SPRING CREEK
CATTLE & HORSE ALLOTMENT

2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

Permittee		Ed Clark	Skye Clark	Ken Clark	Bert & Stacie Erickson	Dustin & Daniel Erickson	Arlo & Dianne Miller	Roberts Land & Livestock	REB Cattle & Livestock
Kind		Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle
Permitted	Class	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/calf
	Numbers	72	50	72	80	30	92	161	25
	Season of Use	June 1 – Oct 10	June 1 – Oct 10	June 1- Oct 10	June 1- Oct 10	June 1- Oct 10	June 1- Oct 10	June 1-Oct 10	June 1-Oct 10
Authorized	Class	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/calf
	Numbers	72	50	72	80		92	161	25
	Season of Use	June 15 – Oct 10	June 15 – Oct 10	June 15 - Oct 10	June 15 - Oct 10		June 15 - Oct 10	June 15 -Oct 10	June 15 - Oct 10
Non-use		0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0
Pack & Saddle Stock		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Numbers		0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0

- Pasture Rotation

Grazing Year	Pasture			
2014	1-2 – Big Ridge	Elbow	2	1
2013	1-Big Ridge	2	Elbow	1
2012	1-Big Ridge	Elbow	2	1
2011	1-Big Ridge	2	Elbow	1
2010	1-Big Ridge	Elbow	2	1

- Permitted Livestock Brands

Ed Clark	Skye Clark	Ken Clark	Bert & Stacie Erickson	Dustin & Daniel Erickson	Arlo & Dianne Miller	Roberts Land & Livestock	REB Cattle & Livestock

II. COMPLIANCE

- This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a).

- 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 the District Ranger 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, PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

IV. BILLING

- Due Date – The Bill for Collection is preferably due 5 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 the grazing permit.

V. 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.

- 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.

VI. 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
  - **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.

VII. 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 maintainable to function, will usually 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.

Improvement	Description	Location	INFRA #	Maintenance
Big Ridge	Water Development, Troughs		003108	Group
Pine Knoll	Water Development, Pond		003111	Group
Third Creek	Water Development, Troughs		003112	Ken & Skye Clark
Spring Creek	Corrals		003114	Group
Crow Creek	Water Development, Troughs		003116	Group
Spring Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003131	Private
Spraugue Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003132	Private
Spring Creek – Crow Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003133	Group
First Creek	Fence, Drift		003134	Group
Second Creek	Fence, Drift		003135	Group
Big Ridge #1	Water Development, Pond		003140	Group
Big Ridge #2	Water Development, Pond		003141	Group
Big Ridge #3	Water Development, Pond		003142	Group
Dip Creek	Water Development, Troughs		003148	D&D Erickson
Big Ridge #4	Water Development, Pond		003153	Group
Big Ridge #5	Water Development, Pond		003154	Group
Big Ridge	Corrals		003155	Group
Big Ridge	Fence, Drift		003156	Group

2014 Projects: Listed below are agreed to maintenance and improvement projects that will be completed in the current grazing season.

Improvement	Description	Location	FS Contribution	Permittee Contribution	INFRA #
Spring Creek	Corrals		All materials needed to complete the job.	All labor and equipment needed to complete the job.	003114

Big Ridge	Water Development, Troughs		All materials needed to complete the job.	All labor and equipment needed to complete the job.	003108
First Creek	Fence, Drift		All materials needed to make fence functional.	All labor and equipment needed to make fence functional.	003134
Spring Creek Parking Area	Parking Lot		3" unwashed rock delivered to parking area for a 6" cover.	All labor and equipment needed to spread rock over parking area.	n/a

VII. PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

- Salt can be used to improve livestock distribution. No more than 50 pounds of salt will be placed at any one location at any time. Salt will be placed on rock or hardened areas to prevent salt leaching into the ground and permanent site damage. Salt will not be placed outside the allotment boundary. All salting will be done away from key forage use areas and traditional livestock congregating areas. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile of streams or wetlands, riparian areas, roads, FS trails, developed recreation areas, dispersed camp and recreation sites except as agreed to by the Forest Service. Prior to an area reaching the forage use standard, all salt will be removed.

- 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 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 for uniform proper forage utilization. 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 non-uniform proper 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 an attractant as well as unavailable to bears and other wildlife. Unavailable means stored in approved bear resistant containers; closed vehicles, campers or RV's constructed of solid non-pliable material; OR suspended at least 10 feet clear at all points from the ground and at least 4 feet from all points that can support a bear. Burning also makes food stuffs and garbage unavailable to bears so long as it is completely burned.

VIII. REQUIRED REPORTING

- An Actual Use form will be mailed at the end of the grazing season and will be returned to the Greys River RD office by December 31, 2014.

- The Permittee should 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 Guide. Forage use within identified key use areas should range between 4 and 6 inch stubble height for riparian grass species on the greenline 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. Alteration of the greenline should not exceed a 20% guide. Key use areas may change and will be agreed to by the Forest Service and the permittee.

- 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

Livestock carcasses within ¼ mile of live water, system roads and trails and all recreation areas, will be identified to the Forest Service to determine if it must be moved for recreational safety and how far. The Forest Service and permittees will determine if the carcass is an attractant to bears and the mitigation to be implemented. It will be determined if the carcass is a health or safety hazard to the public and permittees, and if there are other mitigation measures for safety. Until the Forest Service can be contacted, the permittee will move the carcass at least 50 feet above the high water mark or to the first flood plain bench from standing water and streams (whichever is further), and using their best judgment for forest visitor safety.

XII. MAPS, FORMS & ATTACHMENTS

Attachments;

- Allotment Map

XIII. Signature Block

x Ken Clark 5-8-2014 / Richard Raione 5-12-14

Permittee, **Date** **District Ranger,** **Date**