BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

BEAR CREEK; VIRGINIA PEAK; NORTH SALT RIVER; AND SOUTH SALT RIVER ALLOTMENTS
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 16th. 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	Allotment	Authorized Number	Season of Use
3Y Livestock LC	Bear Creek	REST	
	Virginia Peak	1000 ewe/lamb	7/6 – 9/20
	South Salt River	1000 ewe/lamb	7/6 – 9/20
	North Salt River	800 ewe/lamb	7/6 – 9/20
	(all allotments)	15 horse	7/6 – 9/20

Table 1.0 Virginia Peak Allotment: Proposed Grazing Schedule and Proper Use Criteria[1]

Order	Unit	No. of Days	Planned Dates	Proper Use Criteria
Trail on	NA			≤50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
1	North & Middle units	49	7/6-8/24	
2	South unit	21	8/25-9/15	
3	Bear Canyon Allotment[2]	5	9/16 – 9/20	
Trail Off	NA			

[2]Movement of sheep through the Bear Canyon allotment (primarily Mt. Dougal unit) to occur in preparation for removing sheep from National Forest lands

Table 2.0 North Salt River Allotment: Proposed Grazing Schedule and Proper Use Criteria

Order	Unit	No. of Days	Planned Dates	Proper Use Criteria
Trail on	NA			≤50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
1st	Water Canyon	46	7/6 – 8/20	
2nd	Middle Unit	11	8/21 – 8/31	
4th	Mount Wagner	12	9/1 – 9/12	
5th	Middle Unit	3	9/13 – 9/15	
6th	Water Canyon	5	9/16 – 9/20	
Trail	NA			

Table 3.0 South Salt River – Proposed Grazing Schedule and Proper Use Criteria[1]

Order	Unit	No. of Days	Planned Dates	Proper Use Criteria
Trail on	NA			≤50% of key forage species ≥ 4" RSH of graminoids along the greenline
1st	Unit 1	16	7/6 – 7/21	
2nd	Unit 2	10	7/22 – 7/31	
3rd	Unit 3	48	8/1 – 9/17	
Trail off		3	9/18 – 9/20	

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.

Allotment maps are enclosed; these maps show allotment boundaries, unit boundaries, and scheduled move dates. Please review and follow them. Some variation between units prescribed for grazing and actual areas being grazed may occur at areas where units are adjacent to each other and where a clear geographic boundary or other marker is not present. However, every effort should be made to ensure sheep are in the appropriate unit to be grazed at the prescribed time. The Bear Creek Allotment is to be rested this year.

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

Permitted livestock from the Virginia Peak allotment will be trucked to the vicinity of the Meadow Creek Guard Station via the Greys River road where they will be moved to the Virginia Peak allotment. Permitted livestock from the North Salt River and South Salt River allotments will graze directly from BLM administered lands to the allotments where they are permitted to graze. Shipping sites for South Salt River and Virginia Peak allotments are located at Poker Hollow and Willow Creek respectively. Permitted livestock from the North Salt River allotment will graze from the allotment to BLM lands when leaving National Forest lands.

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.

Bed your sheep one night in one area only. Multiple days use of the same bed ground is prohibited.

Keep camps clean at all times. Pack out all garbage off of the National Forest; this includes any garbage that may have been left from previous years. All camps are to be located away from trails, lakes, and other high use recreational area. You are also encouraged to follow Order Number 04-00-104 as it relates to the management of your livestock on this allotment (see attached order). While not currently a requirement of your Term Grazing Permit, it is the intent of the Bridger-Teton National Forest to implement this order forest-wide over the next several years.

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 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 forage by your sheep. If inspections reveal areas of over utilization or riparian damage, corrective measures will occur (which may mean taking your sheep home early) and action may be taken against your permit.

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires herding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Sheep are to be open herded once over with light to moderate utilization. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where the sheep 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 sheep off the National Forest by the scheduled off date.

