United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Manti-La Sal National Forest
Moab/Monticello Ranger District
62 East 100 North
P.O. Box 386
Moab, UT 84532
Phone # (435) 259-7155
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File Code: 2210/2230
Date: June 12, 2015

Paul D. Redd
c/o Steven Redd
P.O. Box 62
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Redd:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the South Paradox, North Paradox and Deep Creek C&H 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
South Paradox (Hop Creek and Two Mile Divisions)*	200-650	Cattle	Cow/Calf	Between 06/13 and 11/08	Paul D. Redd		
South Paradox (Pine Ridge Division)	16**	Cattle	Cow/Calf	11/01 to 06/10	Paul D. Redd		
Deep Creek	23	Cattle	Cow/Calf	08/10 to 9/14	Paul D. Redd		

*Variable numbers and season permit, grazing schedule below will give numbers and dates grazed in more detail.
**Grazed in conjunction with adjacent BLM lands in the spring and fall equivalent to 16 c/c for a season from Nov 1 to June 10.

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

South Paradox:

Pasture	**Number**	**Kind**	**Approximate Dates**
Two Mile Unit	200-600	Cattle	06/13 – 07/02*
Hop Creek Unit	150-550	Cattle	06/17 – 07/11*
Hang Dog Unit	100-550	Cattle	10/01 – 10/22**
Hang Dog Unit	450	Cattle	11/01 – 11/08
Paradox Creek	To be determined, will graze with North Paradox herd.		
Pine Ridge	16	Cattle	Between 11/01 and 06/10

*The max number of head shown will not be in these units all at once but moved through in groups of about 150 - 200 between the dates shown. Also, actual on and off dates may be later than shown but will not go beyond about 3 weeks duration in Two Mile and about 3.5 weeks duration in Hop Creek.

** The max number of head shown will not be in these units all at once but moved through in groups of about 100-350 between the dates shown. Also, actual on and off dates may be later than shown but will not go beyond about 3 weeks duration for the first herd. The second herd of 450 should pass through in 8 days or less.

Deep Creek:

Pasture	**Number**	**Kind**	**Approximate Dates**
Deep Creek	23**	Cattle	08/10 – 09/14

This small allotment is used in conjunction with surrounding private lands. The use on the Forested portion is estimated to be equivalent to 23 c/c for a period of Aug 1 to Oct 15.

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

If you wish to you many divide the Hop Creek unit with an electric fence so as to prevent livestock from traveling to the top of the unit right when you enter the unit. The Forest Service will provide the materials for the fence. With the short duration of time cattle will be in the unit this may not be as necessary as in years past but is still a good management tool to use.

<u>Management Response to Drought Conditions</u>

The drought in Utah is predicted to continue into this year. However, the La Sal Mountains are at about 90% 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 have been grazing at a reduced stocking rate in South Paradox since 2012, and plan on using your full AUMs this year. Management may need to be adjusted depending upon actual conditions on the ground. Livestock may need to be removed from the allotment earlier than planned if drought conditions worsen.

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 South Paradox and Deep Creek Allotment Management Plans.

The proper use criteria listed in the box below are within the ranges identified in the 1990 Forest Plan amendment. However, these more specific criteria have been established through the completion of the South Paradox Allotment EA in 2011.

1. Forage Utilization on Key Species: Uplands

Maximum Forage Utilization Based on the Average Current Year's Growth (includes use by livestock and wildlife)			
Uplands			
Management System	Percent Use of Key Species*		
	June pastures	July-Aug pastures	Sept-Nov pastures
Deferred Rotation	40	40-50	50
Rest Rotation	40	40-50	50

Management systems that may be used on the allotment include but are not limited to those listed above.

2. Browse Utilization on Key Woody Shrubs: Riparian and Upland (non-Aspen)
Browsing hits on new leaders of key riparian (willow) and upland woody shrubs should not exceed 45%.

3. Browse Utilization on Aspen Suckering
Midseason browse should be avoided over consecutive years. Intensity of terminal leader browse should be minimized during mid- and late season. Repeat browsing of suckers within a growing season should be avoided.

4. Forage Utilization on Key Species*: Riparian, Greenline, and Wetland**

Vegetation Type	Percent Utilization by Season Used (measured in general riparian area).			Stubble Height (measured on the Greenline)	Comments
	June	July/Aug	Sept/Nov		
Greenline/Riparian Hydric Species	< 45	< 45	< 40	4-5”	Utilization at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.
Hydric species in wetlands** not influenced by streams	< 45	< 45	< 40	4-5”	Utilization at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.
Non-hydric species in riparian areas	< 45	< 45	< 40	2-3”	Utilization at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.

