# STRAWBERRY CREEK
# CATTLE & HORSE ALLOTMENT
# (including Strawberry Canyon)

## 2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

## I. INTRODUCTION

| Permittee | | Blair & Alice Erickson |
|---|---|---|
| Kind | | Cattle |
| Permitted | Class | Yearling |
| | Numbers | 70 |
| | Season of Use | June 16-Sept 30 |
| Authorize | Class | Yearling |
| | Numbers | 70 |
| | Season of Use | June 16-Sept 30 |
| Non-use | | 0 |
| Pack & Saddle Stock | | 0 |

## II. COMPLIANCE

- This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a).
- An allotment map is enclosed. It is your responsibility to ensure your livestock remain within the area you are permitted to graze during the duration of the time they are authorized to be on the allotment.
- 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 Brad Jacobson and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions
- Any hay, straw or feed used in association with this permit must be certified and tagged as noxious weed free, or noxious weed seed free as directed by USDA-FS R4 Weed Free Hay Order #04-00-097 dated 02/01/2003 available at the Greys River RD office.

## III. BILLING

- Due Date – The Bill for Collection is preferably due 10 days prior to turn-on date. Not paying by the turn-on date may result in administrative and interest charges. Placing livestock on the allotment prior to payment is non-compliance with Part 2, item 3 of the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may include suspension or cancellation of your term grazing permit.

## IV. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- Authorized use dates (turn-on & turn-off) are tentative and depend on range readiness, forage utilization and resource conditions during the entire grazing season. Livestock remaining on the allotment past the authorized use date will be billed at the unauthorized use rate. If repeated this may result in suspension or cancellation of your term grazing permit.
- Permittees are responsible for monitoring forage utilization within the allotment. When allowable forage use rates are met in identified key use areas, livestock will be herded to another area or removed from the allotment.
- Owners of permitted livestock must comply with State of Wyoming livestock laws and regulations.

## V. BRIDGER-TETON LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN STANDARDS AND GUIDES

- 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
  - **4 -Theme:** An area managed to protect municipal water supplies. **Management Emphasis:** is to protect or improve the quality of municipal water supplies. **Vegetation: Range Prescription –** Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed condition while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
  - **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 rand and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.

## VI. IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements will be maintained so as to function for its intended purpose and to extend the functional life of the improvement. Improvements will be maintained while taking non-use. All improvements will be maintained prior to placing livestock in the allotment. Improvements will be maintained the entire grazing season. Replacement of improvements that are no longer functional will typically involve a 50:50 cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the permittee. When using an electric fence, the permittee will provide labor and maintenance as needed to keep it functioning with livestock and big game.

- Projects: Listed below are agreed upon maintenance and improvement projects that will be completed prior to 2016 turn on date. Contact Brad when the project is completed. If you experience any unforeseen difficulties when maintaining this development contact Brad to resolve the concern at your earliest opportunity.

| Improvement | Description | Location | FS Contribution | Permittee Contribution | INFRA # |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Suter Canyon | Water Dvlpmt. Trough | | Provided trough in 2014 to complete the job. | All labor and equipment to complete the job. | 003007 |

You indicated there is also a need to construct and/or maintain fence between private and F.S. lands. FSM 2230.6 directs that range betterment funds are not to be used to fence boundaries between National Forest lands and private lands. As such you are encouraged to work with adjacent private land owners in maintaining/constructing any fence necessary to ensure your livestock remain on the allotment they are permitted to graze and do not drift onto private lands. Appropriate surveys should occur prior to maintenance and/or construction to ensure the fence(s) is(are) are on line.

## VII. 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 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.

## VIII. REQUIRED REPORTING

- An Actual Use form is enclosed. Return it to the Greys River RD office by December 31, 2016.
- The Permittee is to keep records of turn on dates, livestock numbers and losses, locations, dates and movement of livestock within the allotment.

## IX. INSPECTIONS & MONITORING

- Range Readiness – Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until soils are dry enough to prevent damage to vegetation or increase soil erosion, and when key plants are phenologically ready to be grazed. Indicators are listed below.

| Plant Type | Visual | Phenology |
|---|---|---|
| **GRASS** | | |
| Wheatgrass spp. | 8 inch plant height | Seed stalk showing |
| Idaho Fescue | 5 inch leave length | Seed head present |
| Praire 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 |

- Desired Future Condition in Identified Key Use areas by Cover Type:

| COVER TYPE | PERCENT GROUND COVER FOR FUNCTIONALITY* |
|---|---|
| **Alpine** | 90 |
| **Aspen** | 80 |
| **Mt Big Sagebrush** | 70 |
| **Tall Forb** | 80 |
| **Mt Brush** | 70 |

*FSH 2209.21 Chapter 20 Section 22.1.2

- Proper Use Guidelines. Forage use within identified key use areas should range between 4 and 6 inch stubble height for riparian grass species at the end of the grazing season. Forage use for upland areas should be no more than 50 percent use of the current year's growth. Stubble height will be determined as an average of the stubble height within identified key use areas in each pasture at the end of the grazing season.
- Permittee Monitoring – It is the Permittees responsibility to ensure that Forest Plan, Allotment Management Plan and Annual Operating Instructions utilization standards are met.
- The Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide can be used to determine use within the allotment. The Forest Service encourages the use of photo points, landscape appearance and cover by life form transects and will assist in monitoring training and evaluation.

