BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

FOREST DELL 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 April 9th. 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. Larry Lancaster will continue to be the point of contact for grazing on this allotment.

Table 1.0 Permitted and Authorized Numbers and Season of Use[1]

Permittee		**Randy Lancaster**	**Ed Clark**	**Larry Lancaster**	**Forest Dell Ranch, LLC**	**Randy Ritter**
Kind		Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle
Permitted	Class	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf
	Numbers	103	25	46	25	50
	Season of Use	June 1 – Oct 10	July 11 – Oct 1	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	***103***	***25***	***46***	***25***	***50***
	Season of Use	***June 15 – Oct 10***	***July 11 – Oct 1***	***June 15 – Oct 10***	***June 15 – Oct 10***	***June 15 - Oct 10***
Non-use		0	0	0	0	0
Pack & Saddle Stock		0	0	0	0	0

[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.

An allotment map is enclosed; this map shows the allotment boundary, grazing areas by permittee, and scheduled move dates. Please review and follow it. Turn on prior to June 15th will require a range readiness review by Forest Service personel. 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 on 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 within the area you are prescribed to graze means it is time 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. 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 2.0 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.* Other items specifically discussed included the following:

- Fencing of HWY 89 within the Alllotment: Permittees made a request to fence out HWY 89 from the Forest Dell allotment (approximately 1 mile on either side of the road). The Forest Service will look into the feasibility of such a project. Any proposed project would need to be evaluated through the NEPA process and subsequently coordinated with the Wyoming Department of Transportation.
- Request for Electric Fence: The request to use approximately ½ mile of electric fence in the northwest corner of the area where Randy Ritter is authorized to graze is approved. If used, this fence will be set up immediately prior to livestock being put in this area of the allotment and remove promptly after livestock are removed from this area of the allotment.
- Undesired Drift of Livestock: Emphasis will be placed in ensuring cattle do not drift off of the allotment to areas where they are not permitted to graze. Particular attention should be placed in ensuring cattle do not drift into the Lust Creek area of the Little White Creek allotment.
- W. Willow Creek Water Development: Permittees reported heavy maintenance of this water development was completed in 2015. Forest Service personnel will inspect this improvement to ensure heavy maintenance occurred according to F.S. specifications.

Table 2.0 Forest Dell – Improvement Responsibilities by Permittee

Improvement	Description	Location	Maintenance Responsibility	INFRA #
Porcupine Front	Fence, Drift		Randy Ritter	003060
E Willow Creek	Water Development	See Figure 1.0	Randy Lancaster Larry Lancaster Ed Clark	003107
Porcupine Creek	Water Development	See Figure 1.0	Randy Ritter	003109
W Willow Creek	Water Development	See Figure 1.0	Randy Lancaster Larry Lancaster Ed Clark	003116
Willow Creek	Fence, Drift		Private	003136
Slicker Flat	Water Development	See Figure 1.0	Randy Lancaster Larry Lancaster Ed Clark	003147
Oil Well	Water Development	See Figure 1.0	Randy Ritter	003149
Forest Dell	Fence, Drift		Larry Lancaster	003158

