BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
KEMMERER RANGER DISTRICT
HAMS FORK ALLOTMENT
2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

These Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). It references the meeting held on March 10th. Situations may develop during the grazing season which may require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions prior approval must be given before initiating any changes or deviating from these instructions.

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Brand Registrations provided to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment. Confirmation of payment by the Forest Service must be received before livestock will be allowed to graze on National Forest lands.

Permittee	**Authorized Number**	**Authorized Season of Use**
Dennis & Terry Nate	75 cow/calf	7/11-9/10
Gregory S. Nate	75 cow/calf	7/11-9/10

Table 1 – Hams Fork Allotment – Proposed Grazing Schedule and Proper Use Criteria[1]

Order	Unit	No. of Days	Planned Dates	Proper Use Criteria
1st	2	30	7/11 – 8/10	≤40% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
2nd	1	30	8/11 – 9/10	≤40% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline

[1]Dates are estimates and may vary based upon range readiness, drought, proper use criteria being reach prior to the proposed move date, and/or other factors. [2]Utilization will be monitored at key areas of the allotment. Key areas are those areas most preferred by livestock, are typically grazed first, and receive the most concentrated use.

An allotment map is enclosed; this map shows the allotment boundary, unit boundaries, and scheduled move dates. Please review and follow it.

Notify us 3-5 days in advance as to when you plan to put your cattle on the allotment.

You are authorized to vary the number of days between unit moves by three days either way. Prior approval must first be received if the need arises to vary the number of days by more than this.

Reserve an area in Unit 1 to be used in the fall for up to 1 week as livestock are removed off of the allotment. This area, similar to other areas on your allotment, is not to exceed proper use criteria.

Proper utilization is 40% in upland forage areas in all units. A 4" to 6" stubble height of riparian species (i.e. sedges) shall be left along the greenline (i.e. stream corridors and wet meadows). Any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next scheduled unit or to come home.

You are responsible for proper utilization of the forage by your cattle. If inspections reveal areas of over utilization or riparian damage, corrective action will be expected (which may mean taking your cattle home early) and action may be taken against your permit.

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where cattle do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows. Cattle need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed. It is especially important cattle be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and that an even distribution of your cattle be maintained while in an unit, since any area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move into the next scheduled unit or to come home.

Every effort must be taken to completely remove cattle off the National Forest by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires three days of riding to gather your cattle, then you should start riding three days prior to your scheduled off date.

Maintenance of all your improvements listed in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit will be completed at least one week prior to the proposed on date to the standard they were constructed or if reconstructed to the standards listed in your permit. This allows time for the inspection of your improvements and any potential concerns to be addressed before your livestock enter the allotment. *If your maintenance responsibilities have not been completed to the standards listed in your permit, livestock will not be allowed to enter National Forest lands*. All labor and materials needed for maintenance are your responsibility. Particular items discussed as they relate to your maintenance responsibilities and other items are as follows:

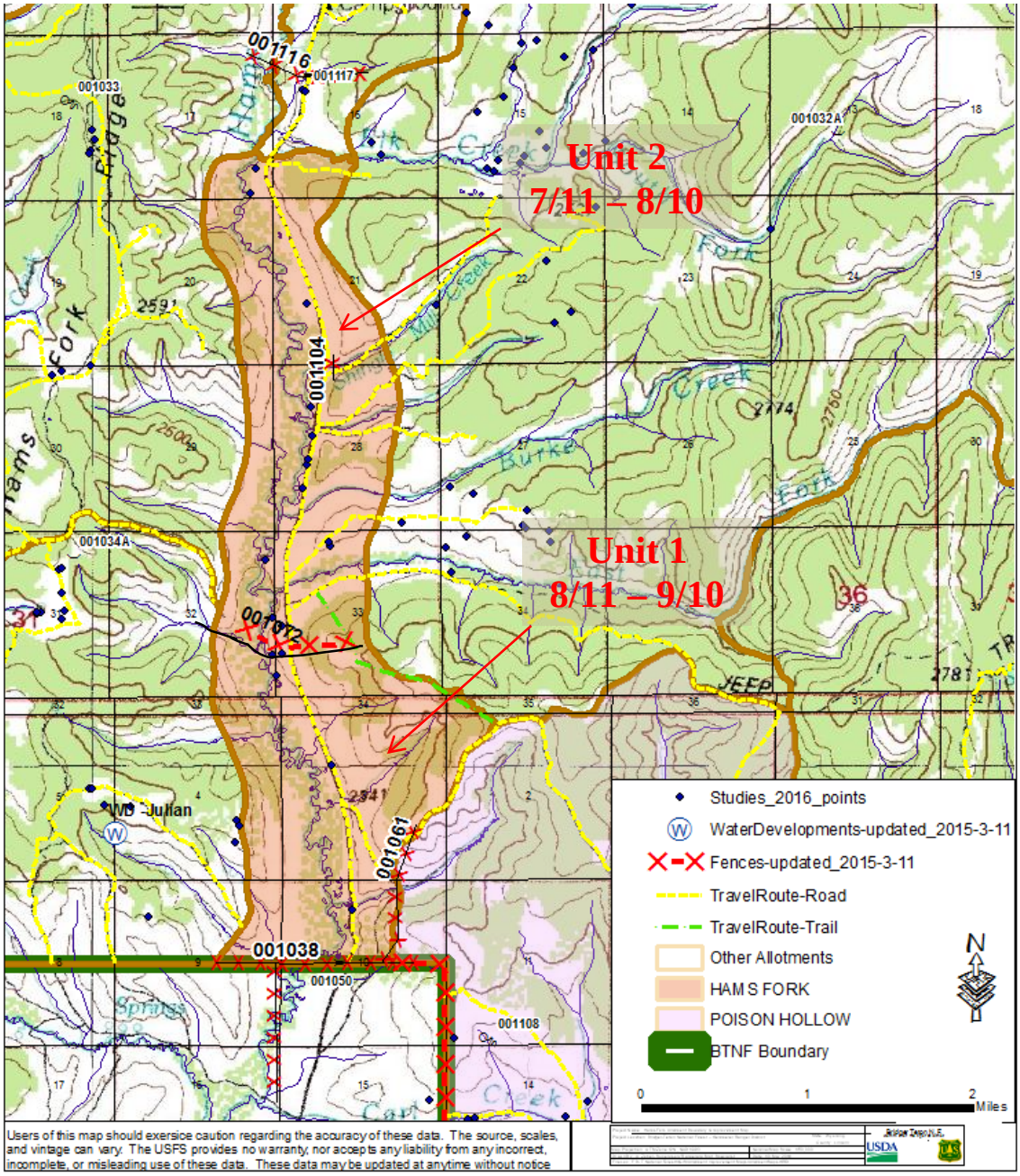
- Fence #00116: Heavy maintenance of this fence will start this summer. The Forest Service will provide the materials necessary to maintain this fence. Dennis & Terry Nate will be responsible for this maintenance. Maintenance will be completed prior to turn on in 2017 barring any unforeseen circumstances. All maintenance will be completed according to Forest Service specs. Any portion of fence not being maintained to Forest Service specs will be reworked at the permittee's expense. Forest Service specs for this fence will be provided to you at your request.
- Fence #001061: Heavy maintenance of the portion of the fence will occur prior to turn on this year. The Forest Service will provide the materials necessary to maintain this fence. Greg Nate will responsible for this maintenance. All maintenance will be completed according to Forest Service specs. Any portion of fence not being maintained to Forest Service specs will be reworked at the permittee's expense. Forest Service specs for this fence will be provided to you at your request.
- Ear-Tagging: The Forest Service has ear tags available for pick up. You are required to place these ear tags on your livestock prior to turning them onto the allotment.
- Excess Use &/or Unauthorized Use: Particular attention needs to be placed in ensuring your cattle remain in the allotment they are permitted to graze and do not drift onto other allotments they are not permitted to graze on including the Poison Hollow allotment. Inform us should you find any cattle within the Hams Fork allotment which are not authorized to be within this allotment. This would include livestock from the adjacent Poison Hollow allotment or those permitted to graze on adjacent BLM lands. A meeting will be scheduled at a later time to address unauthorized use which is occurring in the area. You will notified of the date and time of this meeting.