Adaptive Management

1) Domestic Sheep & Big Horn Sheep Best Management Practices (BMPs): The following management practices are designed to limit livestock losses and interactions between domestic and bighorn sheep. They are consistent with the Final Report and Recommendations from the Wyoming State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group.
    a) Do not turn out sick or diseased domestic sheep onto the grazing allotment/trailing route(s). Any domestic sheep which becomes ill while grazing on the allotment should be promptly treated to ensure it does not infect other animals.
    b) Do not allow contact between domestic and bighorn sheep. If bighorn sheep are sighted in a particular area then do not enter that area with domestic sheep. As necessary promptly move your domestic sheep to an area where they will not come into contact with the big horn sheep. Contact Brad to adjust the grazing rotation.
    c) Promptly report all sightings of bighorn sheep during the grazing season to the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and Brad. Sightings should be reported the same day they occur or as soon as possible thereafter. Reports to include number of bighorn sheep observed, sex of animals (*if it can be determined*), location, and distance from domestic sheep.
    d) All livestock losses are to be reported each year using the attached Actual Use Record. Report the number of livestock lost and the reason(s) (*cause of death*) for the loss(s). If the cause of death is unknown or the carcass(s) is not found, this information should be included in the Actual Use Record.
    e) All domestic sheep are to be counted upon exiting the National Forest. This will assure all domestic sheep are accounted for when exiting the allotment and trailing routes. The number of sheep that entered the National Forest should equal the recorded livestock losses, plus the number that exits. Any differences to result in further riding/searching for any potential stray sheep.
    f) If you are missing domestic sheep upon exiting the National Forest, re-ride the allotment and trailing routes and remove any sheep found.
    g) Any domestic sheep found on the National Forest past October 15th may be disposed of by personnel authorized by the Forest Service.

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 standard they were initially constructed, or if reconstructed, 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.

- Star Valley Vegetation Prescribed Burn Treatment: Implementation of this project may commence as early as fall 2015: Areas to be burned include portions of the Bear Creek allotment. A review of areas burned will occur post-treatment to determine any resource protection measures that may need to occur as they relate to grazing of sheep on the allotment (i.e. rest, deferred use; etc.). Contact Brad should you have any questions in regards to this project or how the project may affect your grazing on the allotment.
- Salt River Sheep Bridge: Reconstruction of this bridge is a high priority. You are authorized to cross at the area identified in the annual permittee meeting until this occurs. Open herding practices should be practice to the extent feasible when moving to and from this crossing area. Sheep are not to stay any longer than necessary at this location. Once this bridge has been reconstructed it will be added to your maintenance responsibilities. Brad will contact you early this summer to lay the ground work to reconstruct this bridge.
- Range rides during the latter part of July were discussed for portions of the North Salt River; South Salt River; and Virginia Peak allotments. Brad will contact you at a later date to finalize plans for these rides.
- No nooning, shading or bedding within 100 yards of all streams and riparian areas.
- Only one night / one time use of bed grounds.
- Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of designated campgrounds, trails, trailheads, or maintained roads.
- Practice open or loose herding and minimize the use of sheep dogs to avoid soil displacement.
- Only once-over grazing.
- Graze rather than trail to water and do not water at the same locations.
- Route sheep to avoid steep slopes with loose soil, snowbank areas, and active rills or gullies.
- Highline, picket or hobble pack and saddle stock.
- Clean and repair all roads and trails to the condition prior to sheep impacts.
- No salt in riparian areas, under trees or within 200 yards of water or maintained roads.

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
District Ranger

4-25-16
Date

Figure 1.0 North Salt River and South Salt River Allotments: 2016 Schedule, Unit Boundaries, and Other Items of Interest

