BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

BIG GREYS RIVER
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 29th. 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.
Nelson Family Trust will be the point of contact for grazing on the allotment this year.

Table 1.0 Big Greys River Allotment – Permitted/Authorized Grazing Numbers, Kind, Class, & Season of Use

Permittee		Wanetta or Marc Clark	Archie & Corine Nelson Family Trust	Justin McKinnon	Preston Ranches	Doyle Simpson	
Kind		Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle
Permitted	**Class**	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Yearling
	Numbers	250	128	95	25	62	40
	Season of Use	June 16-Oct 7	June 16-Oct 7	June 16-Oct 7	June 16-Oct 7	June 16-Oct 7	June 16-Oct 7
Authorized	**Class**	***Cow/Calf***	***Cow/Calf***	***Cow/Calf***	***Cow/Calf***	***Cow/Calf***	***Yearling***
	Numbers	***250***	***127***	***95***	***25***	***61***	***40***
	Season of Use	***June 16 - Oct 7***	***June 16 – Oct 7***	***June 16 - Oct 7***	***June 16 - Oct 7***	***June 16 - Oct 7***	***June 16 - Oct 7***
Non-use		***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***
Pack & Saddle Stock		***2***	***1***	***1***	***1***	***1***	***0***

Table 2.0 Big Greys River Allotment - Proposed Grazing Schedule and Proper Use Guidelines[1]

Unit	No. of Days	Proposed Dates	Proper Use Guidelines
1	31	June 16 – July 16	≤50% of key forage species
2	44	July 17 – August 29	
3	39	August 30 – October 7	≥ 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. 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, unit boundaries, scheduled move dates and other items of interest. Please review and follow it. This map will continue to be updated as necessary at future annual permittee meetings. *Range readiness will be verified by Forest Service Personnel prior to turning out any livestock on the proposed on date.*

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. If the need arises to vary the number of days by more than this prior, approval must first be received.

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.

You are responsible for proper utilization of 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, established trails, or in open meadows. Moving cattle between units should take no more than three to five days. Please plan accordingly.

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. 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:

- Big Greys (#003051) – This project was completed in 2015 including panels being placed as directed. Continue to place panels in the approved location just prior to livestock moving into the area. Remove these panels promptly after livestock are removed from the area. Area will be reviewed this summer by F.S. personnel to determine a long-term strategy. Responsible permittee is Doyle Simpson.
- Fire Trail (#003027) – This project was completed in 2015. Inspections will occur in 2016 by Forest Service personnel to ensure maintenance occurred to F.S. standards. Responsible permittee is Wanetta or Marc Clark.
- White Creek (#003023): The Forest Service will provide any additional materials needed to complete this project in 2016. As directed in the 2015 AOI, this project to be completed prior to turn on in 2016. Responsible permittee is Justin McKinnon.

- Upper Sheep Creek (#3049): Approximately ¼ mile of heavy maintenance north of the Big Greys road. The Forest Service will provide the materials necessary to complete this maintenance. Responsible permittee is Nelson Family Trust. Maintenance will be completed prior to turn on in 2017 barring any unforeseen circumstances.
- Sheep Creek (#003050)/Three Forks (#003010); and Blind Bull – Status of these range improvements will be revisited at the 2017 annual permittee meeting. Until this time, the permittee(s) assigned these improvements are to maintain these improvements to the terms and conditions in their relevant Term Grazing Permits.

Table 3.0 Big Greys River Non-Water Range Improvements (i.e. Fences; Exclosures, etc.)[1]

Improvement	Name	Description	Responsility[2]
3051	Big Greys 2nd – 3rd	Fence, Interior	D. Simpson
3049	Upper Sheep Creek	Fence, Allotment Boundary	Nelson Family Trust
3020	Deadman	Fence, Allotment Boundary	J. McKinnon
3018	Blind Bull	Fence, Allotment Boundary	J. McKinnon
3023	White Creek 1st -2nd	Fence, Interior	J. McKinnon
3012	Bear Creek	Fence, Allotment Boundary	Clark W/M
	Cabin Creek	Fence, Allotment Boundary	Clark W/M
3027	Fire Trail	Fence, Drift	Clark W/M
3165	Deer Creek/Murphy[2]	Corrals	Preston Ranches
3010	Three Forks[2]	Fence, Allotment Boundary	Preston Ranches
3143	Gillis Flat Corrals[2]	Corrals	All Permittees
	Blind Bull[2]	Corrals	All Permittees
	Trail Creek[2]	Fence, Interior	-no current responsibilities – reevaluate and assign as/if needed
3016	Moffat Cr. Drift	Fence, Allotment Boundary	-no current responsibilities – reevaluate and assign as/if needed
3024	Porcupine Cr Drift	Fence, Allotment Boundary	-no current responsibilities – reevaluate and assign as/if needed
	Middle Ridge	Fence, Allotment Boundary	-no current responsibilities – reevaluate and assign as/if needed
	Pierson Creek Drift	Fence, Allotment Boundary	-field verification of fence needed
3050	Lower Sheep Creek[2]	Fence, Interior	-no current responsibilities/removed