Please let us know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. As a reminder certified weed-free hay, cubes, and straw are required on the Forest.

If there have been approved changes or if there are specific items you want to discuss at next year's annual permittee meeting, complete the actual use report and return it by November 30. Please contact Aaron (307-828-5115) if you have any questions or comments. Thanks for your cooperation in managing this allotment.

__/S/ Adriene Holcomb__ _____25 May 2016_____
District Ranger Date

Figure 1.0 Hams Fork Allotment – 2016 Grazing Schedule and Other Items of Interest



2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
KEMMERER RANGER DISTRICT

Hams Fork Allotment	
Permittee: Gregory S. Nate	
Authorized Season of Use: 7/11 - 9/10	Authorized Numbers: 75 cattle (cow/calf)

Planned Use				**Actual Use**						
Unit	*Days Planned*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Numbers*	*Unit*	*Days Used*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Losses*	*Cause*
2	30	7/11	8/10							
1	30	8/11	9/10							

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Gregory Scott Nate)

Comments: (Included needed range improvements; improvements maintained or visited; new noxious weeds locations; and etc.)

Appendix A

UPDATED GRAZING MANAGEMENT STRAGETY

The updated grazing management strategy includes: 1) long-term benchmarks to aid in determining if an area is meeting or moving toward desired conditions as defined in the Forest Plan (USDA, 1990); 2) continued and/or increased monitoring to determine if long-term benchmarks are being met; 3) a long-term adaptive management strategy which will help ensure sites currently meeting long-term benchmarks continue to meet those benchmarks and will help ensure sites currently not meeting long-term benchmarks trend to these benchmarks where it determined livestock grazing is the primary impediment for not meeting those benchmarks. This in turn will aid in ensuring sites meeting Forest Plan desired conditions continue to meet these conditions while sites not meeting Forest Plan desired conditions and is determined to be livestock caused, will have an upward trend; and 4) an annual adaptive management strategy to ensure annual benchmarks are met and to respond to changed conditions. Data from monitoring will be considered part of the best available science and will be used to make long-term and annual adjustments to livestock grazing as needed to ensure Forest Plan direction is met. As such it will be an integral part the long term and annual adaptive management strategy. For example and among other things, monitoring will continue to determine the need and frequency for administrative adjustments in the timing, intensity, frequency, and/or management of grazing.

Updated Grazing Management - Long Term Monitoring Benchmarks
Long-term benchmarks will ensure desired conditions, as defined by the Forest Plan, are maintained and/or achieved (USDA, 1990).

1.) Allow management activities that will result in no less than 85% of potential ground cover for each vegetation cover type. Table 1 lists ground cover potentials by vegetation types. These will be used as a guideline unless more site specific ground cover potentials are obtained.

2.) Native and selected non-native species of moderate to high value for watershed protection (1993 Region 4 Range Management Resource Value Rating Guide, FSH 2209.21.27.4, Ex. 02,) will be equal to or greater than 60% of the relative cover in all vegetation types grazed by livestock. Selected non-native species are those including in plantings in the past based on their erosion control and other desired values. Includes both woody and herbaceous species.

3.) Grazing in aspen stands will be managed to ensure sprouting and sprout survival sufficient to perpetuate the long-term viability of aspen clones.

