**Annual Operating Instructions**
**2016**
**Sweetwater-Griffin Top Allotment**
**Escalante RD, Dixie NF**

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 or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

| | Permitted* | | | Authorized** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Permittee** | **Number** | **Class** | **Season** | **Number** | **Class** | **Season** |
| Rainbow Valley Ranch, LLC | 200 | Cow/calf | 6/6-9/30 | 200 | Cow/calf | 6/6-9/30 |

*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit.
**Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.

**Non-use**

Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the "on" date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

**Non-use Requested:** No

**LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

**Grazing Schedule**

| Unit (Pasture) | Tentative Dates* | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Sweetwater | 6/6-7/3 | |
| Griffin Top | 7/3-9/6 | |
| South Creek | 9/6-9/30 | |

*The above schedule is an **estimate** and may be modified at any time if: utilization levels are met, water availability is inadequate, drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions.

**Allowable use levels are more important than tentative dates listed above.** If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another area of the pasture, moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest. If early pasture moves occur, District range personnel or the District Ranger must be notified. Delayed pasture moves require prior approval by the District Ranger.

Type of rotation: Deferred Rotation

All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the permitted off date listed above.

Notice of Non-compliance/Suspension Actions: None

Additional instructions: **Keep cows from dropping into Horse Creek when trailing up to Griffin Top.**

**UTILIZATION STANDARDS & MONITORING**

**Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria**

| Vegetation Type | | Very Early | Early | Mid | Late | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Riparian Hydric Species (i.e. rushes & sedges) | | 6" | 6" | 4" | 4" | Stubble height remaining at end of growing season. |
| 9B Intensive Riparian Management Areas | | 6" | 6" | 6" | 6" | Stubble height remaining at end of growing season. |
| Hydric species in wet meadows not influenced by streams (i.e. rushes & sedges) | | 6" | 6" | 4" | 4" | Stubble height remaining at end of growing season. |
| Non-hydric species in riparian areas (i.e. Kentucky bluegrass) | | 2" | | | | Stubble height remaining at end of growing season. |
| Upland species | | 50% | | | | Varying in specific unit from 40-60%. |
| Wheatgrass seedings | | 60% | | | | Management option to exceed 60% to maintain healthy seedings. |
| Riparian browse | | <50% | | | | New leader production. |
| Streambank alteration | | <20% | | | | Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, & animal tracks. |
| Goshawk nest areas & post-fledging family areas (PFAs) | Grass & forbs | <20% | | | | Average <20% by weight and not exceed 40% in any given area. |
| | Shrubs | <40% | | | | Average <40% by weight and not exceed 50% in any given area. |

**The above utilization standards take precedence over the tentative dates listed in the grazing schedule.** You are responsible to monitor your livestock and comply with the listed utilization standards and to move livestock prior to **any** of the above standards being exceeded.

Compliance monitoring inspections will be conducted by Forest Service personnel throughout the grazing season in key areas across the allotment. You are invited and it is recommended that you participate in these inspections. **See attached map for key area locations and riparian emphasis management areas.**

Exceeding the utilization standards may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit.

Additional instructions: None

**BILLING**

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the National Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

**RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

You are responsible for maintaining the range improvements assigned to you in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the unit, even in the event of non-use. Standards are found in your Term Grazing Permit or at http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml. Livestock entry onto the Forest may be delayed if improvements are not maintained to acceptable standards.

Scheduled reconstruction for upcoming season: None

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide.

Any improvement, which is no longer functional or no longer needed, will be removed from the allotment by the permittee. The removal of any improvement must have prior approval by the District Ranger.

Failure to maintain your assigned range improvements may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of your permit.

Additional instructions: None

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

You will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

You are required to submit actual use information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the district office within 30 days of removal of livestock from the Forest.

Salt and other dietary supplements are a distribution tool, and as such, should not be placed within ¼ mile of riparian areas, water troughs and ponds; within 200 feet of designated roads, trails, trail heads or camping spots which have frequent use. Avoid salting in or near tree plantations or regenerating aspen stands. Exceptions to these standards must have prior approval.

Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards.

The Dixie National Forest Travel Plan must be followed while managing livestock unless approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger.

Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.

All livestock feed or straw brought onto the Forest must be certified weed free per Regional Forester's Order #04-00-058, dated March 26, 1996 (http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml).

Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.

All garbage resulting from activities associated with this permit shall be removed from National Forest lands and disposed of properly.