[1]Table will be updated as necessary to (1) assign maintenance responsibilities not currently assigned when deemed necessary; (2) to include range improvements which may have been inadvertently omitted from this permit and/or (3) to add improvements which may become part of the Big Greys Allotment at a later date. At the Forest Service's discretion maintenance responsibilities may be modified at a later date to show maintenance responsibilities by permittee rather than collectively or to add maintenance responsibilities as needed. This would typically occur through AOIs initially with permits being subsequently modified. [2]Not in GIS and/or not shown in associated allotment improvement map.

Table 4.0 Big Greys River - Water System Improvements[1]

Name	Improvement(s)	Sub-Name	Description	Allotment	Responsiblity[2]
Forest Park	3043		Spring with Trough	Big Greys River	Non-functioning (no current resp.)

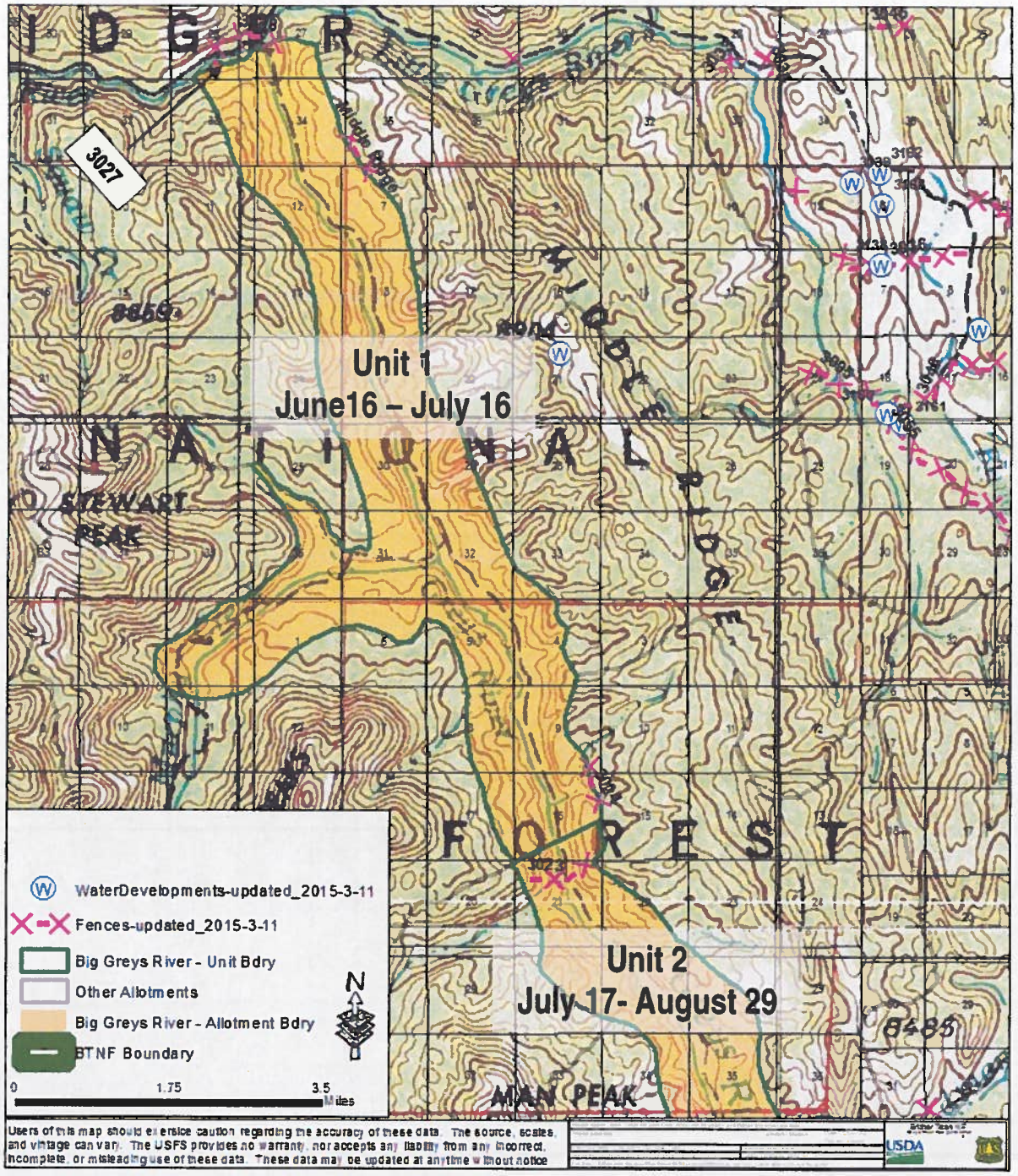
[1]Table will be updated as necessary to (1) assign maintenance responsibilities not currently assigned when deemed necessary; (2) to include range improvements which may have been inadvertently omitted from this permit and/or (3) to add improvements which may become part of Big Greys Allotment at a later date. [2]At the Forest Service's discretion maintenance responsibilities may be modified at a later date to show maintenance responsibilities by permittee rather than collectively or to add maintenance responsibilities as needed. This would typically occur through AOIs initially with permits being subsequently modified.

