



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: June 1, 2012

Paul & Kathie Holyoak
P.O. Box 232
Moab, Utah 84532

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Holyoak:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Mason Draw 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
Mason Draw	45	Cattle	Cow/calf	06/15 to 7/15	Paul and Kathie Holyoak	26 c/c in non-use	
Mason Draw	55	Cattle	Cow/calf	07/16 to 10/15	Paul and Kathie Holyoak	16 c/c in non-use	

You have requested and been granted partial non-use for resource protection for 2012. This is because of the drier than normal conditions that may continue throughout the summer.

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Lower Mason Draw	45	Cattle	06/15 – 07/15
Lower Mason Draw	55	Cattle	07/16 - 08/15
Upper Mason Draw	55	Cattle	08/16 - 10/15

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 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.

Management Objectives in the 1995 Mason Draw AMP include:

- Manage vegetative types in varying succesional stages to provide for a high level of vegetative diversity and productivity.
- Vegetative cover within the riparian component ecosystems would be maintained or diversified and enhanced as necessary to emphasize watershed, wildlife and fisheries values.

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.

For the Mason Draw allotment proper use criteria in 2012 are:

<u>Upland Areas:</u>	<u>Use of Key Species</u>
Spring/Summer	40-45%
Fall	50-55%
<u>Riparian Areas:</u>	<u>Use of Key Species</u>
Spring (Early and rapid growth)	50-60%
Summer (Moderate growth)	45-50%
Fall (Slow growth)	30-40% or 4-5 inches stubble or regrowth

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 your 2011 fence maintenance agreement. All fences looked great this past year. You still need to replace the trough on the spring in the SE corner of Upper Mason Draw. The Flag Patch spring also needed some more work on the enclosure to finish the agreement. This must be completed before June 15th, or you will not be able to stock the allotment.

FENCE AGREEMENT: For 2012, you have agreed to complete heavy maintenance and also reconstruct a portion of the fence between the Mason Draw allotment and private lands as shown on the attached map. Generally, the Forest Service does not build and maintain fences on private land borders. However, it had been determined that this would be the best location for a fence to divide your pastures and Bald Mesa from Mason Draw. The Forest Service will provide the materials needed for the reconstruction.

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.

I encourage you to contact Tina when you complete your maintenance so she can schedule a timely inspection. I also suggest that you provide photographs of before and after conditions to assist in documenting compliance with maintenance requirements.

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

Currently a proposed fence on the Bald Mesa allotment is being analyzed. The new proposed fence would be tying into the existing fence between Mason Draw and Bald Mesa allotments.

There are several bike races that will occur during the grazing season within the Mason Draw 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 and Sand Flats Rd 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 Warner Lake Rd, Hazard County Trail, Kokopelli Trail and the UPS trail, some of which travel through the Mason Draw allotment. A map of the lower race route 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 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

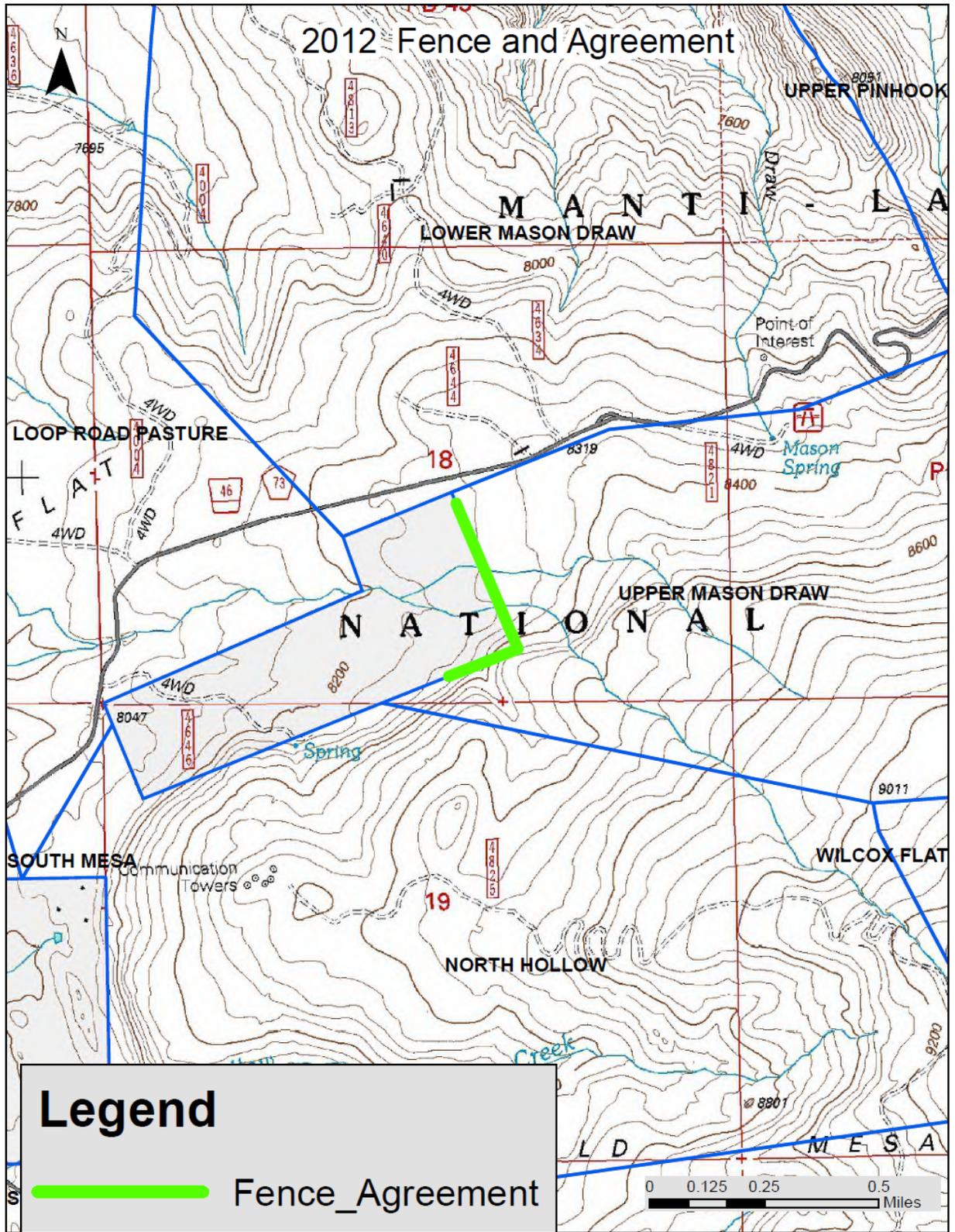
The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be on Forest Service-administered lands unless the fees specified in the Bill for Collection are paid and confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process is received prior to livestock entering NFS lands.

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



Lower Portion of the Whole Enchilada Trail Proposed Race Course