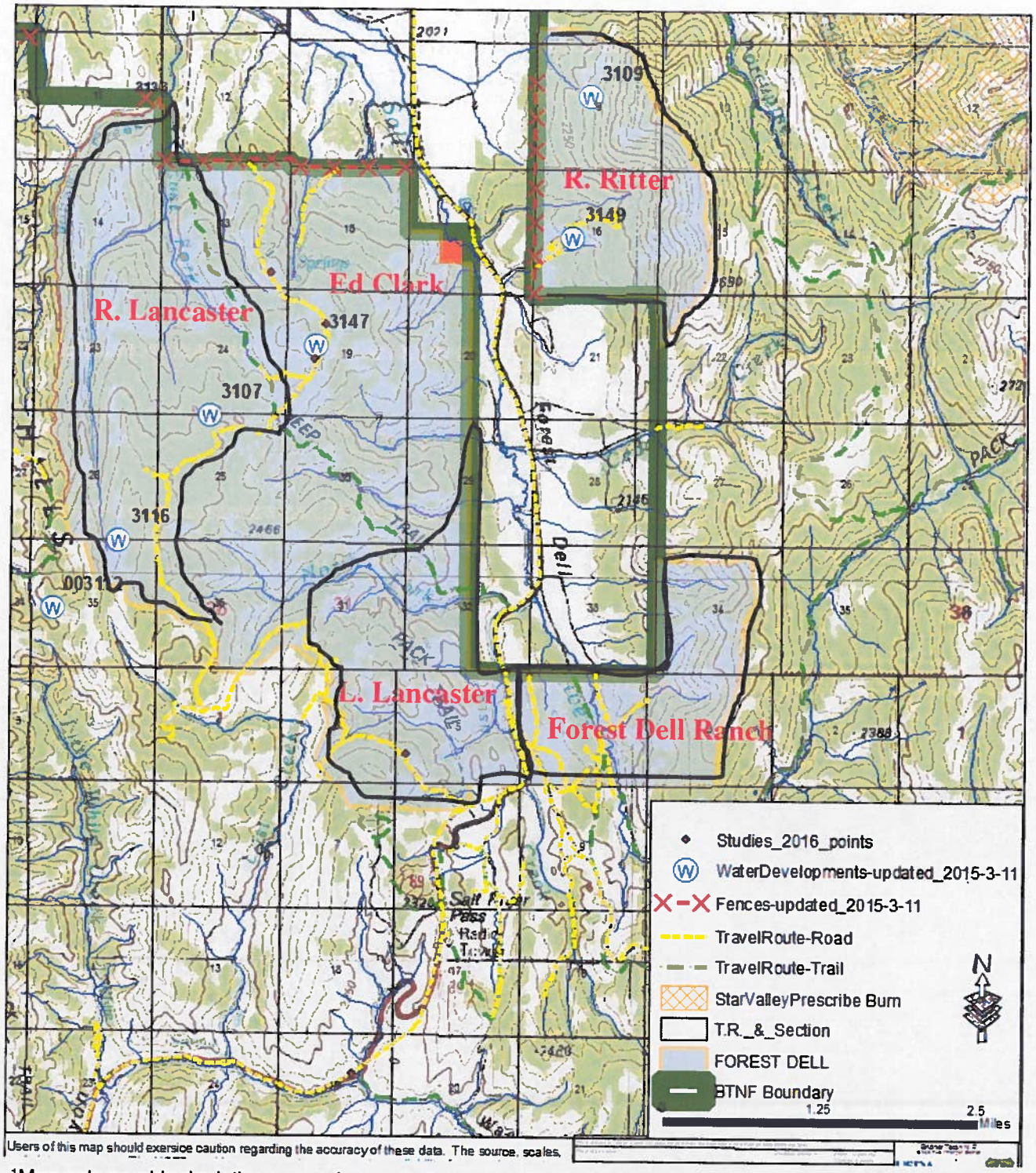
Please let us know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. Noxious weeds of concern in the allotment include: Spotted Knapweed; Musk Thistle; Canada Thistle; Hound's Tongue; Dalmatian Toadflax; and Leafy Spurge. As a reminder certified weed-free hay, cubes,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

4-25-16
Date

Figure 1.0 Forest Dell Allotment – 2016 Schedule, Proposed Grazing Areas by Permittee, and Other Items[1]



[1]Map only roughly depicting general areas to be grazed by each permittee and not generally showing all range improvements to be maintained.

2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

Forest Dell C&H Allotment	
Permittee: Forest Dell Ranch, LLC	
Authorized Season of Use: 6/15 – 10/10	Authorized Numbers: 25 Cattle (cow/calf)

Planned Use				**Actual Use**						
Unit	*Days Planned*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Numbers*	*Unit*	*Days Used*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Losses*	*Cause*
	118	June 15	Oct. 10							
								Total Losses		

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Forest Dell Ranch, LLC.)

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.
  - 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 rand and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife. Water Quality Protection Standard – Livestock will be removed or numbers reduced in areas where municipal water quality is endangered.

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