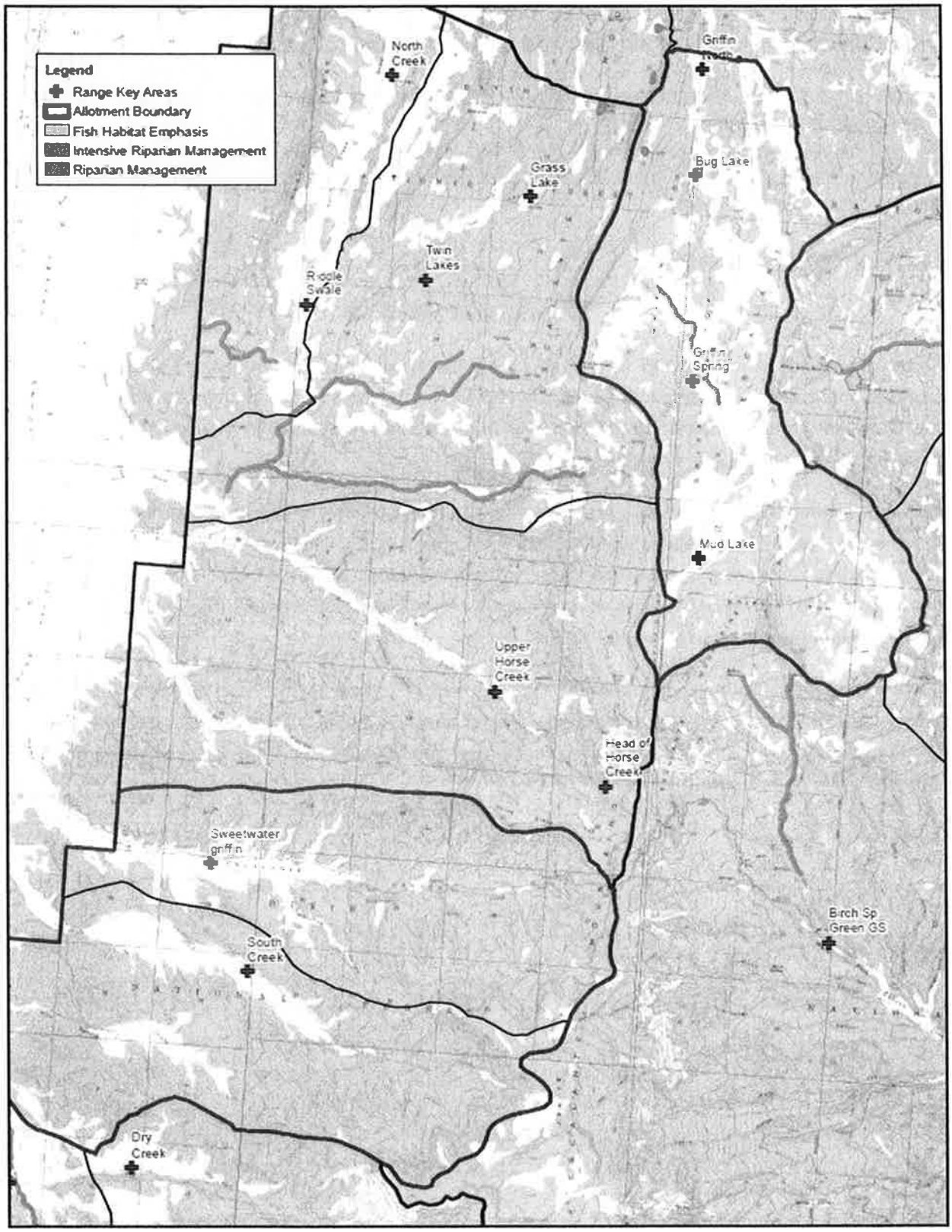
Additional instructions: None

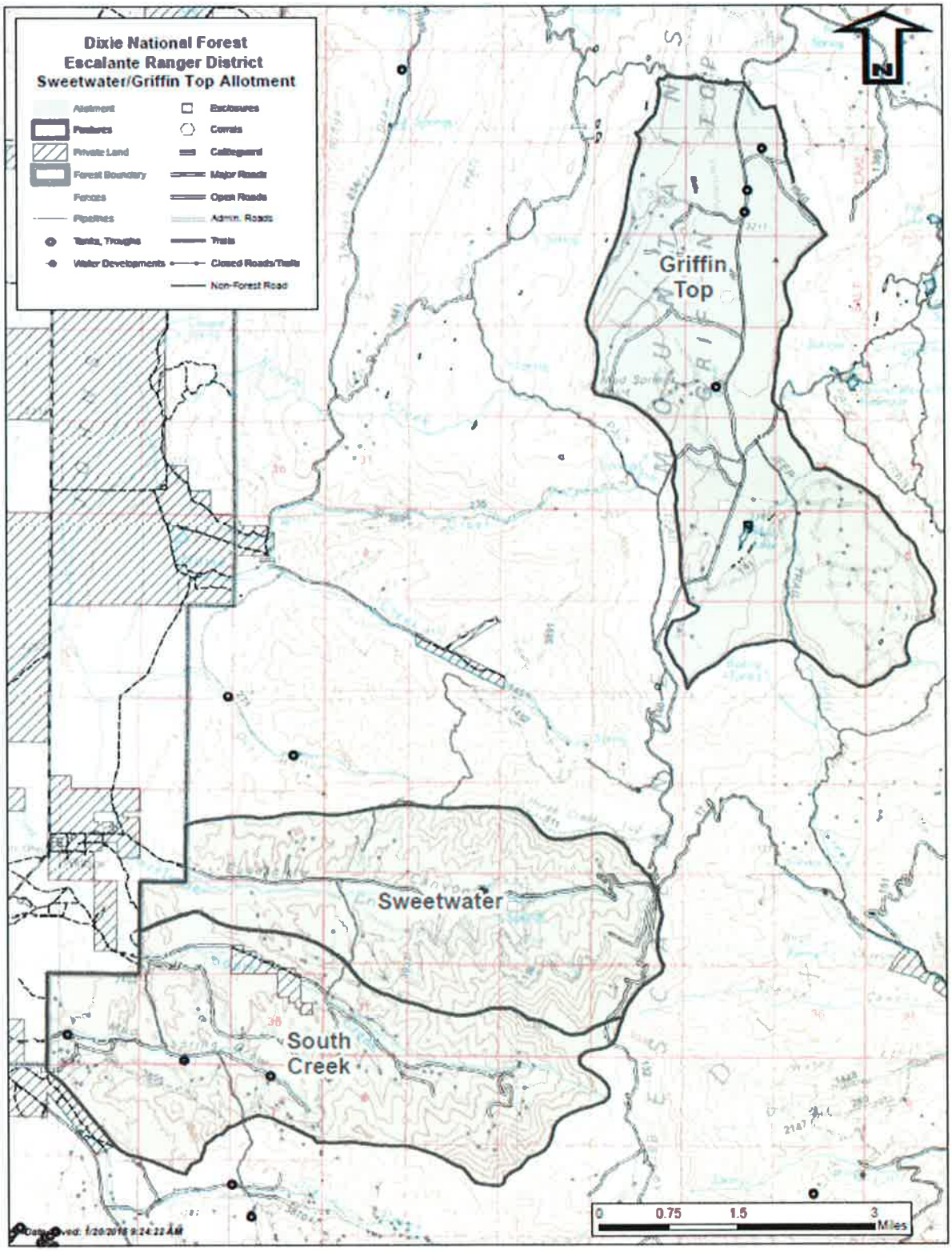
**Motorized Travel**

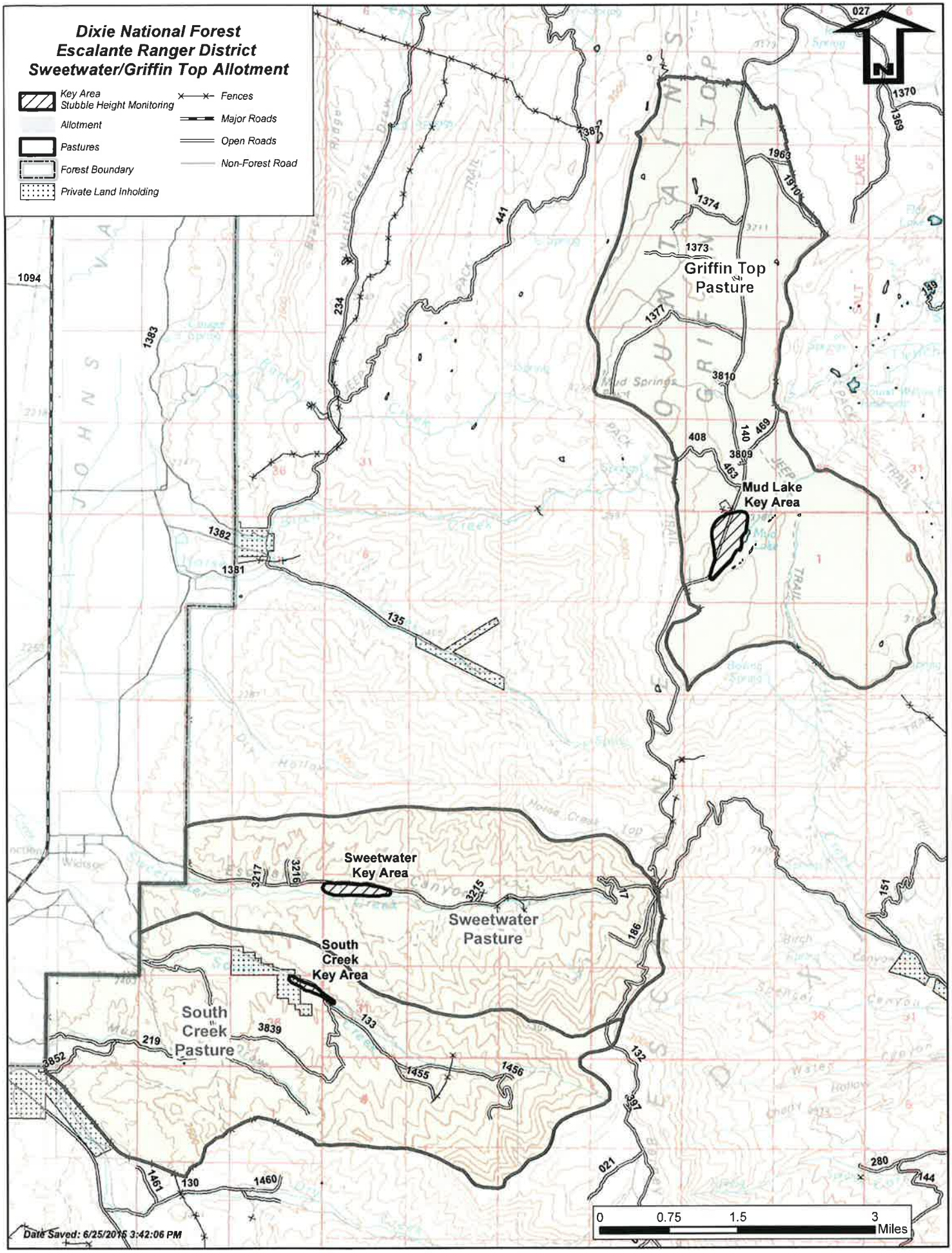
"In accordance with the 2009 DNF Motorized Travel Plan you, as a permit holder, are allowed motorized access to maintain your assigned range improvements via routes or areas that may be closed to public use. Access into areas closed to motorized travel must be non-recreational in nature and related to maintenance of your assigned range improvements.

Please use common sense and extreme discretion when using motorized vehicles on closed roads or closed areas. Part of your responsibility as a permit holder is to not cause unnecessary resource damage (e.g. motorized use during wet conditions that cause extreme