United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Manti-La Sal National Forest
Moab/Monticello Ranger District
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File Code: 2210/2230
Date: June 3, 2015

TY Cattle Company
c/o Zeb Dalton
323 North 600 West
Blanding UT 84511

HAND DELIVERED-JUNE 4th 2015

Dear Mr. Dalton:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Twin Springs C&H Allotment 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
Twin Springs	450	Cattle	Cow/Calf	06/06 to 10/05	TY Cattle Company		
Twin Springs	50	Cattle	Yearling	06/06 to 10/05	TY Cattle Company		
Twin Springs	9*	Horse	Mature	06/06 to 10/05	TY Cattle Company		

*As stated on page 5 of your permit, only 6 horses may be pastured for a period of two months between the months of July to September in Horse Pasture.

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	**Number**	**Kind**	**Approximate Dates**
Gathering Pasture	450	C/C	06/06 – 07/01(trailing on)*
North Dry Mesa (above Cooper fence at Secs. 34-35)	450	C/C	06/15 - 07/15 or 08/01
South Dry Mesa (between Cooper fence and North Government Fence in Sec 12)	450	C/C	07/16 or 08/01 - 08/31
Government Unit/West Flat**	450	C/C	09/01 - 09/30
Little Mtn	450	C/C	10/01 – 10/05 (trailing off)
Peavine part of Dark Canyon unit	50	Yearling Heifers	06/06 – 06/30

Rig to Upper Dark canyon part of Dark Canyon unit	50	Yearling Heifers	07/01 – 07/25
Kigalia Unit	50	Yearling Heifers	07/26 – 09/30^
JN unit	50	Yearling Heifers	10/01 – 10/05 (gathering off)

*Livestock are being actively gathered from BLM lands into the Gathering pasture and then moved on to Dry Mesa The entire herd is not staying in the Gathering pasture the entire time of the dates that are shown.
**There is not a fence between Tree Unit and West Flat therefore there may be some cows in the Tree unit during this time.
^ If proper use is reached before 09/30, the yearlings will be moved into the JN unit earlier than 10/01.

Permitted pack and saddle stock authorized on the allotment for livestock management will not exceed four head. This is separate from the 9 head that is on your permit and you are billed for.

Management Response to Drought Conditions

The drought in Utah is predicted to continue into this year. As of now, the Abajo Mountains are at about 83% of normal for precipitation (see attached graph and map). Though the timing of rainfall the past 3 years in the summer and fall have kept forage production up on most of the mid and high elevation pastures, several lower elevation pastures that were used first last year or in the two previous years were dry and unproductive during the times they were grazed. This usually resulted in moving off the unit earlier than planned or overuse, if livestock were not moved in time. In these areas, the stressed forage resource will still be trying to recover from last year's dry conditions.

The degree that drought affects future forage production will depend upon intensity, frequency and timing of grazing this year. Providing plants opportunity to grow and adequate recovery from grazing before, during and after drought conditions, will have a great influence on long term vegetative productivity and rangeland conditions. It is extremely important that the proper use criteria are followed and that the allotment is monitored closely, which may involve an increase in the amount of riding you or your herd manager does.

You plan on hauling water out to Dry Mesa. On the northern end of Dry Mesa, you plan on using either the east or west side first by only watering and salting on one side and then switching to the other side. This will depend on if there is water in the stock ponds already.

You have been authorized this year to graze 50 yearling heifers separate from the cow/calf pairs. In order to distribute grazing more effectively you have been authorized to erect a temporary electric fence to split the Dark Canyon unit into two grazing units. Where this electric fence crosses the road, you must provide a gate crossing where the hot wire can be easily opened and closed by users. This can be accomplished by running an insulated hot wire underground, to make sure that there is still a current flowing to the other side of the gate and by having a spring gate that is also hot (see the diagram attached). The fence must be clearly signed so that forest users know that it is a fence with an electrical current. This fence will be promptly removed once the yearlings are removed from Dark Canyon unit.

While the yearling heifers are in the Kigalia unit, please use salt and riding to implement the principles taught in last winter's grazing school, to concentrating use in portions of the pasture for short periods. While yearlings have a tendency to wander, these practices will help to prevent them from concentrating in one area of the pasture for the entire time they are scheduled.

Your allotment should be inspected for range readiness to determine forage growth and fence and water improvement conditions. **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 one indicator used in achieving or moving towards desired rangeland conditions. Taking into account duration and timing of grazing are also just as important. 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 1983 Twin Springs AMP include:

- Meet livestock needs and the physiological needs of desirable forage.
- Increase diversity and production of desirable grass species.

