



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: April 24, 2012

Taylor Creek Ranch  
c/o Joe Taylor  
582 1600 Road  
Delta, Colorado 81416

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaver C&H Allotment for the 2012 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 2012**

Allotment	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season	Permittee	Non-use	
						Resource protection	Personal convenience
Beaver	65	Cattle	Cow/Calf	05/01 to 06/20	Taylor Creek Ranch	Partial non-use	
Beaver	65	Cattle	Cow/Calf	10/01 to 10/30	Taylor Creek Ranch	Partial non-use	
Beaver	12	Horse	Mature	05/01 to 05/31	Taylor Creek Ranch	Partial non-use	

You have requested partial non-use for resource protection for 2012. I have approved your request because of the dry conditions that may persist throughout the summer on the Beaver Allotment.

**GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE**

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Polar Mesa	65	Cattle	05/01 – 06/05
Death Trap	65	Cattle	6/01 – 6/20
Head of Mesa	0	-	REST
Rincon	65	Cattle	Will be used if no water in Death Trap: 6/01 – 06/20
South Beaver Mesa	65	Cattle	10/01 – 10/30
	12	Horse	5/01- 5/31

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

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 Range Management Specialist or District Ranger to 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 Beaver Allotment Management Plan.

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 Beaver Allotment EA in 2011, in order to provide effective ground cover and to ensure plant recovery from grazing on the Beaver allotment.

<b>Proper Use Criteria for Beaver Allotment</b>			
<b>Upland Vegetation</b>			
Management System	Percent Use of Key Species		
	May/June pastures	July/Aug pastures	Sept/Oct
Rest Rotation	40	40-50	50

Taylor Creek Ranch livestock will not be grazing on the Beaver allotment in July, August nor September.

**Browse Utilization on Key Woody Shrubs**  
 Browsing hits on new leaders of key upland woody shrubs should not exceed 45%.

\* Key upland herbaceous and browse species selected will depend upon the plant species in the present plant community, the present ecological status, and the potential natural communities for the specific sites monitored.

**Soil Disturbance\*\***  
 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

Slopes over 40% are generally not classified as capable of supporting long-term grazing by livestock.

\*\*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.

Riparian proper use criteria are not given because there are not accessible riparian areas on the Beaver allotment. However, Forest Plan Proper Use Criteria apply if there is incidental use.

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, 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.

### **IMPROVEMENTS**

Since 2006, a schedule to bring structural improvements up to Forest Service standards has been developed each year during the Annual Operating Meetings. The development of a schedule will continue in 2012.

**In 2011, you agreed to complete heavy maintenance on the fence between Rincon and Head of Mesa pastures. The fence was not finished to the point where it could be inspected last fall. This fence must be up to Forest Service standards and inspected before you will be allowed to enter the allotment.**

**You also agreed to repair and complete heavy maintenance on the “Fenced Pond” that is located where the boundaries of Death Trap, Head of Mesa and Rincon pastures meet. This was not completed and you had a conversation with Tina that the pond was too full of water throughout the water to be able to repair it. It was agreed between yourself and Tina that you would still be allowed to enter the allotment in 2012 without this pond being repaired on condition that you would complete in 2012 and complete maintenance on additional ponds.**

**For 2012, you have agreed to reconstruct a section of the Rincon fence that passes over slick rock as shown on the map attached. The Forest Service will be able to provide materials for the reconstruction.**

**For 2012, you have agreed to repair and complete heavy maintenance on 3 ponds. They are listed on your permit as #44033, #44010, and #44017 and are shown on the map attached.**

When you complete your fence and spring/pond 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 and fail to have it inspected by Forest Service staff by **October 30, 2012** you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2013 until the agreement and inspection is completed.

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.

If you wish to use forest products (trees and oak brush) from the National Forest to maintain your fences/spring enclosures 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 Beaver 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 Beaver Allotment that are to be monitored is enclosed.