Please let Brad know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established. Spotted Knapweed, Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Hound's Tongue, Dalmatian Toadflax and Leafy Spurge are noxious weeds of concern on this allotment. 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.

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

Figure 1.0 Big Greys River (North 1/2) – 2016 Schedule; Unit Boundaries; Range Improvements; and other Items of Interest[1]



[1]May not show all assigned range improvements

Figure 2.0 Big Greys River (South 1/2) – 2016 Schedule; Unit Boundaries; Range Improvements; and other Items of Interest[1]

[1]May not show all assigned range improvements

2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

Big Greys Creek C&H Allotment	
Permittee: Wanetta or Marc Clark	
Authorized Season of Use: 6/16 – 10/7	Authorized Numbers: 250 Cattle (cow/calf)

Planned Use				Actual Use						
Unit	*Days Planned*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Numbers*	*Unit*	*Days Used*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Losses*	*Cause*
1	31	June 16	July 16							
2	44	July 17	Aug 29							
3	39	Aug 30	Oct 7							

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Permittee: Wanetta or Marc Clark)

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

Appendix A: 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…
    - The forage utilization standard is a 4 inch riparian stubble height. The stubble height is an average of the key areas by pasture for riparian species at end of the permitted season. The stubble height average of the key areas by pasture for non-riparian species at the end of the permitted season is 3" in valley bottoms, including but not limited to saturated soils.
    - Forage utilization standard on uplands is 50% of current year's annual production.

- Desired Future Condition within the Allotment

    - **1B – Theme:** An area managed for timber harvest, oil and gas, and other commercial activities with many roads and moderate to occasionally substantial emphasis on other resources. **Management Emphasis:** is on scheduled wood-fiber production and use, on livestock production, and on other commodity outputs. **Vegetation: Range Prescription** – Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
    - **3 – Theme:** An area managed to give river – and scenic – recreation experiences. **Management Emphasis:** River segments outside of Wilderness that have been determined eligible for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River system are protected from activities that could diminish or change the free-flowing characteristic, water quality, or the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, and other values which make the river eligible for designation. **Vegetation: Range Prescription –** Range is managed to maintain and enhance range and watershed condition while providing forage for livestock and wildlife.
    - **9A – Theme:** An area managed for campgrounds, other noncommercial areas, and Forest Service administrative sites, including related roads and sites. **Management Emphasis:** is on existing and proposed developed recreation sites and Forest Service administrative sites. **Vegetation: Range Prescription –** Grazing is allowed seasonally for vegetative management purposes.
    - **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, particularly big game.

Appendix B: 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.
- 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.
- Big Greys Cattle Association will maintain a 'permittee' camp at Deer Creek (12T 514568 4770440) during the permitted grazing season. This will include 5-7 camp trailers that are associated with the day-to-day administration of the livestock.
- A Range Rider will maintain a mobile camp at various locations (Deer Creek, Blind Bull, and Kennington Flats) within the allotment during the permitted grazing season. This will include a camp trailer, horse trailer and utility trailer and 6 permitted horses for range permit work.
- 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.

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