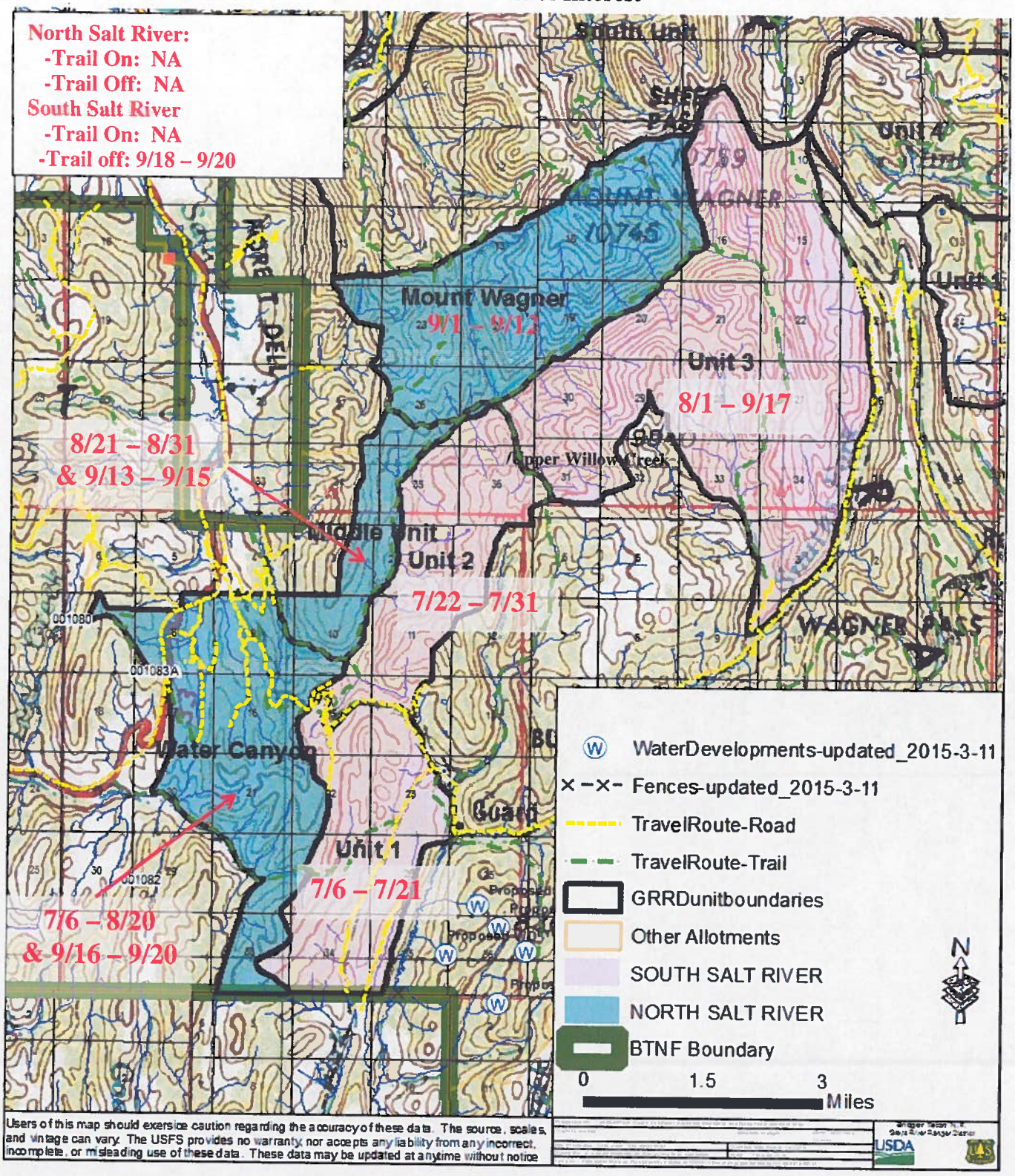
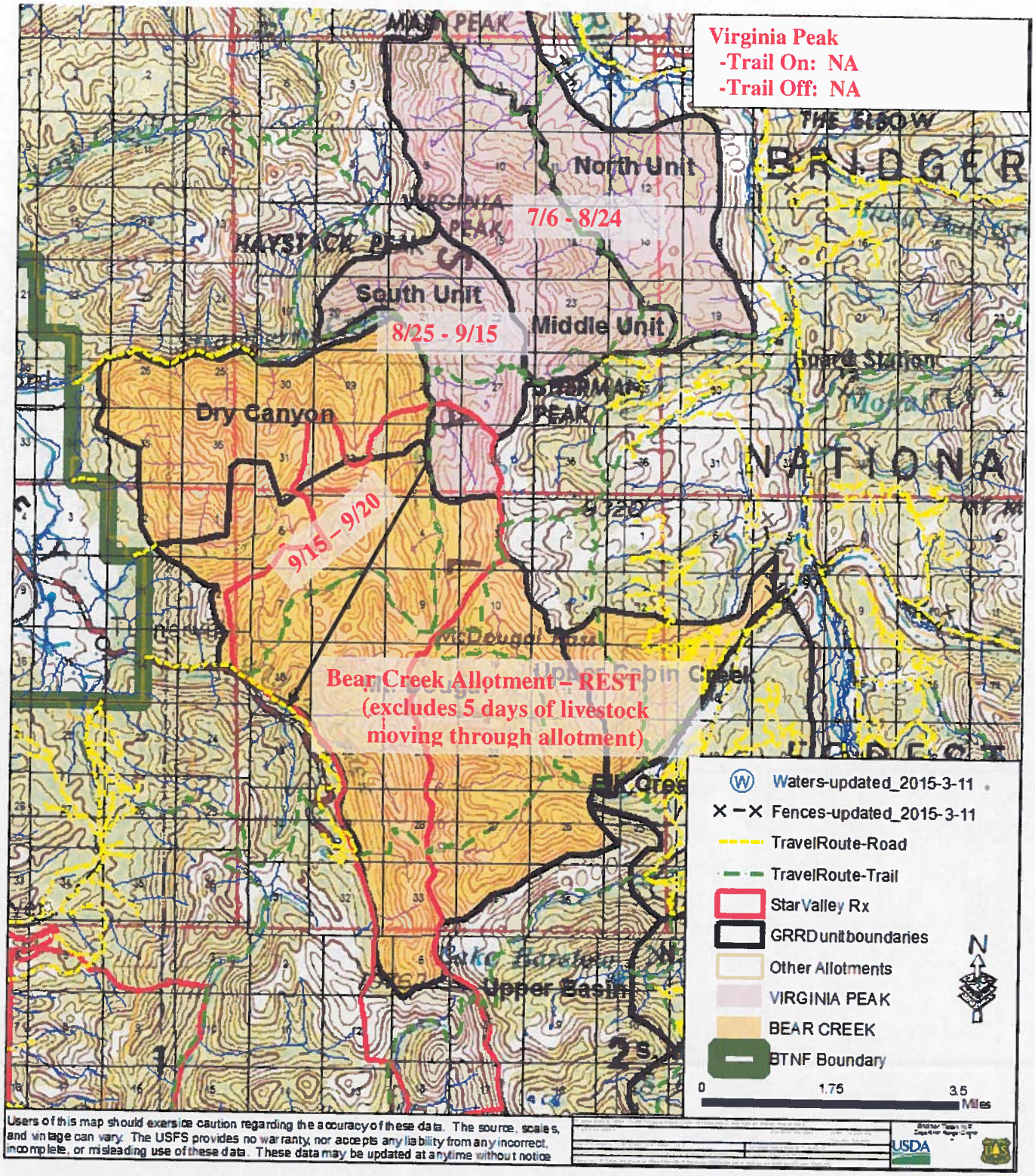