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 season of use. 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.

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 Tina Marian.

For the Twin Springs allotment proper use criteria in 2015 is:

Upland Areas:	**Use of Key Species**
Spring/Summer	**40-45% ***
Fall	**50-55%**

***Dry Mesa may be utilized up to 60% because the key species is mainly crested wheatgrass (see AMP).**

The AMP set a special allowable use for the Dark Canyon wilderness area at 40% of key species.

Riparian Areas:	**Use of Key Species**
Spring (Early and rapid growth)	**50-60%**
Summer (Moderate growth)	**45-50%**
Fall (Slow growth)	**30-40% or 4-5 inches stubble or regrowth**

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, even if this date is prior to the end of your grazing season. 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.** This is important to plant recovery after being grazed, especially in areas cattle are drawn to.

Please use the Grazing Response Index enclosed in your folder to track duration of use, intensity of use and time of use for each grazing unit. This is a helpful tool in assessing grazing impacts to the range vegetative resources.

IMPROVEMENTS

Since 2006, the Forest Service has entered into structural improvement agreements with each permittee which will continue for this season. The purpose of these agreements and the following inspections is to document how and if range structural improvements are being maintained.

Thank you for completing the Rig fence last year.

FENCE AGREEMENT: For 2015, you will reconstruct the horse corral which is part of the Twin Spring Cabin area. It is a pole fence that you plan to rebuild with sucker rails.

Also, the Ute tribe has committed to maintain their assigned portion of Kigalia Canyon fence, you will please also maintain your portion of that fence, which of from the gate in Sec 27 to the north (see map attached). This fence needs to be completed before you enter the Kigalia unit on July 26th. Please contact Tina Marian at least a week before this date so the fence may be inspected before you enter the pasture

There will be no new spring agreements this year but we can provide a new trough if needed for a spring in the Tree unit.

When you complete your fence and spring/pond agreements, you will please fill out and sign the Improvement Agreement Form (pink) that is found in your folder. Please provide photographs of before and after conditions to assist in documenting compliance with maintenance requirements. Contact Tina when you complete your maintenance so she can schedule a timely inspection.

If you fail to bring the above agreed improvements up to standard by **October 5, 2015,** you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2016 until the agreement is fulfilled.

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 into each pasture. 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.

There are many troughs on the Forest that do not have wildlife escape ramps and are thus not meeting improvement maintenance standards. All troughs on the allotment need to be equipped with a wildlife escape ramp. You can obtain them from the Forest Service office.

We understand that this will not all be completed in one year and will be emphasizing getting wildlife escape ramps installed in all troughs over the next few years.

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 either the Moab or Monticello Office prior to cutting.

NEPA and PLANNED PROJECTS

The Twin Springs Allotment is scheduled to have an environmental analysis completed in the next few years. Forest Service staff will be collecting data on the allotment this year and in the next few years in preparation for the analysis. You are invited and encouraged to participate in data collection and monitoring activities.

The Kigalia Fence and Water Development EA is still in the planning stages.

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 2015 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.

