Big Piney Ranger District
Bridger-Teton National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
2016
BEAVER-HORSE CREEK ALLOTMENT
#2001

Barney Ranches
PO BOX 10
BIG PINEY, WY 83113

I. INTRODUCTION

The permitted use for the Beaver-Horse Creek Allotment is as follows:

1,000 cattle, cow/calf 07/01 - 10/05

The authorized numbers and tentative season of use for the 2016 grazing season is as follows:

1000 C/c	08/16 to 10/05	Chall Creek
1000 C/c	Rest	Breed Pasture
1000 C/c	07/01 to 08/15	Dry Beaver

The Permittee(s) must notify the range personnel at Big Piney, 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest.

Non-use of less than 90% of the permitted livestock numbers requires written approval. Verbal applications will not be accepted. If total non-use is approved the permittee is still responsible for their assigned improvement maintenance.

A credit/refund application must be submitted within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee and approved by the District Ranger.

The permittee is responsible for meeting the terms and conditions of the grazing permit, including day to day monitoring of forage utilization and moving livestock according to management guidelines. The vegetative utilization limits for this allotment are described below. We have attached a landscape appearance form that provides a narrative description of what different vegetative utilization percentages look like in the field. The vegetative utilization descriptions should aid the permittee and their riders in determining when the vegetative utilization limits are reached. **As a rule of thumb, two inches of stubble should remain in upland areas and four inches should remain in riparian areas.** Please contact the range personnel at Big Piney if you have questions or would like additional training in the use of these guides.

Forest Service personnel will be checking permit compliance periodically during the grazing season and will perform long term monitoring to determine if management objectives are being met.

The Forest Service will be asking for your actual use records at the end of the season. This includes the number and dates livestock enter and leave grazing units. It also includes livestock losses and causes of death. Please keep accurate records.

II. MANAGEMENT of LIVESTOCK

Initial distribution of your livestock will be in Dry Beaver Pasture. Some flexibility in livestock turn on and pasture moves may be allowed for weather conditions, range readiness and livestock needs. However, any changes need to be approved by forest personnel.

The following Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan vegetative utilization standards shall apply to this allotment for all classes of livestock:

Upland range sites-not to exceed 50% utilization on key forage species for rangelands meeting objectives and 25% utilization for rangelands not meeting objectives. Key forage species identified for the allotment in the AMP are **Festuca idahoensis** (Idaho fescue), **Poa secunda** (Sandberg bluegrass), **Agropyron trachycaulum** (Slender wheatgrass), and **Stipa lettermanii** (Letterman needlegrass).

Riparian range sites-not to exceed 50% utilization on key forage species for riparian areas meeting objectives and 25% utilization for riparian areas not meeting objectives. Key forage species identified for the allotment in the AMP are **Deschampsia caespitosa** (Tufted hair-grass), **Carex aquatilis** (Water sedge), **Carex rostrata** (Beaked sedge), **Carex nebraskensis** (Nebraska sedge) and **Poa pratensis** (Kentucky bluegrass).

Pasture rotations will be based on the vegetative utilization objectives. Once the vegetative utilization limits are met in a pasture livestock will be moved to the next pasture or at the end of the season livestock will be removed from the allotment.

Regular herding and riding practices is the key to achieving proper livestock distribution and provides for the fullest use of the grazing season.

Salt must be placed out of bottoms, oil locations, clearcuts, and no closer than ¼ mile from water, and not within 300 feet or insight of roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

Livestock that have died on the forest must be moved 300 feet of roads and trails and out of sight. If you have any bear or wolf depredation problems on the allotment, please contact forest personnel.

Permittees must familiarize themselves with the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) and comply with the travel restrictions. MVUM's are available free of charge at the District Office. Under certain circumstances a permittee may request use of a closed route by contacting Forest Personnel.

Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a good functioning condition before livestock are placed on the allotment. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

IV. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The livestock management on Beaver-Horse allotment will follow the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved in 1992. The Standards and Guidelines identified in the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan that deal with the management of this allotment are included in the AMP. It is very important you understand these Standards and Guidelines since they form the basis for the management of this allotment.

Effectiveness monitoring is long-term monitoring that occurs over an extended period of time. It is used to determine if management practices are effective in meeting Forest Plan Goals, standards and objectives for livestock grazing. The specific objective based on the established monitoring bench mark areas for the Beaver-Horse allotment are, ground cover of 70%, stream bank stability rating of 7 or higher and a riparian ecological status of late seral or higher on 85% of the steams. If these objectives are met allowable utilization limits of vegetation will be 50% of key species. If objectives are not met allowable utilization limits of vegetation will be reduced to 25% to provide for improvement.

Current condition and allowable vegetative utilization on the Beaver-Horse allotment by pasture is as follows:

PASTURE	GROUND COVER/TREND	STREAM BANK STABILITY RATING	RIPARIAN ECOLOGICAL STATUS	CURRENT ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION LIMIT
1-Dry Beaver	83.75/S	9.2 Buck Ck 7.3 S. Beaver Ck	100% meeting 100% meeting	50%
2-Chall Creek	75.3/S	7.9 Chall Ck 9.2 M Beaver Ck 9.1 N. F. Middle Beaver Ck	100% meeting 100% meeting 100% meeting	50%
3-Breed Pasture	84/S	9.3 S. F. Middle Beaver Ck 8.9 M Beaver Ck 9.4 N. F. Middle Beaver Ck	100% meeting 100% meeting 100% meeting	50%

Trend Equals: U-upward, S-stable, D-down, N-one reading no trend yet.

V. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON

Due to high production levels in 2015 allowable use levels ranged from low to moderate. The Forest will continue to monitor and collect data on the Beaver Horse allotment this season to gauge the effectiveness of the change in management from 2014.

VI. OTHER

The grazing fees for the 2016 grazing season are $2.11 per head month.

You are required to pay your grazing bill before livestock are turned onto the Forest.

ONLY Certified Weed-Free hay is allowed on National Forest System Land. If you need sources of Certified Weed-Free hay, please contact the Sublette County Weed and Pest Control office at 307/367-4728.

Review by: _____
Permittee

Approved by: _____
District Ranger