



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

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File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 14, 2012

Kenneth E. Bates
PO Box 165 or
3021 Spanish Valley Drive
Moab, UT 84532

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Bates:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Brumley Ridge 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
Brumley Ridge	300	Cattle	Cow/calf	06/06 to 10/19	Bates, Kenneth E.		

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Lower Brumley	300	Cattle	06/06 - 06/16
Mill Creek	300	Cattle	06/17 - 07/09
Upper Brumley (Boren Mesa)	300	Cattle	07/10 - 07/27
Upper Brumley (Brumley Ridge)	300	Cattle	07/28 - 08/14
Upper Brumley (Gold Basin)	300	Cattle	08/15- 08/31
Geyser Pass	300	Cattle	09/01- 09/22
Mill Creek	300	Cattle	09/23 - 10/01(Trail through)
South Mesa	300	Cattle	09/23 - 10/15
Lowery Brumley	300	Cattle	10/15 - 10/19 (Trail off)

* As discussed during the AOI and previous meetings, the Upper Brumley pasture is large and somewhat naturally divides into about three main areas: Gold Basin, Boren Mesa and Brumley Ridge. The majority of the herd will move to each area as approximated in the above schedule.



However, because there are no fences separating each area, it is expected that some animals may wander from the main herd and be grazing in a different area of the pasture than what is indicated in the schedule above.

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

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

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-Oct pastures
Deferred Rotation	40	40-50	50
Rest Rotation	40	40-50	50

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

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%.

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.

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/Oct		
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 potential natural communities for the specific sites monitored.

**Typically perennially wetlands are not grazed, this refers to seasonal wetlands.

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, 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

Thank you for completing and sending in photos of your 2011 fence and spring maintenance agreements.

For 2012, you have agreed to complete heavy maintenance on the fence between Mill Creek and the Bald Mesa allotment including the short section of fence that is north of the Warner campground fence as approximately shown on the map included.

For 2012, you have also agreed expand the spring exclosures per the 2011 EA decision on the water improvement #44198 (Old Pole Fence Spring) and water improvement #44164 (North Boren Spring) as approximately shown on the map included.

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 **Oct 19th, 2012** you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2013 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 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 Brumley Ridge 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 Brumley Allotment that are to be monitored is attached.

There are several bike races that will occur during the grazing season within the Brumley Ridge Allotment. Please let us know if there are any impacts to your schedule as a result of these races.

1. Durango to Moab Mountain bike race will occur the week of June 24th. Racers will be using the Loop Road for the race.
2. Moab Century- Road bike race the will occur in September. Racers will be using the Loop Road.
3. Whole Enchilada Mountain Bike race will occur Sept 29th and 30th. Racers will be the Burro Pass trail into the Warner Lake.

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. For the Brumley allotment the standard is that a full-time rider will be provided.

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 call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger