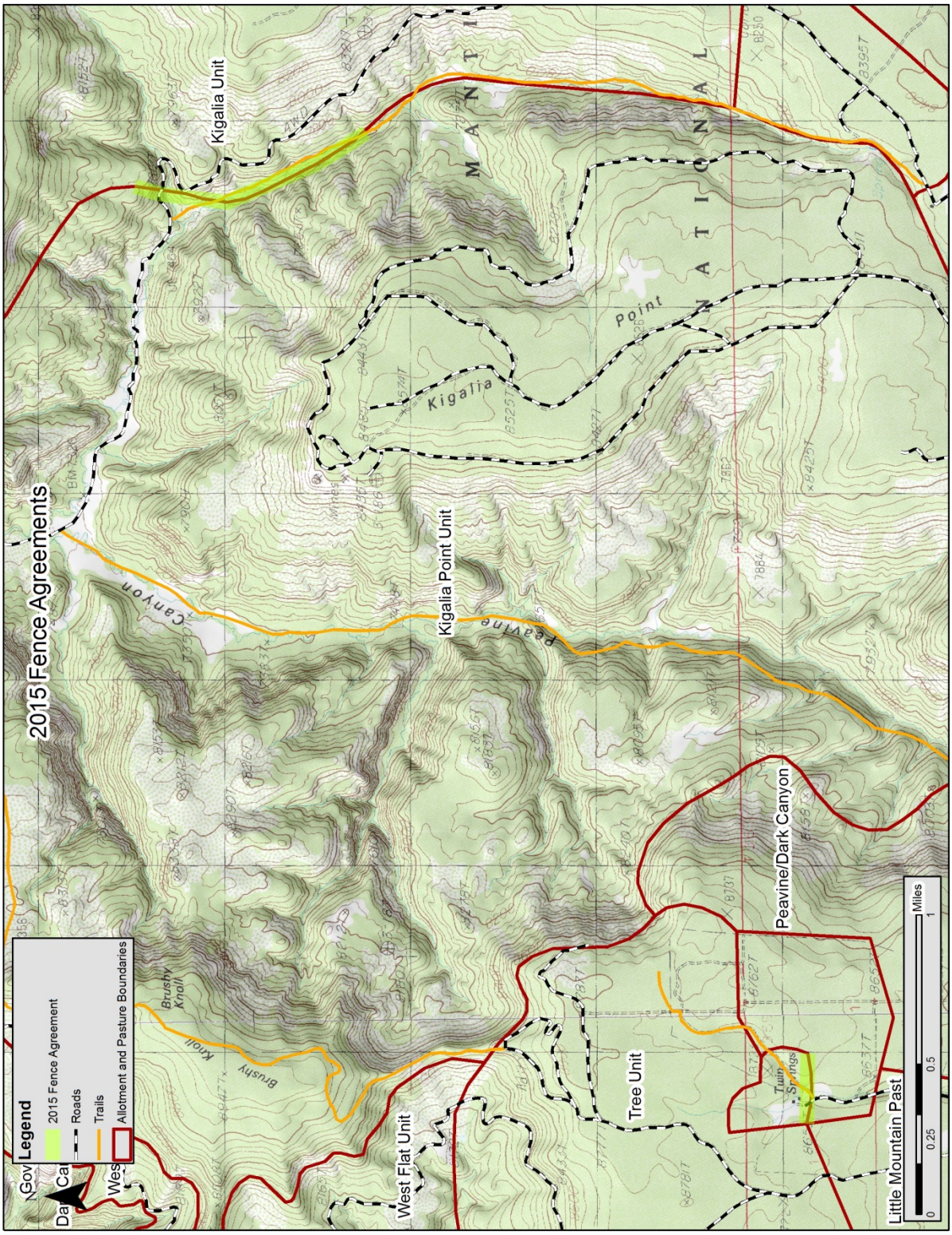
I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