Table 1.0 Potential Ground Cover Values

Vegetation Type	Ground Cover Range at Potential[1]	Information Source(s)
Silver Sagebrush (*Artemisia cana)*	89 – 96 (85%=76-82)	Ashley N.F.
Mountain/Subalpine Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*)	81 – 96 (85%=69-82)	Ashley N.F.
Low Sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*)	62 – 77 (85%=53-65)	(Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest) U-W-C N.F.-Guardsman Pass, Bear Lake Summit, and Grand Teton National Park
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus)*	92 (85%=78)	U-W-C N.F.-Salt Lake Ranger District-Big Cottonwood Canyon
Birchleaf Mt Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*)	82 – 95 (85%=70-81)	Ashley N.F. U-W-C N.F.-Bear Lake Summit
Curlleaf Mt Mahogany *(Cercocarpus ledifolius)*	70 – 82 (85%=60-70)	U-W-C N.F.-Mollens Hollow Research Natural Area and Big Cottonwood Canyon – with Oak
Aspen, *Populus tremuloides*	90 – 98 (85%=77-83)	Ashley N.F.-Brush Creek Allotment
Uinta Alpine Grassland	97 – 100 (85% = 82-85)	U-W-C N.F-Mt View Ranger District - Bald Mt
Uinta Alpine upland turf and meadow communities[2]	80 – 100 (85% = 68-85)	U-W-C N.F.-Uinta Mountains
Uinta Alpine snowbed communities[2]	48 – 98 (85% =41-83)	U-W-C N.F.-Uinta Mountains
Uinta Alpine erosional surface (including talus) communities[2]	33 – 85 (85% =28-72)	U-W-C N.F.-Uinta Mountains
Subalpine Tall Forb – Mesic-no gopher activity (*Aster, Delphinium*, *Artemisia ludoviciana*, *Geranium viscossissimum*, *Polemonium foliosissimum*)	75 – 80 (85% = 64-68)	U-W-C N.F. Hoyt Peak, Albion basin
Subalpine Tall Forb – Wetter-no gopher activity (*Veratrum californicum*, *Heracleum lanatum*, *Mertensia ciliata*, *Geranium richardsonii*)	88 (85% = 75)	U-W-C N.F.-Albion basin and Grand Teton National Park
Subalpine Tall Forb – with gopher activity	79 –94 (85% = 67-80)	John D. Rockerfeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

[1] Ground cover potential based on percent vegetation, litter, moss, and rock cover as measured using a minimum of 200 sample points per sample site.

Updated Grazing Management - Annual Monitoring Benchmarks

The following annual benchmarks will be implemented as a tool to meet and/or move towards long-term benchmarks. This in turn will ensure desired conditions, as defined by the Forest Plan, are maintained and/or achieved (USDA, 1990). These benchmarks are part of the adaptive management strategy. Adaptive management will be used as needed to ensure benchmarks are met. It is expected other annual benchmarks will be added in time if needed to help ensure long-term benchmarks are met and/or moved towards.

1.) As a tool to meet and/or move towards long-term benchmarks for riparian areas, maximum forage utilization standards (stubble height) for low to mid elevation *greenline* species in Class I, II, and III riparian areas in satisfactory condition will be as presented in table 2. Key species measured along the greenline will typically include a variety of species of sedges and rushes including but not limited to water sedge, beaked sedge, Nebraska sedge, woolly sedge, wool-fruit sedge, and Baltic rush.

Table 2.0 Residual Greenline Stubble Height by Stream Class for Rangelands in Satisfactory Condition

Riparian Class	Condition	Greenline Stubble Height at End of Growing Season
Stream Class I	Satisfactory	No Less Than 5”
Stream Class II	Satisfactory	No Less Than 4”
Stream Class III	Satisfactory	No Less Than 3”

[1]Currently this classification system has not been completed on the B-T National Forest. A 4” stubble height will be used until said classification system is completed.

