United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bridgeport Ranger District
HC 62 Box 1000
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-7070 Fax (760) 932-5899

File Code: 2210
Date: JUN 11 2013

Borda Land and Sheep Co
Ted Borda
1432 Ezell St
Gardnerville, NV 89410

Dear Ted:

This letter documents your meeting with Mike Crawley and Rixey Jenkins on March 15, 2013 and serves as your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2013 grazing season.

PERMITTED USE

The following is a summary of your permitted use which expires on 12/31/2013:

LIVESTOCK			PERIOD OF USE		AUTHORIZED AREA
NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	FROM	TO	
810	Sheep	Ewe/Lamb	6/15	8/15	Lost Cannon C&H
810	Sheep	Ewe/Lamb	8/16	10/31	Silver Creek S&G

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). 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.

AUTHORIZED USE

Authorized use for the 2013 grazing season will be the same as permitted.

ALLOWABLE USE

The levels of allowable utilization are listed in part three of your term grazing permit. If you need assistance in determining the level of utilization during the grazing season, please contact Rixey. You are responsible for determining when proper use has been reached on the allotments. When proper use has been reached, your cattle must be moved to the next scheduled unit or off the allotment when the last unit has been grazed. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with these standards.

Riparian Areas:

Disturbance of meadow-associated streambanks 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.

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 40 percent (or minimum four-inch stubble height).

In meadows that are degraded (such as those in early seral status with a greater than 10 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. Remove livestock from any area of an allotment when browsing indicates a change in livestock preference from grazing herbaceous vegetation to browsing woody riparian vegetation.

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, and mountain brush communities:

Maximum of 45 percent use of current annual growth of herbaceous species.

Maximum of 40 percent use of current annual growth of shrubs.

Additional Standards for Silver and Wolf Creeks as described in Biological Opinion 2009-F-0209-R001:

Livestock utilization of riparian herbaceous cover shall not exceed 30 percent utilization or a 15 cm (6 in.) minimum stubble height.

Livestock utilization of riparian woody vegetation shall not exceed 20 percent utilization of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs and 20 percent utilization of individual seedlings.

Livestock streambank alteration levels shall not exceed 10 percent in the occupied or essential stream reach.

Silver Creek will be rested this year.

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Ensure that livestock are not congregating within riparian conservation areas. Herd sheep in a manner which avoids stream use for longer than what is needed to water the flock. Route sheep so as to avoid fish-bearing portions of streams to the extent practicable.

Use sites in riparian conservations areas for watering your sheep which are armored (such as rocky/bouldery country) versus areas that could be easily trampled by your sheep. Have herders locate camping and sanitation facilities outside of riparian conservation areas. Avoid salting and bedding of stock in riparian conservation areas.

Only the RB brand is authorized under your grazing permit.

Graze the allotments using open herding in a once over pattern. Do not bed or noon sheep in 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.

If you or your herders spot a wild fire, please report it to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at (775) 883-5995. As a reminder, if the Bridgeport Ranger District enters into fire restrictions during 2013, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

You must notify my staff at least 48 hours before trailing your sheep across National Forest System lands which are not listed in your permit or across areas listed in your permit that are outside of the scheduled use pattern listed above.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails. If there are specific areas that require salt placement outside these guidelines, you must obtain approval from this office prior to salting. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock on Forest Service allotments must be removed from the National Forest.

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 are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. A Noxious Weed Free Hay order has been implemented on our Forest. This requires any hay that is brought onto the National Forest must be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest. Pelletized feed is not affected by this order.

REPORTING

I have included forms for recording your actual use and range improvement maintenance on the allotment. Please complete the forms and return them to my office no later than November 30, 2013.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

The 2013 grazing fees are $0.27 per head month.

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.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed on March 5, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). Through the 2013 grazing season, you and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal).

If you have any questions regarding the allotments please contact Rixey at 760-932-5850.

Sincerely,

MIKE CRAWLEY
District Ranger

Encl: Actual Use Record