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

Ferron/Price Ranger District
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File Code: 2210/2230 Bean Ridge S&G, East Bear Ridge S&G, Johnson Ridge S&G, Pontown S&G
Date: May 29, 2015

Preston Allred
PO Box 352
Fountain Green, Utah 84632

Dear Preston:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bean Ridge, East Bear Ridge, Johnson Ridge, and Pontown 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
Bean Ridge	800	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	July 1 to Sept 30	Preston Allred		
East Bear Ridge	400	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	June 21 to Sept 30	Preston Allred		
Johnson Ridge	400	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	July 1 to Sept 30	Preston Allred		
Pontown	400	Sheep	Ewe/lamb	July 1 to Sept 30	Preston Allred		

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 Steven Cox.

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."

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 Mark 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 authorization from the Ferron Office prior to cutting.

NEPA and PLANNED PROJECTS

NEPA is underway for three corrals. They will be located on Winter Quarters Ridge, The North Skyline Drive north of Cabin Hollow, and Mill Fork Ridge on the Bennion Sheep Allotment.

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 2012 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 National Forest System 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 look forward to working with you this summer. Please don't hesitate to call Steven Cox (435-636-3595) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Darren Olsen
District Ranger

Allotment___PONTOWN 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	**Days**	**From**	**To**	**Entered**	**Left**	**Permittees**	**Authorized**	**Actual**	**Predator**	**Poison Plants**	**Other**
Fish Creek Ridge	23	7/1	7/23			Preston Allred	400				
Price River	23	7/24	8/15			Dustin Allred	400				
Little Bear	23	8/16	9/08								
Starvation	21	9/09	9/29								
Trail off	1	**9/30**	**9/30**								

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: This is only a guide. Sheep will be moved immediately once proper utilization is met. It is extremely important that the herder understands these instructions. You will be responsible for the herders mistakes!

All Sheep will be completely removed from forest on September 30. Any sheep found on forest after this time will be considered tresspass and prosecuted as such.

Hours spent on Maintenance of Improvements_____hours
Cost of materials donated by permittees on maintenance of improvements
$_____

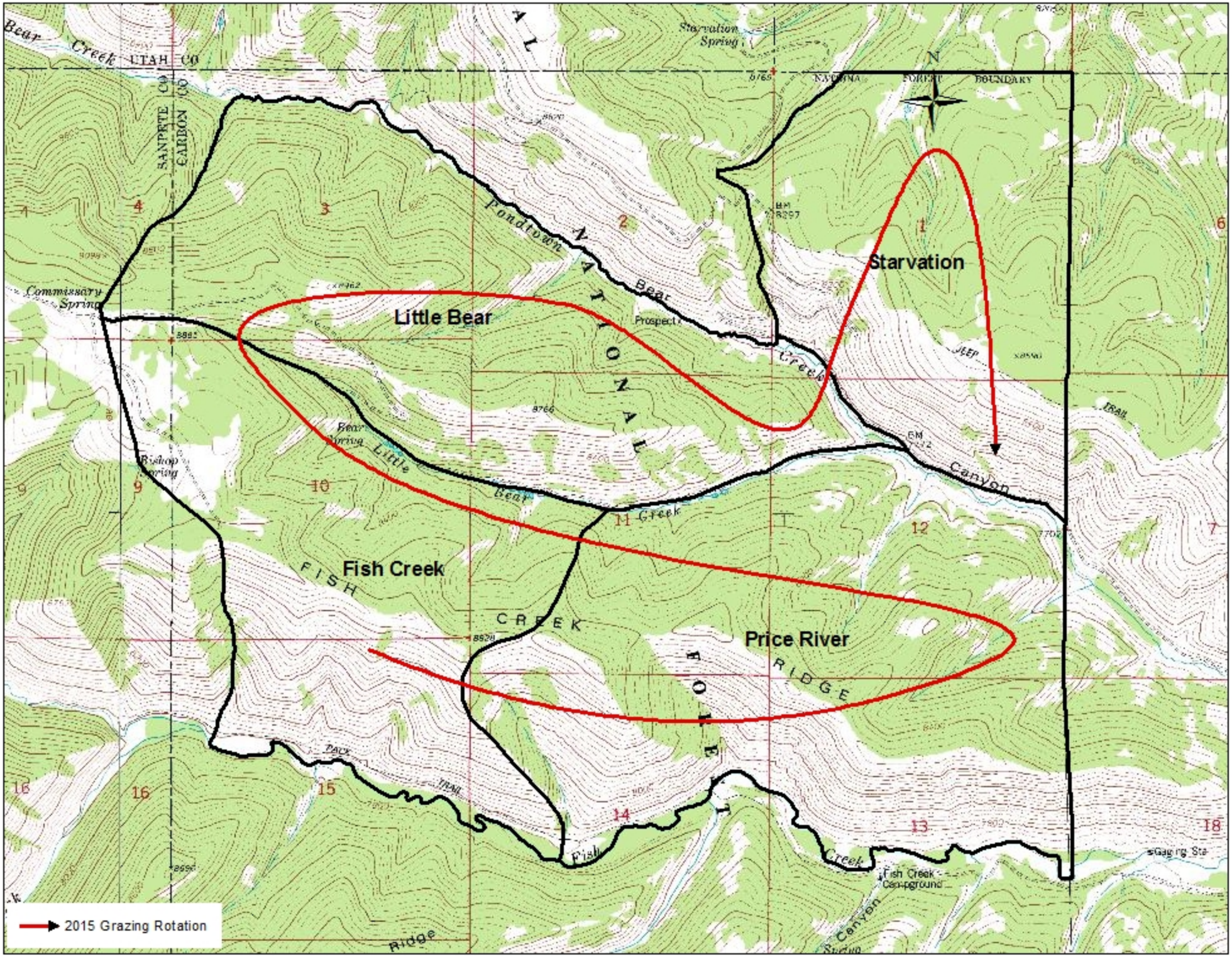
Number of horses kept on Allotment for management purposes ____

Number of hours spent on noxious weed control_____Cost $

_____
Signature of Herd Manager

REMARKS:

Pontown S&G



Author: Steven Cox
Date: 3/4/2015