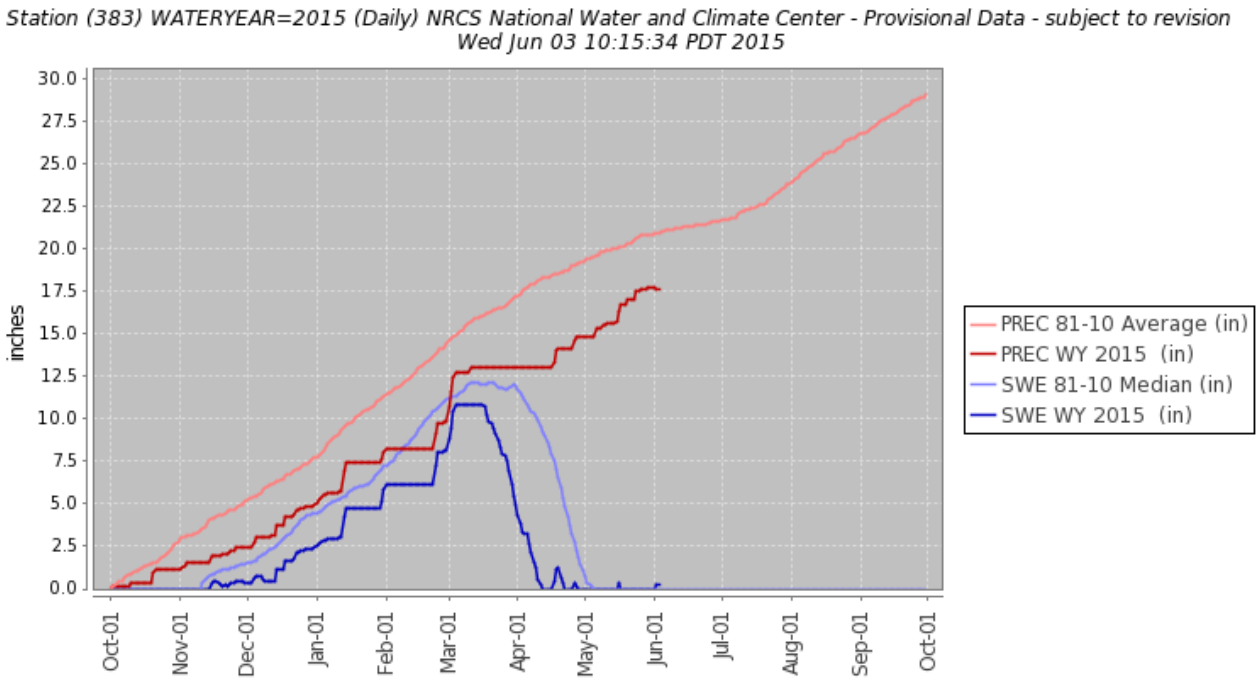
Sincerely,

Tina Marian

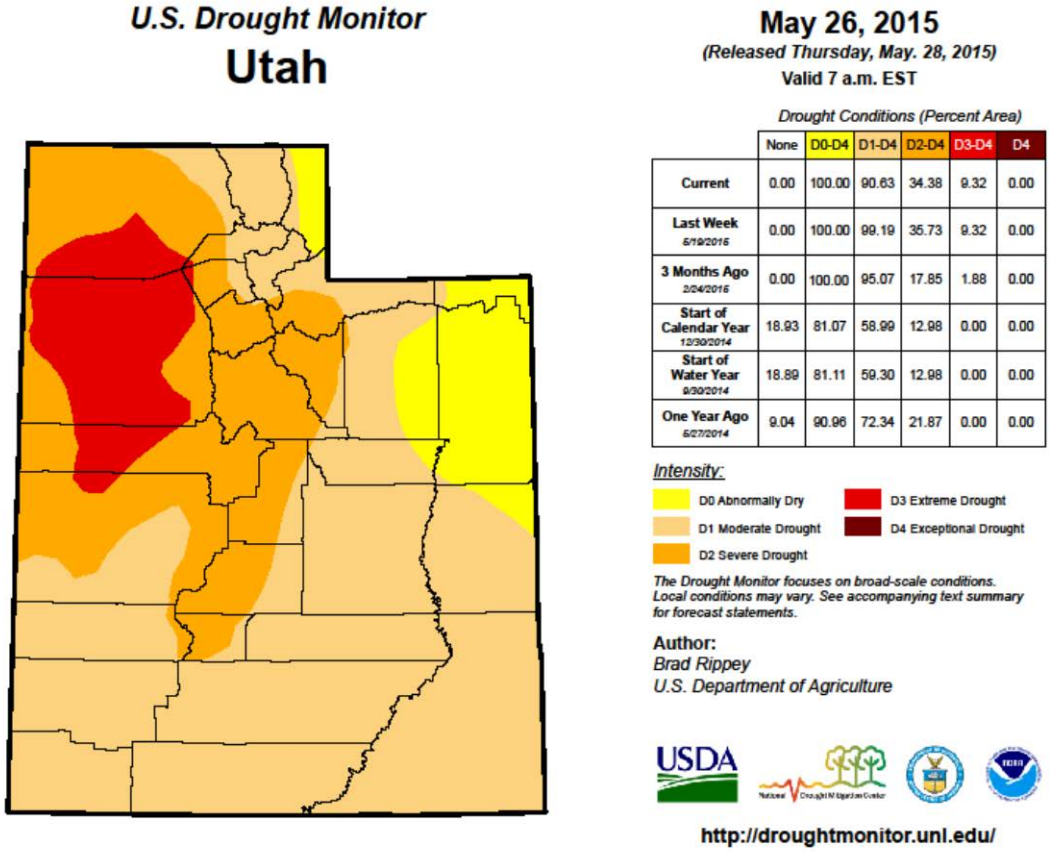
for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