* The key species selected will depend upon the plant species in the present plant community, the present ecological status, and the desired conditions for the specific sites monitored.
**Typically perennially wetlands are not grazed, this refers to seasonal wetlands.

5. Soil Disturbance

Riparian, Wetlands, Springs and Seeps

Stream bank alteration – *Current year stream bank alteration due to shearing, trampling and trailing – no more than an average of 30% of the **reach area monitored.

Wetland, spring or seep soils – No more than an average of 30% of the wetland, spring or seep area will be disturbed by *current year trampling or trailing.

*Current-year alteration is discernible from previous years’ alteration because of weathering effects of freeze/thaw cycles, rain events, and erosion by stream flow or vegetative regrowth.
**A stream reach is the length of the stream selected for monitoring. A suitable size is usually no less than 100m long and ideally it should have a variety of flows.

Upland Soils –

Slopes 0-25% - No more than 30% soil disturbance***
Slopes 26-40% - No more than 20% soil disturbance***
Slopes over 40% - No more than 10% soil disturbance***
– Generally slopes over 40% are too steep for cattle and do not get used.

***This is current year disturbance attributed to cattle use within the key area monitored. Soil Disturbance includes both subsurface and surface soil alteration which adversely impacts soil health, function and productivity.

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.

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. **<u>Grazed pastures must be kept clean of livestock following the pasture move.</u>** This is important to plant recovery after being grazed, especially in areas cattle are drawn to.

<u>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.</u>

<u>IMPROVEMENTS</u>

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.

We did not inspect your portion of the Chicken Creek fence last year but that will be done before July 4th this year.

As discussed during your 2015 AOI meeting:

FENCE AGREEMENTS: For 2015 in South Paradox, you have agreed to bring to standard the fence between FS/State administered lands on the northern ends of Hang Dog and Two Mile units as shown on the map attached.

SPRING AGREEMENT: As discussed during the AOI meeting, the agreement will be to evaluate each spring that is listed in the permit. Some of these springs may no longer exist (dried up) or moved. You will please evaluate each spring so that is known what must be

done to be them to permit standards or if they need to be removed from the permit. The springs listed on the permit for South Paradox are listed below along with GPS coordinates and are marked on the map, if location is known:

Improvement Number	Improvement Name	Section, Township, Range	GPS Location – UTM- NAD83 12 N
44123	Behind the RS Trough- West of Buckeye G.S.	N ½ of Sec 21, T27S, R26E	669256 4256952
44119	West Fork Hop Creek Trough	NE ¼ Sec 1, T28S, R25E	665277 4251924
44204	East Fork Hop Creek Sp	NE ¼ Sec 6, T28S, R26E	666464 4252203
44072	Hang Dog Spring Trough	SE ¼ Sec 3, T28S, R25E	661517 42504939
44119*	Mud Spring	NE ¼ Sec 12, T28S, R25E	665172 4250429
49016	Hideout Spring Trough	NW ¼ Sec 7, T28S, R26E	665591 4250302
49018	Swain Spring Trough**	NE ¼ Sec 1, T28S, R25E	No GPS
49019	Mont Hill Spring	Sec 25, T48N, R20W	No GPS

*****It appears this number is duplicated in the permit, but it is a different spring. **This could be the same spring as the West Hop Creek Spring, unsure if another one is up here, is there a trough that is coming off of Swains private land??

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 **November 30th 2015**, you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2016 until the agreement is fulfilled and you may receive a non-compliance letter.

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

As discussed during the AOI meeting, an Environmental Assessment was completed for the South Paradox Allotment in 2011. An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is currently being developed to implement the decision that was made. The AMP shall become a part of Part 3 of the Term Grazing Permit. A monitoring plan is part of the AMP and a map which shows current key areas on the South Paradox Allotment that are to be monitored is attached.

