BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

SPRING CREEK 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 22nd. 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. Bert Erickson will continue to be the point of contact for grazing on the allotment.

Table 1.0 Permitted and Authorized Numbers and Season of Use

Permittee		Ed Clark	Clark Land & Livestock LLC	Bert & Stacie Erickson	Dustin & Daniel Erickson	Arlo & Dianne Miller
Kind		Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle
Permitted	Class	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf
	Numbers	72	283	80	30	92
	Season of Use	June 1 – Oct 10	June 1 – Oct 10	June 1 – Oct. 10	June 1 – Oct. 10	June 1-Oct 10
Authorized	*Class*	*Cow/Calf*	*Cow/Calf*	*Cow/Calf*	*Cow/Calf*	*Cow/Calf*
	Numbers	*72*	*283*	*80*	*62*	*92*
	Season of Use	*June 15 – Oct 10*	*June 15 – Oct 10*	*June 15 -Oct 10*	*August 1 – Oct 10*	*June 15 -Oct 10*
Non-use		0	0	0	0	0
Pack & Saddle Stock		0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Numbers		0	0	0	0	0

Table 2.0 – Spring Creek Allotment: Proposed Grazing Schedule and Proper Use Criteria[1]

Order	Unit	No. of Days	Planned Dates	Proper Use Criteria
1st	First Pasture	15	June 15- June 30	≤50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
2nd	Second Pasture[2]	22	July 1 – July 22	
2nd	Big Ridge[2]	22	July 1 – July 22	
3rd	Third/ Elbow Pasture	69	July 23 – Sep 30	
4th	First Pasture	10	Oct 1- Oct 10	

[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. 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. Key areas will be coordinated with permittees; [2]Clark Land & Livestock to graze the Big Ridge pasture. All other permittees to graze the second pasture (see Figure 1.0)

An allotment map is enclosed; this map shows the allotment boundary, unit boundaries, scheduled move dates and other items of interest. This map will continue to be updated as necessary at future annual permittee meetings. Turn on prior to June 15th will require a range readiness review by Forest Service personnel. If the range is found ready to be grazed prior to this date, a subsequent billing will occur which then must be paid prior to turning your livestock onto the allotment.

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

Proper Use Criteria: Proper utilization is 50% 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 key area reaching proper utilization means it is time to move to the next scheduled unit to be grazed or to come home. Gathering of cattle from Unit 1 in preparation for removing livestock from National Forest lands is not to result in any Proper Use Criteria being exceeded.

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. Cattle need to be properly distributed. 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 the cattle do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows.

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 or as shown in Table 3.0 below will be completed at least one week prior to the proposed on date. 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. Should this become an issue group maintenance responsibilities will be assigned out on an individual basis.* Other items specifically discussed included the following items:

- Qualified Range Rider: Per the Allotment Management Plan for the Spring Creek Allotment, permittees are required to provide a qualified rider for at least 3-4 days per week. A qualified rider will be required to provide a full-days work during the days he or she is on the allotment. Permittees will provide to the Forest Service specific plans for a qualified rider by May 15th.
- Big Ridge Water Developments: Two Ponds were maintained to standard in 2015 by permittees. Permittees will complete maintenance of the remaining two ponds prior to turn on in 2017 barring any unforeseen circumstances. Contact Brad Jacobson prior to initiating maintenance of these ponds.
- Proposed Water Developments: Several ponds have been proposed by permittees within the first pasture. The development of these ponds has been put on hold into the foreseeable future.

- Permittees indicated the Spring Creek Corrals (#003114) including the associated parking area; Big Ridge Water Development (#003108) – not including the ponds previously discussed; and First Creek drift fence (#03134) are in poor condition. These improvements are to be maintained to Forest Service standards to the extent feasible.
- Heavy maintenance of 200 to 300 yards of the Big Ridge Drift fence (#003156) to be completed prior turn on in 2017. The Forest Service will provide the materials for this heavy maintenance. Permittees will work cooperatively in completing maintenance of this fence to F.S. standards. Contact Brad Jacobson prior to initiating heavy maintenance of this fence.
- Sage-Grouse Record of Decision and Associated Forest Plan Amendment – Discussion regarding this decision as well as the related amendment occurred. The Forest Service will be conducting validation monitoring throughout the area of the allotment having mapped habitat this summer. You will be notified when this occurs. No changes in the 2016 grazing season are expected as a result of this decision.