2.) As a tool to maintain satisfactory vegetative and soil conditions (i.e. meeting long-term benchmarks such as 60% plant composition of moderate to high value for watershed protection and 85% of potential protective surface cover), maximum forage utilization will be 40% of key species on uplands, aspen, and riparian areas away from the greenline. Use will be limited to 50% of the total forage cover for perennial forb plant communities (tall forb) in satisfactory condition (i.e. meeting long-term benchmarks).

3.) As a tool to achieve rehabilitation of upland, aspen, and riparian communities away from the greenline that are not meeting or moving toward long-term benchmarks (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition), maximum allowed forage utilization on key species will be light (10%-30%). Use will be limited to 25% of the total forage cover for perennial forb plant communities without gophers, that are not meeting or moving toward long-term benchmarks (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition).

4.) As a tool to achieve rehabilitation of greenlines that are not meeting or moving toward long-term benchmarks (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition), the average greenline stubble height at the end of the growing season will not be less than six inches.

5.) Many of the perennial forb (tall forb) communities are heavily populated by pocket gophers. Bare soil increases or decreases as their activities increase or decrease respectively. As a tool to maintain or improve vegetative and soil conditions on these perennial forb gopher sites, use will be limited to 25% of the total forage cover where the protective surface cover is less than 60%.

Updated Grazing Management-Long Term Monitoring & Annual Monitoring Benchmarks
These benchmarks will continue to be evaluated by an interdisciplinary team based on monitoring to determine if permitted livestock grazing is meeting Forest Plan desired conditions or satisfactorily moving towards desired conditions. Monitoring methods identified in the Forest Plan will continue to be utilized unless other methods are identified by the best available science. Monitoring will generally include determining protective surface cover, plant community composition, forage utilization, riparian and stream bank conditions, water quality, key wildlife and aquatic species habitat conditions, compliance with grazing management practices or other grazing permit and/or annual operating instructions, and any other pertinent parameters as directed by the authorized Forest Officer.

If annual or long term monitoring evaluations determine that livestock grazing is the primary factor not allowing the benchmarks to be met (which ensure the Forest Plan desired conditions are met and/or moved towards), then management actions will be taken accordingly once that determination is made. Additional analysis will also be made to validate this determination and the extent of the affected area. Management actions may include one of or any combination of the following:

1.) Alter the amount of time an area is grazed (i.e., reduced due to over utilization, to accomplish a specific vegetation treatment, or to improve resource conditions and management).
2.) Alter livestock management (i.e., relocate salting areas and trailing routes to improve resource conditions and management).
3.) Alter the time of year an area is grazed (i.e., deferred use due to drought, exclude use to improve resource conditions, or graze an area earlier or later in the year to accomplish a specific vegetation objective).
4.) Implement range improvements projects (i.e., construct trails, stock ponds and/or fences to improve distribution and management). This will require further NEPA analysis.
5.) Alter the numbers of livestock (i.e., reduced to improve management, to accomplish a specific vegetation treatment, or to improve resource conditions).

Management actions are not limited to those listed above and may include additional adaptive management strategies. Permit administration will be conducted in accordance with Forest Service Handbook direction (FSH 2209.13, Chapter 10, section 16).

<u>Updated Grazing Management Practices</u>

1. Salting: Salt is a valuable and flexible tool to distribute livestock to suitable range that otherwise might not be grazed. As a rule, salt should be placed where additional forage utilization is desirable.
At a minimum, the following salting practices will be followed:

a.) Salt will be placed at least 200 feet from live water, roads, trails, and other high recreational areas.
b.) Salt will be placed on rocks, harden areas or containers when feasible.
c.) Salt areas will be rotated.
d.) When an area has been grazed to the desired utilization, salt will be removed from the area.

2. Other:

a) Promptly remove any cattle that have died from within 100 yards or in sight of administrative sites, roads or trails, corrals or sources of water.

b) Certified Weed-Free hay, cubes and straw will be required on National Forest land.