

# BIG GREYS CREEK CATTLE & HORSE ALLOTMENT

## 2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### I. INTRODUCTION

Permittee		Wanetta or Marc Clark	Archie & Corine Nelson Family Trust	Justin McKinnon	Preston Ranches	Doyle Simpson	
<b>Kind</b>		Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle	Cattle
<b>Permitted</b>	<b>Class</b>	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Yearling
	<b>Numbers</b>	252	128	96	25	62	40
	<b>Season of Use</b>	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7
<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Class</b>	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Cow/Calf	Yearling
	<b>Numbers</b>	250	127	95		61	40
	<b>Season of Use</b>	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7	June 16 - Oct 7
<b>Non-use</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Pack &amp; Saddle Stock</b>		2	1	1	1	1	0

- Permitted Livestock Brands

Wanetta or Marc Clark	Archie & Corine Nelson Family Trust	Justin McKinnon	Preston Ranches	Doyle Simpson
RC				

- Pasture Rotation

Grazing Year	Pasture		
2014*	2	3	1
2013	1	2	3
2012	1	2	3
2011	1	2	3
2010	1	2	3

\*As conditions allow due to excessive snow moisture.

### 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**

See also keys sites results at Section IX.

### **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.
  - The forage utilization standard is a 4 inch riparian stubble height/
  - Stubble height is an average of the key areas by pasture for riparian species at the end of the permitted season.
  - This standard for stubble height average of the key areas by pasture for non-riparian species at the end of the permitted season is 3 inches in valley bottoms, including but not limited to saturated soils.
  - Forage utilization standard on uplands is 50 percent 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.

## 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
Lower Sheep Creek	Fence, Interior		003050	**
Big Greys 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fence, Interior		003051	D Simpson
Upper Sheep Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003049	A Nelson
Deadman	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003020	J McKinnon
Blind Bull	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003018	J McKinnon
White Creek 1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fence, Interior		003023	J McKinnon
Bear Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003012	W/M Clark
Cabin Creek	Fence, Altmt Boundary			W/M Clark
Fire Trail	Fence, Drift		003027	W/M Clark
Deer Creek	Corrals		003165	Preston Ranches
Forest Park	Water Dvlpmt, Trough		003043	*
Three Forks	Fence, Altmt Boundary		003010	Preston Ranches
Gillis Flat	Corrals		003143	All Permittees
Trail Creek	Fence, Interior			*
Alpine	Fence, Altmt Bdry & Cattle Guard			Forest Service
Blind Bull	Corrals			All Permittees

\* Not Functioning      \*\* Does Not Exist

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

<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>FS Contribution</b>	<b>Permittee Contribution</b>	<b>INFRA #</b>
Big Greys	Fence, Interior		All materials needed to complete the project.	All labor and equipment to complete the project.	003051
Fire Trail	Fence, Drift		All materials needed to complete the project.	All labor and equipment to complete the project.	003027
Sheep Crk	Fence, Interior		All materials needed to complete the project.	All labor and equipment to complete the project	003050
Blind Bull	Corrals		All materials needed to complete the project.	All labor and equipment to complete the project	
Three Forks	Fence, Altmt. Boundary		All labor and equipment to complete the project	All labor and equipment to complete the project	003010
White Creek	Fence, Interior		All labor and equipment to complete the project	All labor and equipment to complete the project	003023

## 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.
- 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 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
<b>GRASS</b>		
Wheatgrass spp.	8 inch plant height	Seed stalk showing
Idaho Fescue	5 inch leaf length	Seed head present
Prairie Junegrass	5 inch leaf 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
<b>GRASSLIKE</b>		
Nebraska sedge		Seed in late dough
<b>FORBS</b>		
Western Yarrow	Flower stalk showing	
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	¾ leaf development	Blossom beginning
Geranium	4 inch leaf length	Flower in bloom
<b>SHRUBS</b>		
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 - The forage utilization standard is a 4 inch riparian stubble height. Stubble height is an average of the key areas by pasture for riparian species at the end of the permitted season. This standard for stubble height

average of the key areas by pasture for non-riparian species at the end of the permitted season is 3 inches in valley bottoms, including but not limited to saturated soils. Forage utilization standard on uplands is 50 percent of current year's annual production. End of graaing season greenline stubble height will be 4-6 inches with a minimum greenline alteration for < 20%.

- Permittee Monitoring – It is the Permittees responsibility to ensure that Forest Plan, Allotment Management Plan and Annual Operating Instructions utilization standards are met.
- Key Areas – 2010 Monitoring

Site Name	Location (12 UTM)	Monitoring Type	Ungrazed	Grazed
Sheep Creek	524293 4745836	Paired Plot	1850 #/ac	
Indian Grave Flat	516730 4760810			
	516743 4760725			
	516780 4760712	Paired Plot	2500 #/ac	900 #/ac
Cabin Creek	523945 4746468	Paired Plot	900 #/ac	650 #/ac
	523967 4747038			
Forest Park	525332 4741703			
Buck Creek	524915 4741943			
	52**** **4767			
	524946 4743196			
	524899 4743135			
	525173 4743095			
Blind Bull	522890 4754377			
	522910 4754064			
	522945 4754322	Paired Plot	1000 #/ac	650 #/ac
	522901 4754087			
	522928 4754450	Nested Frequency		
Murphy Creek	512924 4767902			
	509142 4765856			
	509677 4766089			
	512561 4768306			
Mile Flat	514199 4767142			
	514164 4767145			
	514077 476744	Paired Plot	2100 #/ac	950 #/ac
White Crk Mdw	516347 4761205	Paired Plot	3000 #/ac	1100#/ac

- 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 Mark Clark 5-25-14  
Permittee, Date

Richard Raine 6-3-14  
District Ranger, Date