Table 3.0 Spring Creek – Improvement Responsibilities by Permittee

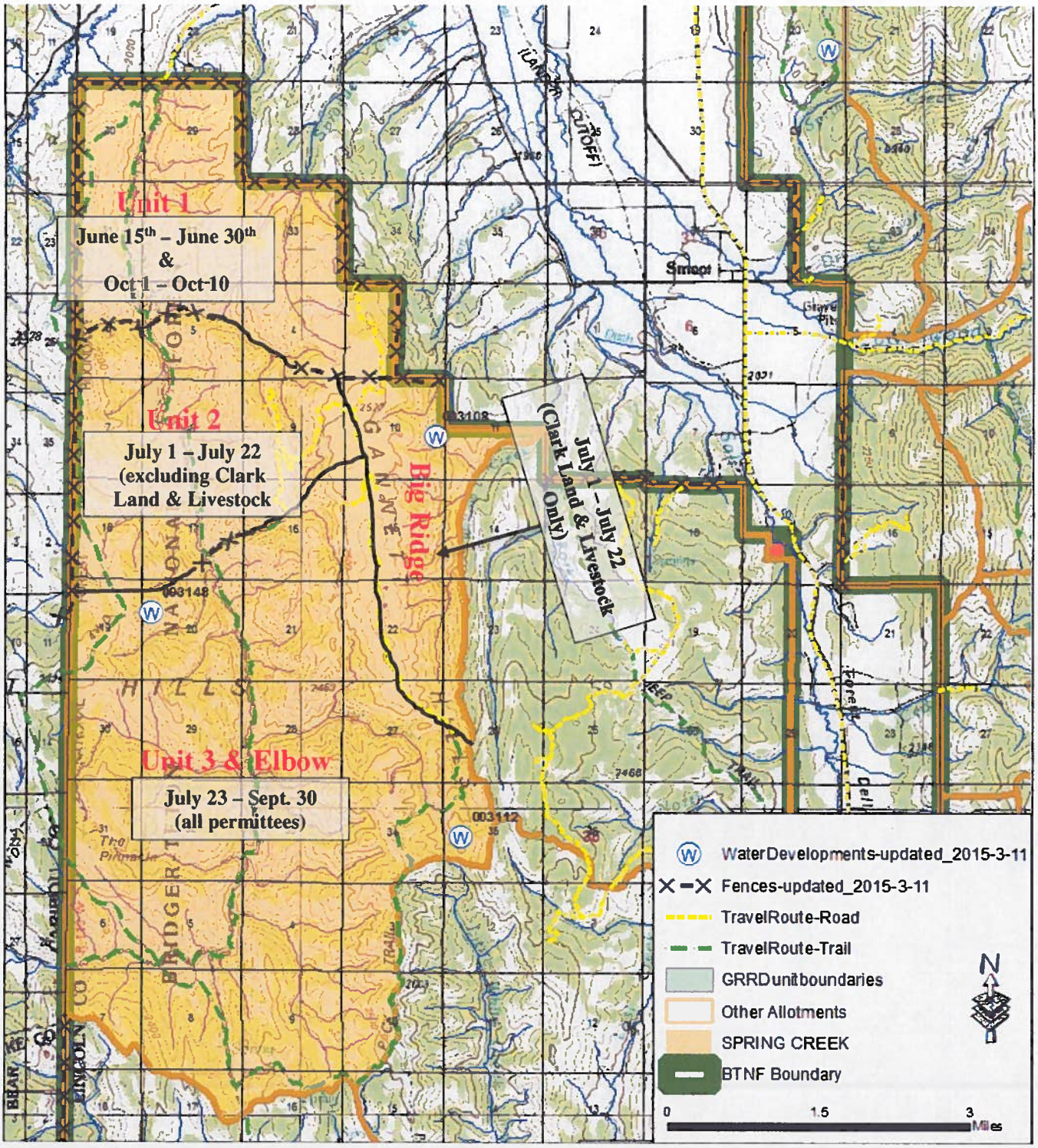
Improvement	Description	Location	INFRA #	Maintenance
Big Ridge	Water Development, Troughs		003108	Group
Pine Knoll	Water Development, Pond		003111	Group
Third Creek	Water Development, Troughs		003112	Clark Land & Livestock LLC
Spring Creek	Corrals		003114	Group
Crow Creek	Water Development, Troughs		003116	Group
Spring Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003131	Private
Spraugue Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003132	Private
Spring Creek – Crow Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003133	Group
First Creek	Fence, Drift		003134	Group
Second Creek	Fence, Drift		003135	Group
Big Ridge #1	Water Development, Pond		003140	Group
Big Ridge #2	Water Development, Pond		003141	Group
Big Ridge #3	Water Development, Pond		003142	Group
Dip Creek	Water Development, Troughs		003148	D&D Erickson
Big Ridge #4	Water Development, Pond		003153	Group
Big Ridge #5	Water Development, Pond		003154	Group
Big Ridge	Corrals		003155	Group
Big Ridge	Fence, Drift		003156	Group

