United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Manti-La Sal National Forest
Moab/Monticello Ranger District
62 East 100 North
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File Code: 2210/2230
Date: July 16, 2015

Cameron M Lyman
800 East Flour Mill Road
Blanding, Utah 84511

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Lyman:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bulldog 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
Bulldog	40	Cattle	Cow/Calf	08/01 to 09/08	Cameron M Lyman		

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	**Number**	**Kind**	**Approximate Dates**
Recapture Unit	40	Cattle	08/01 – 08/20
Dry Canyon Unit	40	Cattle	08/21 - 09/08
Bulldog Unit	Will use if water available.		

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

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

The drought in Utah was predicted to continue into this year. However, the Abajo Mountains are at about 111% 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 running full permitted AUMs this year, though it depends on water how much your livestock actually use the Forest from the private land below. Last year they used it very little. 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 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 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.

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.

For the Bulldog allotment proper use criteria in 2015 are:

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

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**

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.

IMPROVEMENTS

As discussed during your 2015 AOI meeting:

FENCE AGREEMENT: For 2015, you have agreed to heavy maintenance on your assigned portion of the fence between Bulldog and Lakes allotment as shown on the map attached. This is fence #52025. You have also been working on the southern boundary fence and will continue this year.

SPRING AGREEMENT: No agreement this year, the fences need to most attention and that will be the focus until fences are up to standards.

When you complete your fence and spring agreements you must fill out and sign the Improvement Agreement Form (pink) that is found in your folder. I suggest that you provide photographs of before and after conditions to assist in documenting compliance with maintenance requirements. I also encourage you to 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 **Sept 8, 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.

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

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 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.

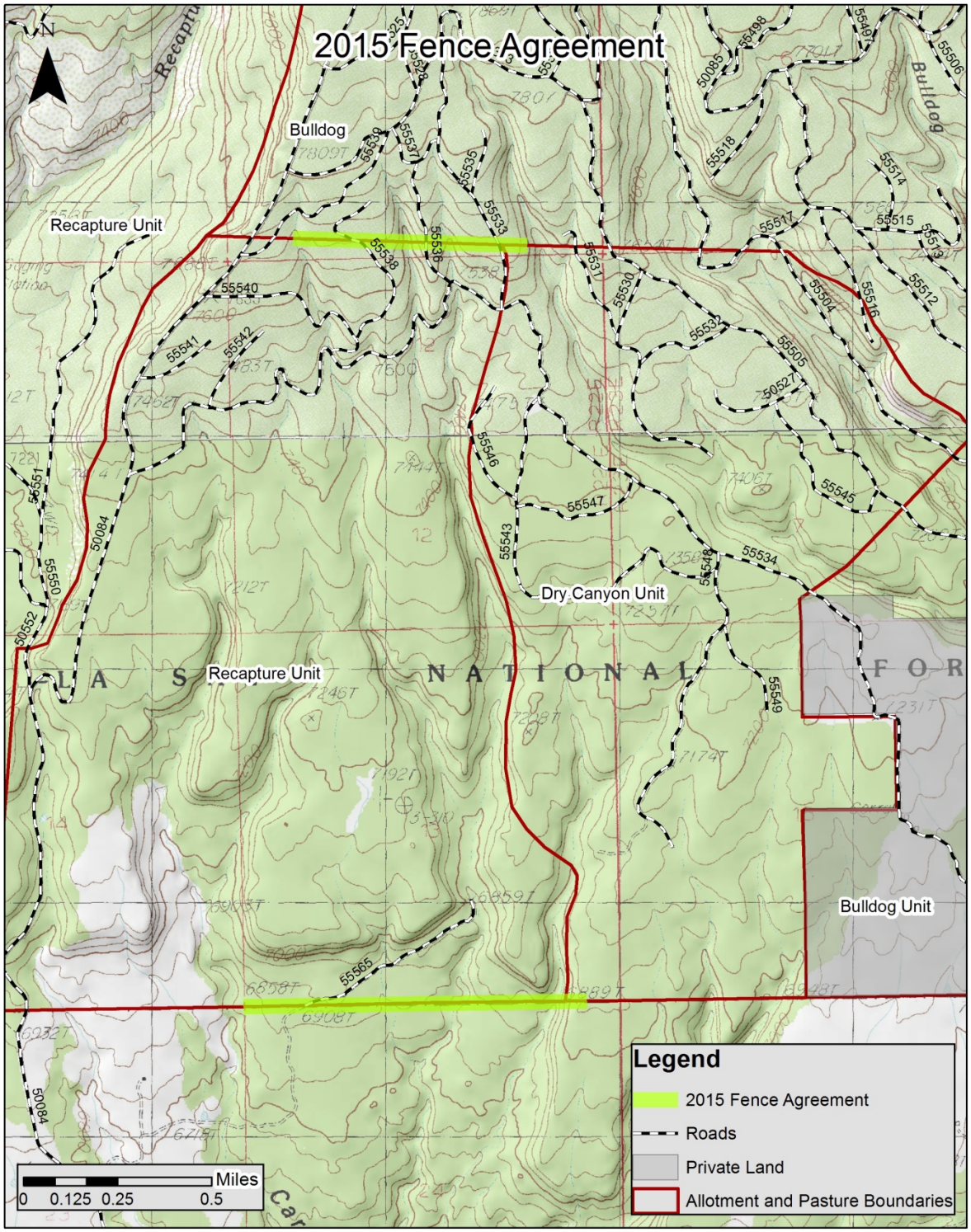
I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

