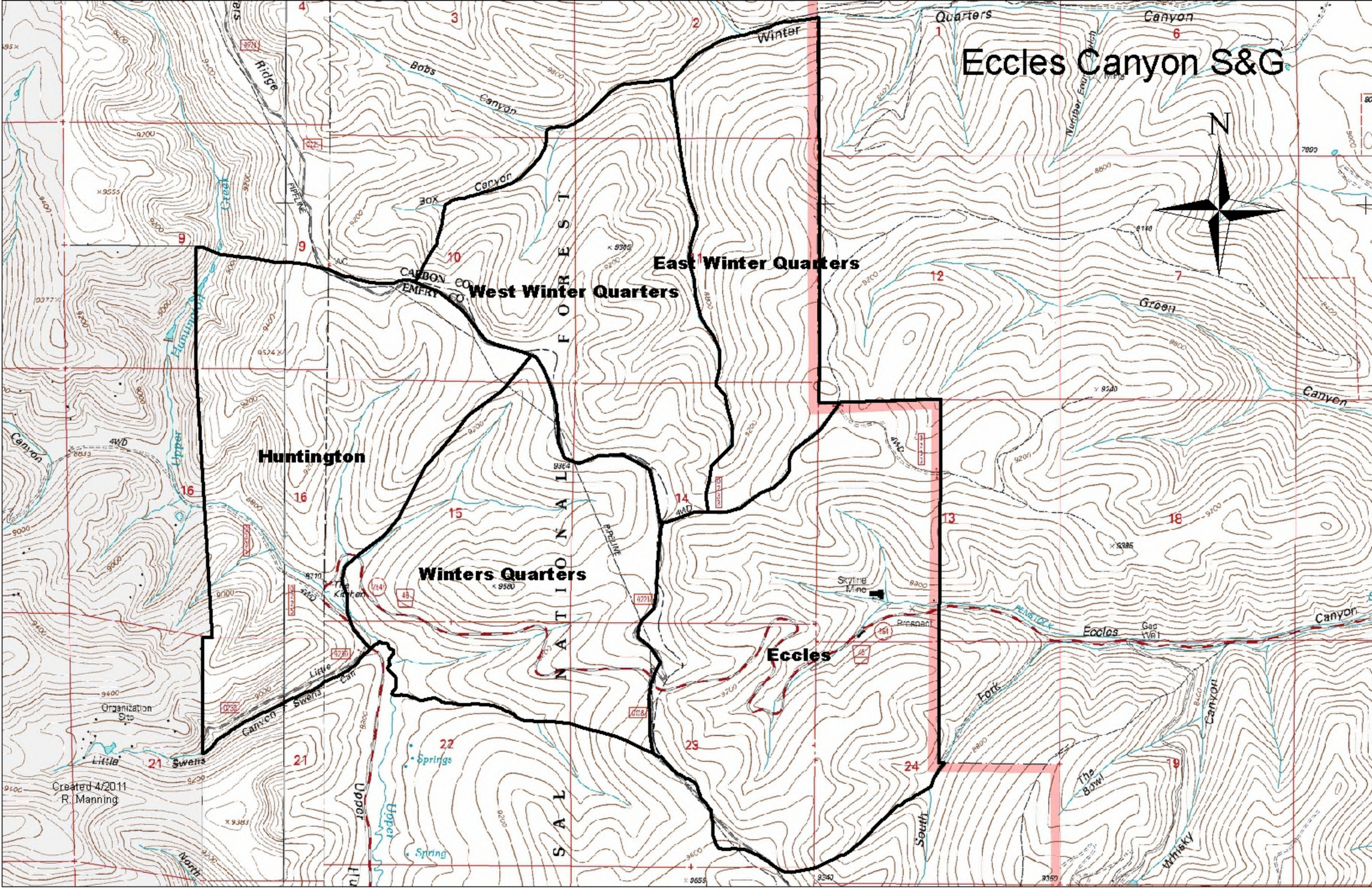
Cost of materials donated by permittees on maintenance of improvements $_____

Number of hours spent on Allotment for management purposes_____

Signature of Herd Manager

_____

Remarks:



Eccles Canyon S&G
N
East Winter Quarters
West Winter Quarters
Huntington
Winters Quarters
Eccles
Winter Quarters Canyon
Bobs Canyon
Box Canyon
Ridge
Green Canyon
Eccles Canyon
Skyline Mine
Prospect
Gas Well
Fork
South
The Bowl
Whisky Canyon
Upper Canyon
Little Swens Can
Organization Site
Springs
Spring
The Kitchen
Upper
North
Little
Swens
Canyon
Upper
Huntington
Creek
Pipeline
Penstock
Carbon Co
Emery Co
Sal National Forest
Created 4/2011
R. Manning