Please let us know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. Noxious weeds of concern in the allotment are: Spotted Knapweed, Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Hound's Tongue, Dalmatian Toadflax and Leafy Spurge. As a reminder certified weed-free hay, cubes, and straw are required on the Forest.

Complete the actual use report and return it to the Greys River Ranger District by December 31st. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Brad @ 307-886-5331. Thanks for your cooperation in managing this allotment.

_____/s/ Richard Raione Richard Raione 4-25-16
District Ranger Date

Figure 1.0 Spring Creek Allotment – 2016 Schedule, Allotment Bdry; Units, and Other Items of Interest[1]



[1]Map not showing all range improvements including among others the various Big Ridge pond water developments.

2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

Spring Creek Allotment	
Permittee: Arlo & Dianne Miller	
Authorized Season of Use: 6/15 – 10/10	Authorized Numbers: 92 Cattle (cow/calf)

Planned Use				**Actual Use**						
Unit	*Days Planned*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Numbers*	*Unit*	*Days Used*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Losses*	*Cause*
First Pasture	15	June 15	June 30							
Second Pasture	22	July 1	July 22							
Third/ Elbow Pasture	69	July 23	Sep 30							
First Pasture	10	Oct 1	Oct 10							

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Arlo & Dianne Miller)

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

Appendix A – Other Permittee Instructions

- Salt will be placed at least 300 feet off roads and trails and at least 1,500 feet from all water sources, wetlands, riparian areas (when feasible), and developed recreational/camping sites except as approved by the Forest Officer in Charge. Salt will be removed from areas prior to proper utilization being reached. Salting areas should be rotated from year to year. Old established salt grounds should not be used with the exception of those areas which are highly resistant to salting (i.e. rocky and/or hardened areas resistant to salt leaching and ground disturbance). No more than 50 lbs. of salt will be placed at any one location at any time.
- The permittee will ensure that all personnel performing on the ground livestock management are thoroughly familiar with the terms of the grazing permit, annual operating instruction and allotment management plan.
- All camp sites used in conjunction with livestock operations must be maintained to have a present a clean, neat and orderly appearance. Flammable trash will be completely burned in a safe and reasonable way. All unburnable material will be removed to a disposal site. Burying of trash is not allowed. Temporary holding pens, corrals, mangers and hitching racks will be removed when the camp is moved or relocated. Facilities authorized on a permanent basis must be kept clean at all times and cleaned up after use. All camps must have a serviceable axe and shovel for fire control.
- There will be enough riders to achieve proper distribution of livestock within the allotment. Livestock will not be turned onto the allotment or allowed to congregate within any portion of the allotment for an extended period of time that creates areas of inappropriate forage utilization.
- Horses and mules used in conjunction with this permit will not be picketed or tied to trees in a manner that creates trampled vegetation and compacted soils.
- Permittees are strongly encouraged to store, handle and dispose of all human and animal food stuffs and garbage that makes them unavailable to bears and other wildlife. As such you are encouraged to start following Order Number 04-00-104 as it relates to your management of livestock on this allotment (see attached order). While not currently a requirement within the area you are permitted to graze, it is the intent of the Bridger-Teton National Forest to implement this order forest-wide over the next several years
- All predator control will be in accordance with State and Federal Laws. Black and Grizzly bear, wolf, and lion predation should be reported to the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept., and coyote predation reported to the USDA-APHIS office
- Dead livestock within 300 feet of any live stream, spring, roadway or trail will be promptly removed and properly disposed of. Proper disposal would include removal of the carcass off of the allotment, or dragging the carcass at least 300 feet away from any live stream, spring, roadway or trail. Final removal of livestock carcasses within ¼ mile of system roads, system trails, and all developed and undeveloped recreation areas will be coordinated with the Forest Office in Charge to provide for public safety. This may require various additional mitigation measures.

