



File Code:

Date:

Dear Mr. Borda,

This letter will document the Annual Operating meeting held between Borda Land & Sheep Company, and the USFS, on April 3, 2012, and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2012 grazing season on the Leviathan S&G, Mt. Rose S&G, Cottonwood C&H, Bagley Valley C&H, and Bull Canyon C&H Allotments. Those present included Ted Borda of Borda Land & Sheep Co., and Genny Wilson, Maureen Easton, and Courtney Ghiglieri of the USFS. The use permitted in your Term Grazing Permit is listed below along with the authorized use for the 2012 season:

PERMITTED USE:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number of Stock</u>	<u>Season</u>
Leviathan S&G	1460 ewes/lambs	6/21-9/20

AUTHORIZED USE:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number of Stock</u>	<u>Season</u>
Leviathan S&G	700 ewes/lambs	7/01-8/31
Mt. Rose S&G	500 ewes	5/15-9/15
Cottonwood C&H	700 ewes/lambs	8/15-9/15
Bagley Valley C&H	Trailing Livestock	7 days between June- October
Bull Canyon C&H (Silver Hill Unit)	Trailing Livestock	4 days between June - October

Mt. Rose S&G: You must contact the Carson Ranger District five days in advance of the on date. Sheep will be trucked to the Thomas Creek parking lot. Trail sheep south on Timberline road to the designated location (south of Thomas Creek Trailhead) where they may proceed uphill following the Forest Service boundary. Continue grazing the area between Whites Creek and Thomas Creek until utilization has been met. Trail sheep back to Timberline Road, and continue to the east side of the allotment; between the Mt. Rose wilderness boundary to the west, timberline road to the east, and Thomas Creek drainage to the south. Graze the east side of the allotment until utilization has been reached. Move sheep to the northwest of the allotment toward Hunter Lake Road. Keep sheep in the higher elevations out of the Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusa*) patches, and away from the newly constructed Hunter Creek trailhead (see attached map). Sheep will graze in the Hunter Lake Road corridor moving west, and up to Hunter Lake. Sheep may not enter Big Meadows and Davis Meadow until **July 15** to provide for critical deer fawning requirements. Once utilization has been met on the west side of the allotment, sheep will be trailed back



to the Thomas Creek area where they will exit the allotment. Make the Carson Ranger District aware of any alternate routes you have established for trailing/trucking sheep off of the allotment.

Leviathan S&G: Sheep will be trucked to the private lands within Wolf Creek in June, trail sheep to Leviathan S&G for July and August. Then trail sheep back to the private lands within Wolf Creek on utilization has been met.

Cottonwood C&H: Sheep will graze the Haypress unit from August 15 to September 15, and then trail to the private lands within Wolf Creek.

Bagley Valley C&H: You are authorized a total of seven (7) days of trailing to be spread out between the months of June through October in order to complete the grazing pattern of your operation.

Bull Canyon C&H: You are authorized a total of four (4) days of trailing to be spread out between the months of June through October in order to complete the grazing pattern of your operation.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT:

Actual turn on date will depend on range readiness. For the purpose of livestock accountability, contact the Carson Ranger District **five to seven days prior to turnout** and when you make unit moves. Please keep us posted about activities and conditions of the allotment.

The schedule dates of use are flexible, but a one-week notice must be given before any changes are made to the above dates. The District Ranger must approve any changes in the planned use.

Graze the allotments using open herding in a once over pattern. Do not bed or noon sheep in riparian or aspen stands, or in the same place more than once during the grazing season. Do not bed or noon sheep within 100 yards of water or meadows. Salt must be placed at least ¼ mile from water, (springs, seeps, and streams), roads, and trails. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails used by the public. All garbage associated with managing your livestock/Herder's Camp on Forest Service allotments must be removed from National Forest System lands. Herder's camp must be kept clean at all times.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock is concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. It is *strongly* recommended that all livestock entering the National Forest be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 3 days prior to entering the Forest.

You are required to avoid noxious weeds, and known rare plant populations. These areas are depicted on the attached map. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with noxious weeds, as the Forest Service may be unaware of some populations.

