



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 9, 2013

Ted Borda
Borda Land & Sheep Co.
1432 Ezell St.
Gardnerville, NV 89410
Dear Mr. Borda,

This letter will document the Annual Operating meetings held between Borda Land & Sheep Company, and the USFS, on March 28, 2013, and April 30, 2013, and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2013 grazing season on the Leviathan S&G, Mt. Rose S&G, Cottonwood S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, and Dumont S&G Allotments. Those present included Ted Borda of Borda Land & Sheep Co., and Courtney Ghiglieri and Maureen Easton of the USFS. The use permitted in your Term Grazing Permits' are listed below along with the authorized use for the 2013 season:

PERMITTED USE:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number of Stock</u>	<u>Season</u>
Leviathan S&G	1460 ewes/lambs	6/21-9/20
Cottonwood S&G	3,274 head months	5/1-9/30
Bagley Valley S&G	722 head months	6/1-10/20
Dumont S&G	3,233 head months	6/1-10/20

AUTHORIZED USE:

Due to the unsatisfactory ecological rating of the allotments, less head months/AUMS's are authorized until ecological conditions improve.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number of Stock</u>	<u>Head Months</u>	<u>Season</u>
Leviathan S&G	810 ewes/lambs	1,944 HM	6/20-8/31
Cottonwood C&H	770 ewes/lambs	937 HM	5/15-6/20
Bagley Valley C&H	Trailing Livestock	253 HM	8/22-8/31
Dumont S&G	770 ewes/lambs	759 HM	9/01-9/30
Mt. Rose S&G	500 ewes	2,301 HM	4/29-9/15

Due to the required quick turnaround for Mt. Rose S&G, you were billed for 810 ewes/lambs for Leviathan S&G for 6/20-8/31; however, in the second AOI meeting you had a more accurate count of ewes and lambs, as well as a changed season of use. Unfortunately, your billing times may overlap with the same band of sheep. Please keep a detailed actual use record so you can apply for a credit/refund at the end of the grazing season. The following excerpt from Forest Service Handbook 2209.13, chapter 80, 81.5- Refunds and Credits should give you some context:

“Requests for refunds of grazing fees paid or credits towards the payment of the following year’s grazing fees must be made in writing and approved by the authorized officer and may be available in limited situations where the total amount of grazing by the permittee’s livestock during a grazing season was less than the amount assessed in the Bill for Collection.”



Refund/credit requests of less than \$100 will be processed as credits against the grazing fee for the next authorized grazing season. Refunds or credits may be approved only if the permittee delays placing permitted livestock on the designated allotment(s) at the beginning of the grazing season, places fewer permitted livestock on the designated allotment(s) than authorized by the permit, or removes permitted livestock from the designated allotment(s) prior to the end of the permitted grazing season at the request of the authorized officer. However, requests for refunds or credits may only be approved when the basis for the request is related to the condition of National Forest System rangeland resources; for example, the forage was not ready for grazing at the beginning of the grazing season or the utilization level was reached prior to the end of the grazing season. Requests for refunds or credits which are based on the permittee convenience or business motivations of the permittee shall be denied.”

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. Do not bed or noon sheep within 100 yards of water or meadows; if bedding in a meadow cannot be avoided (Silver King meadow) move sheep every day. Sheep will not bed in the same place for more than four days at a time. 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.

Cottonwood, Leviathan, Bagley Valley, and Dumont S&G: The tentative grazing plan is to enter the Cottonwood Allotment on or around May 15th, grazing the Haypress Unit until June 1st, and then grazing the Leviathan Unit until June 20th, or until utilization has been met. Sheep will then graze the Leviathan Allotment until August 21st, or until utilization has been met, then head to the BLM Bagley Valley permit, utilizing the Forest Service portion for water and trailing starting August 22 to August 31st. Continue to move south to utilize the Dumont Allotment from September 1st to September 30th. Trail sheep out to Pickle Meadows where the lambs will be sold.

Additional management standards incorporated from the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the East Alpine Rangeland Project signed on September 28, 2012:

Cottonwood S&G:

- ✓ River Ranch Unit will be rested until resource conditions improve due to noxious and invasive weeds.
- ✓ Use is not to exceed a maximum of 122 days grazed.

Bagley Valley S&G:

- ✓ Alternate use between BLM and FS administered lands.
- ✓ Use is not to exceed 12 days grazed.

Dumont S&G:

- ✓ Avoid trailing sheep on established hiking trails to reduce conflicts with trail users, and to minimize damage to trails.
- ✓ Trail sheep on the east side of the Carson River trail in the East Carson Unit.
- ✓ Use is not to exceed 97 days grazed.
- ✓ Be cognizant of the new allotment boundaries: little antelope trail, poison creek, and silver king creek.
- ✓ Cross over to the Snodgrass Unit at the point where the snodgrass trail and silver king trail converges.

Mt. Rose S&G: Sheep will be trucked to the Thomas Creek parking lot and complete the 1,000 acre Arrowhawk targeted grazing fuels reduction project. Once you have completed this targeted grazing project, you may continue west to graze the rest of the allotment. Keep sheep in the higher elevations out of the Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusa*) patches, and away from the newly constructed Hunter Creek trailhead. Sheep will graze in the Hunter Lake Road corridor moving west, and up to Hunter Lake. Utilize Bronco Creek road and dry meadow prior to Big Meadows and Davis Meadow- stretching entrance into these meadows 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.

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. 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:

Riparian Sites:

- ✗ 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.

Upland Sites:

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.

Cottonwood S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, Dumont S&G:

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 **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.

Upland Sites:

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.

Improvement

Location

Leviathan S&G:

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

Cottonwood S&G:

Haypress Flat Water Trough	NW ¼ SEC 20, T10N, R21E
----------------------------	-------------------------

*Replace cattle trough with sheep troughs, and move it out of the riparian area.

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.

Dumont S&G:

Silver King Valley Irrigation System	T8N, R21E; T9N, R21E (Silver King Valley)
--------------------------------------	---

*Remove 5 downed logs on the upper east ditch utilizing a crosscut saw. Focus work in the fall on the upper and lower east ditches. Work with FS and NRCS- reference NRCS Operation and Maintenance Plan for Water Control (Approved July 2002).

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, Cottonwood S&G, Bagley Valley S&G, Dumont S&G, and Mt. Rose S&G 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. Also, as time and budgets allow, data collection may occur on the Leviathan S&G Allotment.

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,

/s/Genny E. Wilson
GENNY WILSON
District Ranger