rutting, etc.) when using a closed route. Please let the District office know if you need access behind a locked Forest Service gate and we will make arrangements to open it for you.

It is recommended, but not a requirement, that you and/or representative have a copy of this AOI on their person while they are conducting official permit business on the District/Forest. If they are questioned about why they are on a closed route, they can share a copy of the letter showing their authority to do so as a permit holder."


Legend
Range Key Areas
Allotment Boundary
Fish Habitat Emphasis
Intensive Riparian Management
Riparian Management
North Creek
Grass Lake
Bug Lake
Twin Lakes
Riggle Swale
Mud Lake
Upper Horse Creek
Head of Horse Creek
Sweetwater griffin
South Creek
Birch Sp Green GS
Dry Creek


Dixie National Forest
Escalante Ranger District
Sweetwater/Griffin Top Allotment
Allotment
Pastures
Private Land
Forest Boundary
Fences
Pipelines
Tanks, Troughs
Water Developments
Enclosures
Corrals
Cattleguard
Major Roads
Open Roads
Admin. Roads
Trails
Closed Roads/Trails
Non-Forest Road
Griffin Top
Sweetwater
South Creek
0
0.75
1.5
3
Miles


Dixie National Forest
Escalante Ranger District
Sweetwater/Griffin Top Allotment
Key Area Stubble Height Monitoring
Allotment
Pastures
Forest Boundary
Private Land Inholding
Fences
Major Roads
Open Roads
Non-Forest Road
Griffin Top Pasture
Mud Lake Key Area
Sweetwater Key Area
Sweetwater Pasture
South Creek Key Area
South Creek Pasture
0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles
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