2015 Fence Agreements Map



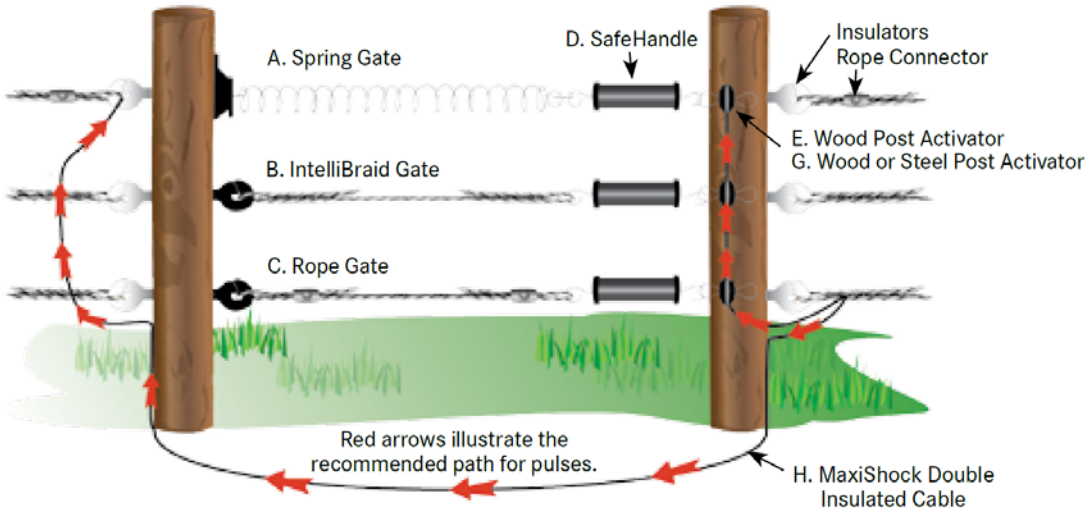


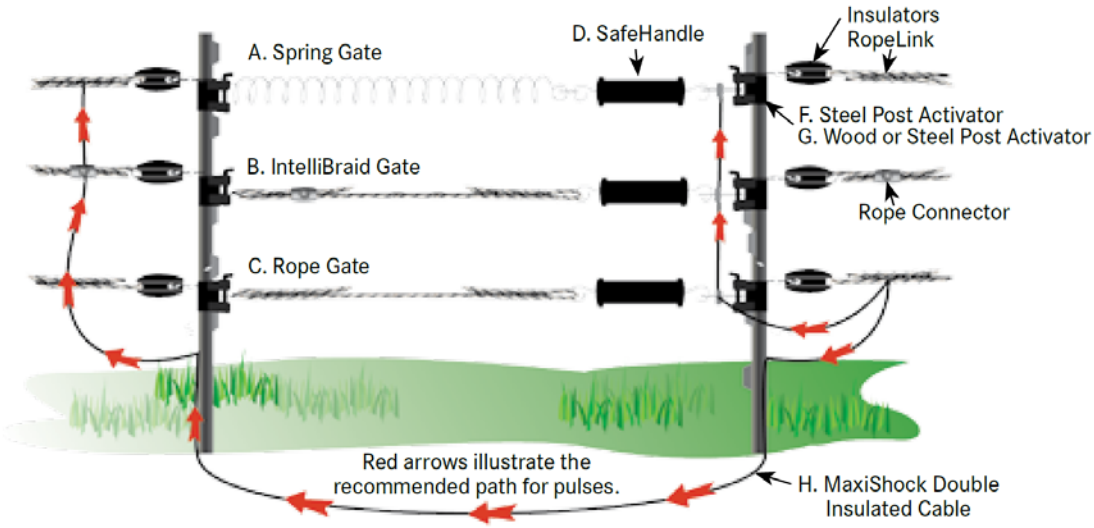
Total Precipitation below average, no precip in March and first part of April, the last few storms have done much to increase total precip for this area. SE Utah still considered to be in a moderate drought.



	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	90.63	34.38	9.32	0.00
Last Week 5/19/2015	0.00	100.00	99.19	35.73	9.32	0.00
3 Months Ago 2/24/2015	0.00	100.00	95.07	17.85	1.88	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/30/2014	18.93	81.07	58.99	12.98	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	18.89	81.11	59.30	12.98	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 5/27/2014	9.04	90.96	72.34	21.87	0.00	0.00

Diagram for gate for temporary electric fence. Note that we will not require 3 wires, as we have found the 2 wires have worked well in the past, but this will be up to you if you want to use 3 wires. Also only 1 wire needs to be the hot wire and only the spring gate needs to be hot.



Don't rely on the gate to carry the power to the next fence. Instead, run insulated wire under gate openings to electrically connect fences on each side.

- ***For permanent fences*** *use PI34 double-insulated wire buried carefully.*
- ***For temporary fences****, lay MaxiShock insulated cable just under the soil surface.*