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

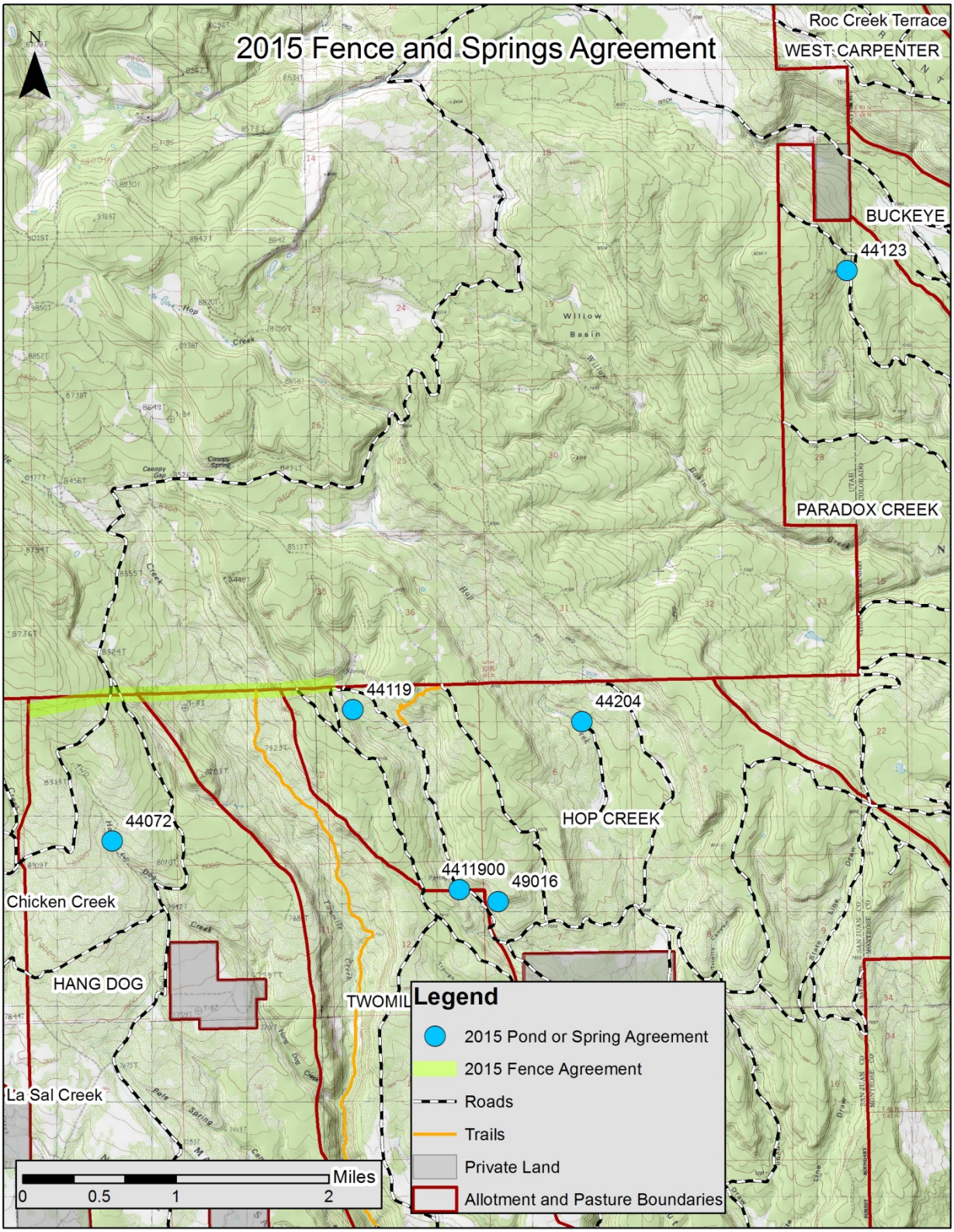
Thank you for payment of the grazing fees. I received confirmation on June 12th, that payment was made.

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.

