



**File Code:** 2230; 2210  
**Date:** June 2, 2016

Delbert Hughes  
 c/o: Ryan Hughes  
 25521 N Highway 93  
 Challis, ID 83226

Dear Ryan,

This letter serves as your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin Cattle and Horse Allotment and is the part of your Term Grazing Permit #20074, identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8.

**As a result of non-compliance during the grazing season of 2015 for allowing your livestock to graze past the mandatory move date and exceeding grazing use standards, a portion of the permitted season of use in 2016 and 2017 has been suspended with a required off-date of September 15.**

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of allowable use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your Rangeland Management Specialist, Barry Dopp, to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Any extension of dates outside the permitted season of use cannot be authorized.**

**Term Permitted Use**

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Chamberlain Ranch	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	299 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/31	1504
Hughes, Delbert	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	416 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/31	2093
Jones Estate	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	32 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/31	161
Jones Estate	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	38 Horses	06/01 – 10/31	257
Martiny, Jim	Morgan Creek-Prairie	180 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/31	905



	Basin			
O'Neal, Ben	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	104 Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/31	523

### 2016 Authorized Use

Permittee	Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Chamberlain Ranch	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	299 Cow/calf	06/14 – 09/15	924
Hughes, Delbert	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	180 Cow/calf	06/14 – 09/15	556
Martiny, Jim	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	180 Cow/calf	06/14 – 09/15	556
O'Neal, Ben	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	104 Cow/calf	06/14 – 09/15	321
Jones Estate	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	0 Cow/calf	Non-use	
Jones Estate	Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin	0 horses	Not Authorized	

The Jones Estate is under full suspension of 38 horses for the 2016 grazing seasons.

### 2016 Unit Schedule

The dates below are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. Initiate livestock movement so that all livestock are completely removed from Unit 1 by **August 14, 2016**, and from the Forest no later than **September 15, 2016**.

Unit	No. And Class	On-Date	Off-Date
Unit 1	763 Cow/calf	06/14	08/14
Unit 3	763 Cow/calf	08/15	09/15
Unit 2 Morgan Creek – Prairie Basin	Rest		

### Allowable Use

It is your responsibility to be aware of, and to recognize, utilization and streambank alteration allowable use standards. Regardless of the Unit Schedule shown above you must move your livestock to the next unit planned or off the allotment prior to exceeding these standards. Part 3 of your term grazing permit identifies these allowable use standards; see the table below for standards applicable to this year. Once livestock are removed from a unit in accordance with allowable

standards and/or unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards. Do not rely on Forest Service range personnel to notify you when it is time to move.

### Allowable Use Standards

Unit	Endpoint Indicator			
	Average Greenline Stubble Height	Bank Alteration	Woody Browse Key Species	Upland Utilization
<b>Unit 1 –</b> West Fork Morgan Creek Little West Fork Creek	≥4 inches	≤15%	≤30% Willow, Alder, Birch	≤50%
<b>Unit 1 –</b> Van Horn Creek Trail Creek Lick Creek	≥5 inches	≤10%	≤30% Willow, Alder, Birch	≤50%
<b>Unit 1 –</b> Morgan Creek	≥6 inches	≤10%	≤30% Willow, Alder, Birch	≤50%
<b>Unit 3 -</b> Burnt Gulch Corral Creek	≥6 inches	≤15%	≤30% Willow, Alder, Birch	≤50%
<b>Unit 2 –</b> Morgan Creek Block Creek	<b>No use by livestock is to occur</b>			
<b>Unit 2 - Prairie Basin -</b> Opal Creek Panther Creek Ed's Meadow Opal Confluence Panther Creek South Fork Moyer	<b>No use by livestock is to occur</b>			
<b>Unit 2 – Prairie Basin -</b> Upper Silver Creek Silver Creek	<b>No use by livestock is to occur</b>			

## **Biological Assessment/Opinion Requirements**

Per the 2010 Biological Assessment for the Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin C&H Allotment, the following conservation measures will be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish:

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used.
2. The on date is dependent on range readiness to help you meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
3. Annual use indicators dictate when livestock are to be moved between units or completely off the allotment. This includes any moves in response to fish spawning as well as to help you meet our long term riparian resource objectives.
4. You are still required to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
5. You are required ride the allotment three to five times per week to reduce the potential impacts on spawning areas, designated critical habitat, and, particularly before July 7, to reduce impacts to Snake River Basin steelhead spawning habitats.
6. You are required to actively herd livestock through upper Morgan Creek (“The Narrows”); the intended result is to not have livestock in this area unless they are being trailed by a rider.
7. You and your riders must take all practicable measures to keep cattle on established ford crossings during trailing operations between units and when coming on/off the allotment.
8. All exclosures, drift fences, and water developments that reduce cattle use adjacent to streams with ESA-listed fish species, and keep livestock in the scheduled pastures, are to be properly maintained and function as intended.

## **Range Improvements**

All range improvements listed as your responsibility in Part 3 of your term grazing permit must be maintained to the standards identified in Part 3 prior to livestock being placed in each unit. No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you or any of your personnel without prior approval from the District Ranger. Materials for reconstruction **may** be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

- Replace approximately a 100 foot section of fence which is part of a Unit 1 boundary fence near the Trail Creek confluence with Morgan Creek. The permittees and the Rangeland Management Specialist will go to this fence site prior to turn out of livestock to look at the feasibility of replacing a 100 foot section wire fence with a jack fence.

## **Permittee’s Management Responsibilities**

1. Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit. The grazing fee for 2016 is \$2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing Bill for Collection is due ten days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. You may make payment in one of three ways:

Mail your payment to:

USDA Forest Service  
C/O Citibank  
P.O. Box 301550  
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

You must include the Bill Number and Payer Code number on your check.

Or, pay your bill online at: [WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY). Save your receipt of payment.

Or, pay your bill between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at any Ranger District office or the Public Lands Center located in Salmon. Please bring a copy of your bill with you.

2. The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motorized use are shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle use maps may be obtained at any Salmon-Challis Ranger District office. These prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (as detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a). **The Salmon-Challis National Forest requires a Vehicle Use Permit, signed by the District Ranger, for ALL closed roads or off road travel. This permit must be displayed in the windshield of trucks or carried on ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles. Complete and return the enclosed Vehicle Use Permit if it is necessary for you to travel on closed roads or off-road in the administration on your allotment.**
3. Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay Order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention of noxious weeds on your allotment. All equipment which is used for approved travel off of open roads should be free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands.
4. Return your completed actual use form (enclosed) to Barry Dopp by December 1, 2016. Please note on the second page our request for your priority reconstruction needs. The Forest Service uses this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for new improvement projects and improvement reconstruction. Actual use is required annually by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the form is appreciated.
5. If the ownership of the livestock or the base property listed on your permit is about to change, please notify your Rangeland Management Specialist promptly.

6. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.
7. With multiple-uses on the forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.
8. Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

**Other Considerations**

Please immediately report wildfire to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center at (208) 756-5157.

We may conduct range inspections during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, allowable use standards, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are welcome to participate in these inspections; please contact Barry Dopp if you would like to join Forest range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotment.

Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Rangeland Management Specialist.

Meadow potential and sage grouse habitat assessments may be conducted on your allotment in 2016. These assessments will identify site potential, verify habitat, and evaluate current conditions relative to implementing the 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Record of Decision. We will be contacting you to invite you to participate in these field assessments.

If you have any questions regarding these annual operating instructions, please contact Barry Dopp, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4100. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Wood*

KATHERINE WOOD  
District Ranger

Enclosures: Actual Use Report  
Vehicle Use Permit  
Grazing Bill