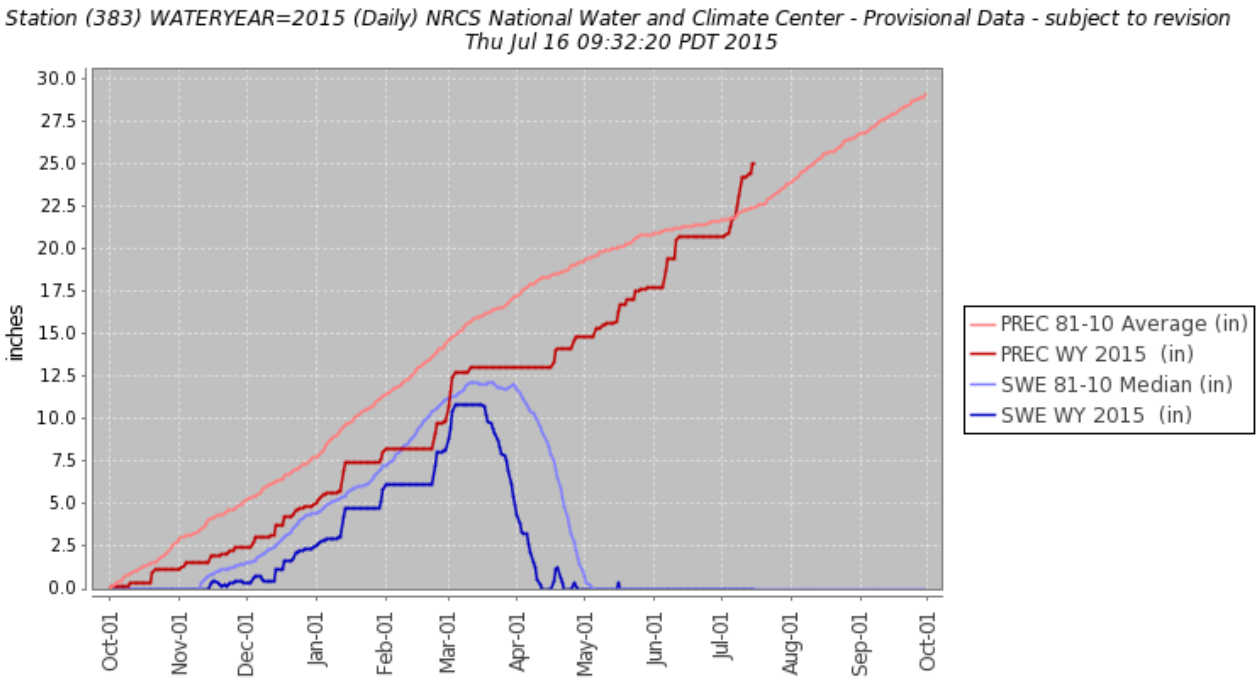
Sincerely,

Tina Marian

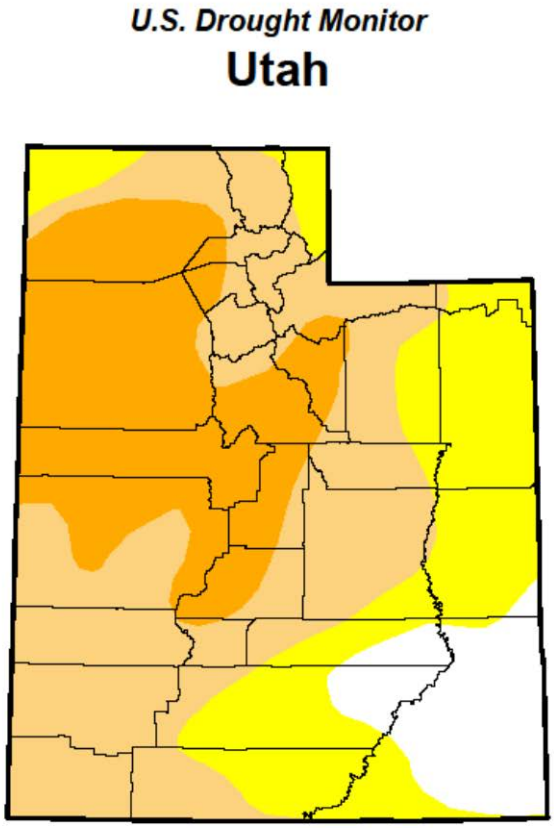
for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

2015 Fence Agreements





Total Precipitation above average. SE Utah now considered to be "none" for drought conditions.



July 7, 2015

(Released Thursday, Jul. 9, 2015)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	10.07	89.93	65.03	26.82	0.00	0.00
Last Week 6/30/2015	10.07	89.93	65.03	26.84	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 4/7/2015	0.00	100.00	99.05	53.22	9.32	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 7/8/2014	9.08	90.92	72.34	21.77	0.95	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/