<u>Appendix B</u> – Bridger-Teton Land and Resource Management Plan Standards and Guidelines

- Vegetation Range Prescription: Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
- Forage Improvement Standard: Range in less-than-satisfactory condition will be improved. Disturbed areas will be stabilized or regenerated prior to resuming grazing use.
- Forage Utilization Standards: The following utilization standards will be the maximum utilization levels allowed for all herbivores on key vegetative species.

Upland Range Sites

Season Long Grazing		Rotation Grazing	
Unsatisfactory Condition 40%	Satisfactory Condition 50%	Unsatisfactory Condition 50%	Satisfactory Condition 60%

Riparian Range Sites

Season Long Grazing		Rotation Grazing	
Unsatisfactory Condition 45%	Satisfactory Condition 55%	Unsatisfactory Condition 55%	Satisfactory Condition 65%

During Allotment Management Plan revision, an Interdisciplinary (ID) Team and livestock permittees will prescribe site-specific use levels needed to meet plan objectives. Maximum forage use guidelines apply cumulatively to all types of grazing use including wildlife, livestock and recreational stock. During monitoring and evaluation a utilization guideline may be changed if the prescribed level is not accomplishing planned objectives. An ID team will establish site-specific utilization levels on key wildlife ranges. ID teams will prescribe other proper-use standards to achieve site-specific objectives for the range resource being managed. The standards will be a combination of forage utilization, ground cover, plant vigor, soil disturbance, or stream bank stability.

- Desired Future Condition within the Allotment
    - 10 - Theme: An area managed to allow for some resource development and roads while having no adverse and some beneficial effects on wildlife. Management Emphasis: is to provide long-term and short-term habitat to meet the needs of wildlife managed in balance with timber harvest, grazing, and minerals development. Vegetation: Range Prescription – Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
    - 12 – Theme: An area managed for high-quality wildlife habitat and escape cover, big game hunting opportunities, and dispersed recreation activities. Management Emphasis: is on providing such important habitat for big-game as winter range, feedgrounds, calving areas, and security areas. Vegetation: Range Prescription - Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.

Appendix C – Range Readiness

Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until soils are dry enough to prevent damage to soils/vegetation and when key plants are phenologically ready to be grazed. Range readiness indicators for vegetation are shown below.

Plant Type	Visual	Phenology
GRASS		
Wheatgrass spp.	8 inch plant height	Seed stalk showing
Idaho Fescue	5 inch leave length	Seed head present
Prairie Junegrass	5 inch leave length	Seed head present
Sandberg bluegrass	Plant mature	Seed head in dough stage
Pinegrass	4-6 inch leaves	
Tufted hairgrass	6+ inch height	Seed head present
Kentucky bluegrass		Seed head present
GRASSLIKE		
Nebraska sedge		Seed in late dough
FORBS		
Western Yarrow	Flower stalk showing	
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	¾ leaf development	Blossom beginning
Geranium	4 inch leave length	Flower in bloom
SHRUBS		
Serviceberry		Blossom present
Antelope Bitterbrush		Flower bud swollen
Snowberry		7-8 bud leaves unfolded