### **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 NFS lands.

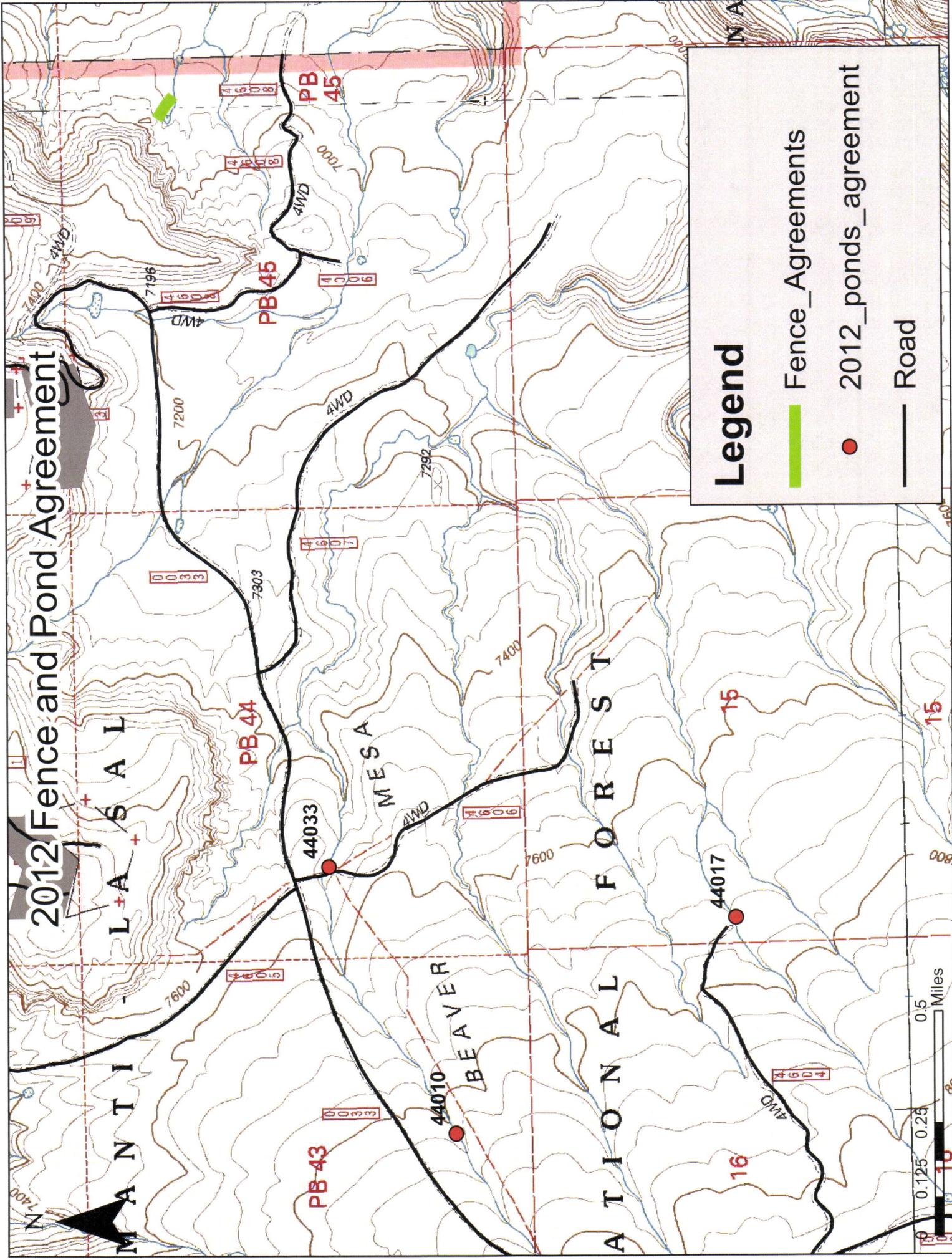
I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please don't hesitate to call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL DIEM  
District Ranger

# 2012 Fence and Pond Agreement



## Legend

 Fence\_Agreements

 2012\_ponds\_agreement

 Road

Figure D-1 *Key Areas Map*