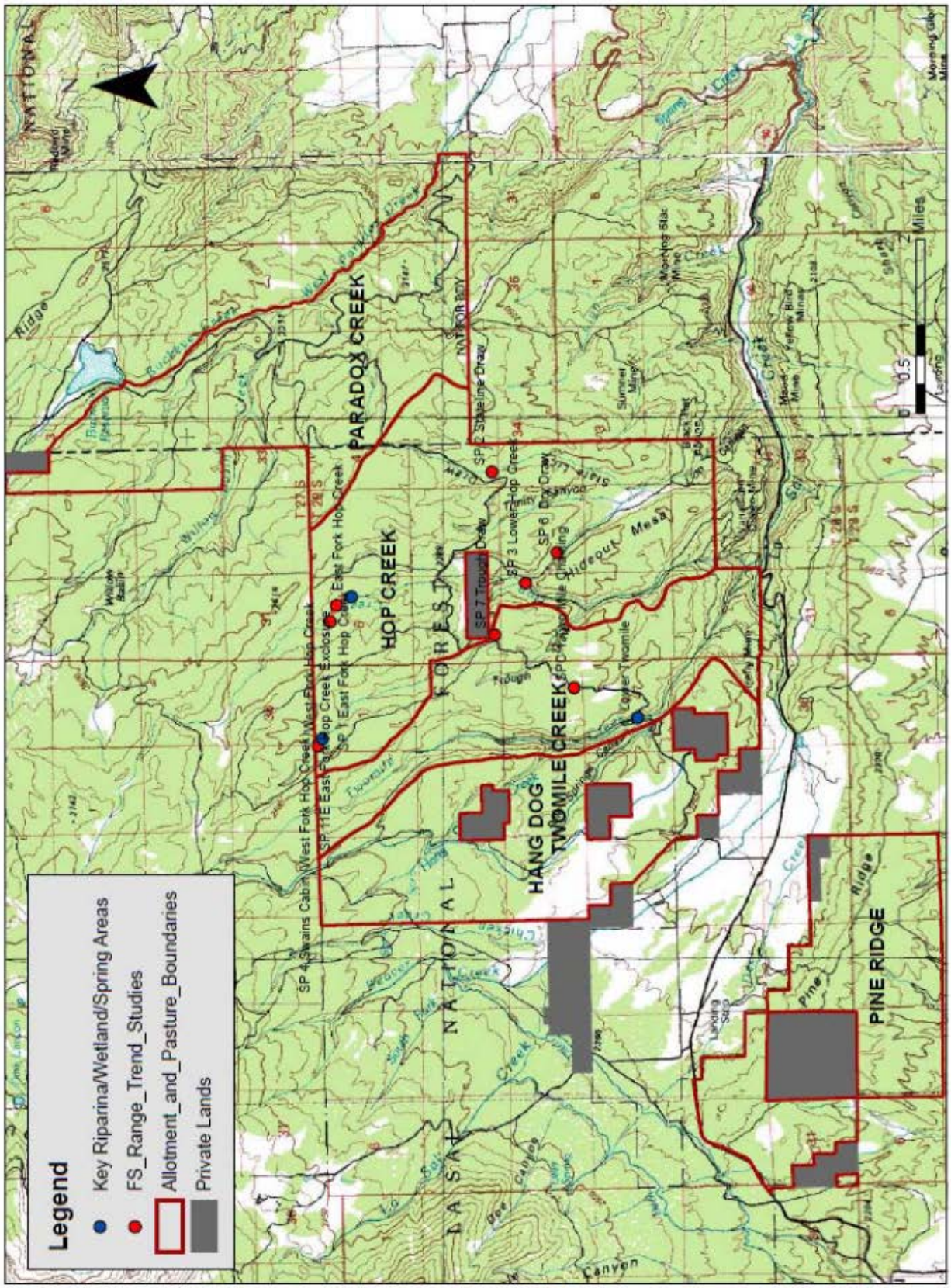
Sincerely,

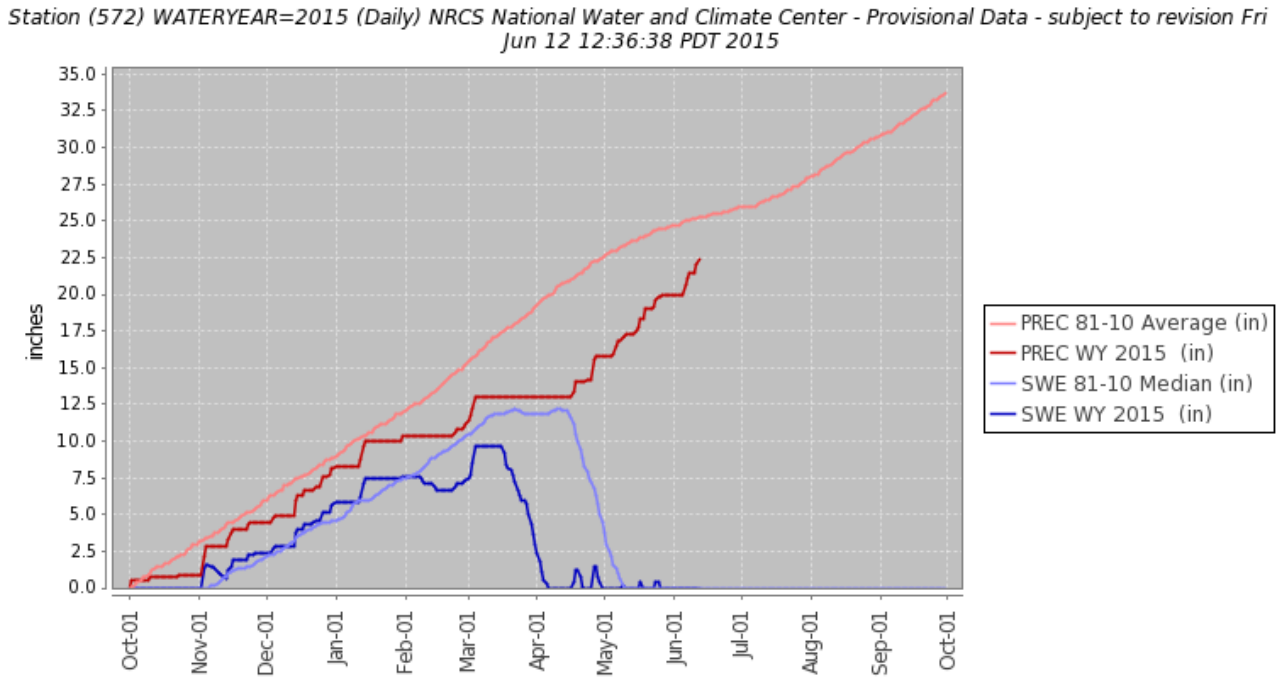
Tina Marian

for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

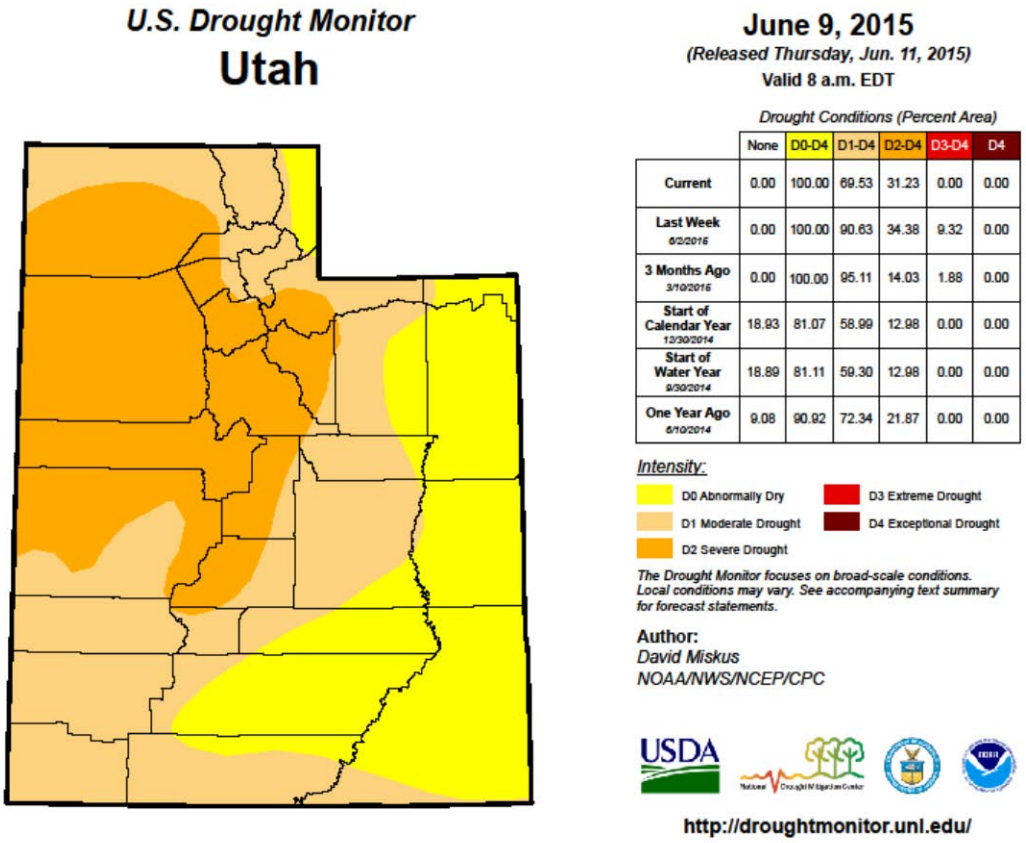

2015 Fence and Springs Agreement
N
Roc Creek Terrace
WEST CARPENTER
BUCKEYE
44123
PARADOX CREEK
44119
44204
HOP CREEK
44072
4411900
49016
Chicken Creek
HANG DOG
TWOMIL
La Sal Creek
Legend
2015 Pond or Spring Agreement
2015 Fence Agreement
Roads
Trails
Private Land
Allotment and Pasture Boundaries
Miles
0
0.5
1
2

South Paradox Key Areas Map





Total Precipitation just 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 abnormally dry.



	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	69.53	31.23	0.00	0.00
Last Week 6/2/2015	0.00	100.00	90.63	34.38	9.32	0.00
3 Months Ago 3/10/2015	0.00	100.00	95.11	14.03	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 6/10/2014	9.08	90.92	72.34	21.87	0.00	0.00