ALLOWABLE USE:

Leviathan S&G, Mt. Rose S&G, Cottonwood C&H, Bagley Valley C&H, Bull Canyon C&H:

Riparian sites:

- ✘ In meadows that are in early seral status (an early stage of succession in a plant community or vegetation type, generally characterized by plant species that are adapted to colonizing disturbed areas with a high proportion of bare soil) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to **30 percent (or minimum six-inch stubble height)**.
- ✘ In meadows that are in late seral status (fifty percent or more of the relative cover of the herbaceous layer is late seral with high similarity to the potential natural community, a diversity of age classes of hardwood shrubs is present, and regeneration is occurring) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to a maximum of **40 percent (or minimum four-inch stubble height)**.
- ✘ In meadows that are **degraded** (such as those in early seral status with a greater than **ten percent** meadow area in **bare soil and active erosion**) **total rest** from grazing is required until they have recovered and have moved to a mid or late seral status.
- ✘ In riparian areas browsing on mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) is not to exceed **20 percent** of the annual leader growth and is not to exceed more than **20 percent** of individual seedlings.
- ✘ Disturbance of meadow-associated stream banks and natural lake and pond shorelines is not to exceed **20 percent** of the stream reach or **20 percent** of the natural lake or pond shoreline.
- ✘ Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.
- ✘ Pesticide application to livestock is prohibited within riparian conservation areas and critical aquatic refuges.

Aspen, Sagebrush, Mountain Brush, and Grassland sites:

- ✘ Maximum of **45 percent** use of current annual growth of key herbaceous species.
- ✘ Maximum of **40 percent** use of current annual growth of shrubs.

It is your responsibility to monitor utilization and ensure that the allowable use standards are not exceeded. You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and to move or remove livestock from the allotment to prevent exceeding these standards. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with the allowable use standards. Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotments, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian species.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements listed in your permit must be maintained to standards listed in Part 3 of your term grazing permit prior to livestock entering the allotment. If an improvement is inaccessible prior to the on date, you must notify the Carson Ranger District range staff prior to livestock entry into the allotment. If there is a need for any additional improvements and/or major repairs to existing improvements, please contact the Carson Ranger District range staff for assistance.

The permittee is responsible for supplying any materials required to maintain improvements to acceptable standards. It was discussed that some of the Leviathan S&G improvements no longer exist or are unusable. The California Creek troughs will not be required to be maintained for the 2012 grazing season.

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Location</u>
Indian Spring Stock Watering Pond	NW ¼ SE ¼, SEC 17 T10N R22E
Virgil Connell Spring Stock Watering Pond	NE ¼ NW ¼, SEC 32 T10N R22E
Monitor Pass Stock Watering Ponds	SE ¼ NE ¼, SEC 36 T10N R21E
09 Stock Watering Pond	SW ¼ NE ¼, SEC 31 T10N R21E
Big Spring Stock Watering Pond	NE ¼ NW ¼, SEC 30 T10N, R22E

The following standards apply to water developments:

- * Remove sediment and foreign objects from headboxes.
- * Repair headbox covers.
- * Mend fences protecting spring sources.
- * Replace cracked or broken pipelines.
- * Remove objects that plug pipelines.
- * Clean out sediment from troughs.
- * Clean and repair overflows and float valves.
- * Reset and level troughs.
- * Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- * Replace broken trough braces.

You will be responsible for the following fence improvements per your private land lease agreement for the Wolf Creek C&H Allotment:

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bull/Murray Fence	T8N, R20E, SEC 35, and T7N, R20E, SEC 2 (West half of the fence is maintained by Heise, the East half is maintained by Wooster).
Elder Creek Fence	T8N, R20E, SEC 33 and 34

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance costs are included with this plan. Please complete and return the forms by December 31, 2012.

If you see a wildfire, please contact the Minden Interagency Dispatch Center, at (775) 883-5995.

The grazing fee is \$0.27 per head month.

Only sheep with an ear tag in the left ear with "Borda" on it are authorized to graze on Leviathan S&G, Mt. Rose S&G, Cottonwood C&H, Bagley Valley C&H, and Bull Canyon C&H Allotments.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting a minimum of 35 days prior to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

OTHER:

This summer we will be visiting the allotments to conduct permit compliance monitoring. Our range staff will be in contact with you to discuss any issues or successes that may arise during the grazing season.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions or any aspect of grazing on the National Forest, please contact our Range Staff, Courtney Ghiglieri at (775) 884-8150.

Sincerely,