Figure 2.0 Virginia Peak and Bear Creek Allotments: 2016 Schedule, Unit Boundaries, and Other Items of Interest



2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

Virginia Peak Allotment	
Permittee: 3Y Livestock LC	
Authorized Season of Use: 7/6 – 9/20	Authorized Numbers: 1000 sheep (ewe/lamb)

Planned Use				**Actual Use**						
Unit	*Days Planned*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Numbers*	*Unit*	*Days Used*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Losses*	*Cause*
Trail On	NA				Trail On					
North & Middle Units	49	July 6	Aug 24							
South Unit	21	Aug 25	Sep 15							
Bear Creek Allotment[1]	5	Sep 16	Sep 20		Trail Off					
Trail Off	NA									

[1]Trailing through allotment in preparation for the trip home

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(3Y Livestock LC)

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

2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

South Salt River	
Permittee: 3Y Livestock LC	
Authorized Season of Use: 7/6 – 9/20	Authorized Numbers: 1000 sheep (ewe/lamb)

Planned Use				**Actual Use**						
Unit	*Days Planned*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Numbers*	*Unit*	*Days Used*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Losses*	*Cause*
Trail On	NA				Trail On					
Unit 1	16	July 6	July 21							
Unit 2	10	July 22	July 31							
Unit 3	48	Aug 1	Sep 17							
Trail Off	3	Sep 18	Sep 20		Trail Off					

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(3Y Livestock LC)

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

2016 ACTUAL USE RECORD

BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
GREYS RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

North Salt River	
Permittee: 3Y Livestock LC	
Authorized Season of Use: 7/6 – 9/20	Authorized Numbers: 800 sheep (ewe/lamb)

Planned Use				**Actual Use**						
Unit	*Days Planned*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Numbers*	*Unit*	*Days Used*	*Enter Date*	*Leave Date*	*Losses*	*Cause*
Trail On	NA				Trail On					
Water Canyon	46	July 6	Aug 20							
Middle Unit	11	Aug 21	Aug 31							
Mount Wagner	12	Sep 1	Sep 12							
Middle Unit	3	Sep 13	Sep 15							
Water Canyon	5	Sep 16	Sep 20							
Trail Off	NA				Trail Off					

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(3Y Livestock LC)

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

Appendix A – 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