## X. COORDINATION & COOPERATION

- The Bridger-Teton Forest-wide Noxious Integrated Weed Management Plan emphasizes inventory and implementing treatment programs within the District. Noxious weeds of concern in the allotment are: Spotted/Diffuse Knapweed, Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Hound's Tongue, Dalmatian Toadflax and Leafy Spurge. Permittees are encouraged to report known noxious weed locations to the Forest Service.
- 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

## XI. OTHER

- 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.

## XII. Signature Block

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

# 2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

*BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST*
*Greys River RANGER DISTRICT*

(This form will be returned to the Greys River Ranger District by December 31, 2016. Indicate the TOTAL NUMBER, by each KIND and CLASS of livestock, by PASTURE and the SEASON OF USE for each entry

| Strawberry C&H | |
|---|---|
| Permittee: Blair & Alice Erickson. | |
| Authorized Season of Use: 6/16 – 9/30 | Authorized Numbers: 70 cattle (yearlings) |

| Planned Use | | | | Actual Use | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Numbers* | *Enter Date* | *Leave Date* | *Days Planned* | *Numbers* | *Enter Date* | *Leave Date* | *Days Used* | *Losses* | *Cause* |
| 70 | 6/16 | 9/30 | 107 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Total Losses | | |

**Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____
**(Permittee: Blair & Alice Erickson)**

**Comments:** ***(Included needed range improvements; improvements maintained or visited; new noxious weeds locations; and etc.)***
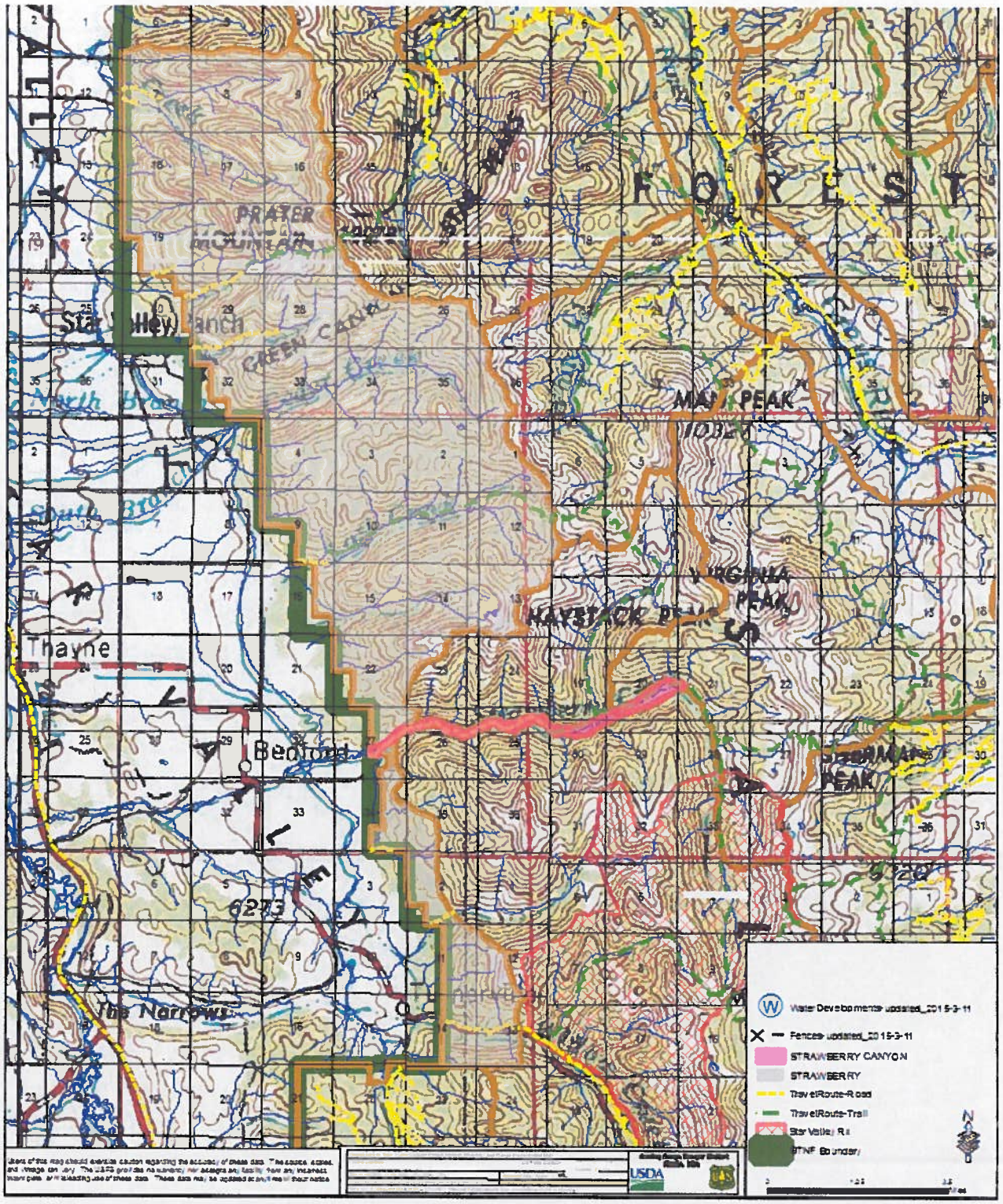
**Figure 1.0 Strawberry and Strawberry Canyon Allotments – 2016 Schedule, and Other Items of Interest**