



File Code: 2230

Date: May 24, 2013

Hughes Estate
% Ryan Hughes

Challis, ID 83226

Dear Ryan,

This letter serves as your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions for the Morgan Creek C&H allotment, and should be considered an extension of Term Grazing Permit # 20074. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions.

A suspension of **25 percent of your term grazing privilege is in place for the 2013 and 2014 grazing seasons.** The 25 percent suspension is for a reduced season of your authorized use for the 2013 grazing. On National Forest System Lands the season of use will be from June 1 to September 23.

Permitted Use

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Delbert Hughes	416 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	2093
Jim Dowton	194 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	976
Chamberlain Ranch	299 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	1504
Jim Martiny	180 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	905
Ben O'Neal	104 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	523
Jones Estate	32 cow/calf	Term	6/01-10/31	161
Jones Estate	51 horses	Term	6/01-10/31	257

Authorized Use for 2013

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Delbert Hughes	180 cow/calf	Term	06/01-9/23	905
Jim Dowton	0 cow/calf	Term	non-use	non-use
Chamberlain Ranch	299 cow/calf	Term	6/01-9/23	1504
Jim Martiny	180 cow/calf	Term	6/01-9/23	905
Ben O'Neal	104 cow/calf	Term	6/01-9/23	523
Jones Estate	0 cow/calf	Term	non-use	non-use
Jones Estate	51 horses	Term	06/01-10/31 ^A	257

^AJones is not grazing 32 cow/calf pairs or 39% of the permitted head months



Pasture Rotation for 2013

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Unit 1 (BLM)	763 cow/calf & 51 horses	5/01-15	06/01
Unit 1(FS)	763 cow/calf & 51 horses	06/01	08/15
Unit 3 (FS)	763 cow/calf & 51 horses	08/16	9/23
Unit 1 (BLM)	763 cow/calf & 51 horses	---	---
Unit 2 Morgan-Prairie (FS/BLM)	0	Rest	Rest

The on-date is only a guide since actual turnout will be when range readiness occurs. Moves from unit to unit will occur before forage utilization standards have been met and no later than the scheduled off-date.

Utilization Standards

Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
Unit 1 – West Fork Morgan Cr & Little West Fork Morgan Cr.	Greenline stubble	>4 in	Carex	5 in
	Bank alteration	<15%	N/A	10%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/Birch	25%
Unit 1 – VanHorn Cr Trail Cr Lick Cr	Greenline stubble	>5 in	Carex	6 in
	Bank alteration	<10%	N/A	10%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/Birch	25%
Unit 1 – Morgan Cr	Greenline stubble	>6 in	Carex	7 in
	Bank alteration	<10%	N/A	10%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/Birch	25%
Unit 2 – Morgan Cr & Block Creek	Greenline stubble	>4 in	Carex	5 in
	Bank alteration	<20%	N/A	15%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/Birch	25%
Unit 3 Burnt Gulch &	Greenline stubble	>6 in	Carex	7 in

Unit – Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
Corral Cr	Bank alteration	<15%	N/A	10%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/Birch	25%
Unit 2 Johnly Opal Cr Panther Cr South Fork Moyer Cr	Greenline stubble	>4 in	Carex	5 in
	Bank alteration	<20%	N/A	15%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/Birch	25%
Unit 2 – Upper Silver Cr & Silver Cr	Greenline stubble	>4 in	Carex	5 in
	Bank alteration	<20%	N/A	15%
	Browse Use	<30%	Willow/Alder/Birch	25%
Morgan Creek (<6,000)	Utilization	<50%	Bluebunch wheatgrass (AGSP), Poverty oat grass (DASP)	50%
Morgan Creek (>6,000 – 7500)			AGSP and Idaho Fescue (FEID)	
Prairie Basin		>4 in	AGSP & DASP	

Conservation Measures

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Resting a unit each year provides benefits to riparian vegetation. Early season use provides benefits to riparian vegetation. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for greenline successional status.
2. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness. This will reduce potential for bank alteration. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
3. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment within the terms of the term grazing permit including moves in response to fish spawning. This will help us meet our long term riparian resource objectives. Annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel.
4. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from creeks. This will continue to

reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.

5. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) three to five times per week, reducing potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
6. Fences and water developments have been placed to reduce livestock use on streams and their associated riparian areas. This will continue to reduce impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
7. Active herding of livestock through sensitive streamside areas of upper Morgan Creek ("The Narrows") to reduce livestock residency during trailing operations.
8. Frequent (twice per week) riding is implemented in the Units 1 and 2 during the Snake River Basin steelhead incubation period (June 1 to July 7). Intent of riding will be to reduce cattle use within and adjacent to potential Snake River Basin steelhead spawning habitats in these Units.
9. Riders take all practicable measures to keep cattle on established ford crossings during trailing operations between units and on/off the allotment.
10. All exclosures, drift fences, and water developments that reduce cattle use adjacent to streams with ESA-listed fish species are to be properly maintained and functioning as intended.

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. *Please inform the authorized officer in charge 3 days prior to initial livestock turn-out. If you move onto the Allotment late and want to stay past your off date, you must make arrangements early in the grazing season and obtain prior approval from the District Ranger.*
2. *Do not wait for the authorized officer to tell you it is time to move to the next unit. It is the Permittee's responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded and to notify the Forest Officer of this move.*
3. Riding and herding is necessary to properly distribute livestock. The permittee will provide a rider throughout the grazing season to maintain proper distribution of livestock, reduce use in riparian areas, and prevent concentrated use by livestock that could result in portions of the pasture becoming over-utilized. Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored to ensure that utilization standards are met. Range personnel will monitor riparian and upland forage utilization.
4. Salt should be placed on suitable range at least ¼ to ½ mile from permanently located watering places, riparian zones, meadows and other areas where livestock naturally congregate. Placement should be in upland areas where additional forage utilization is desired. Salting areas should be moved annually to avoid permanent damage around salting grounds. Do not use the same salting grounds year after year.

5. *Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored.* Range personnel will monitor forage use in areas where livestock concentrate.
6. 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 the *permittee's* responsibility to keep their animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture within 24 hours of notification by phone or letter. Early use or repeated use of unauthorized pastures could result in an early move or off-date, or cancellation or suspension of your permit. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.
7. Any carcass or animal remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails and roads within 24 hours of notification by a forest officer.
8. Under Special Order # 04-00-097 all hay, straw, or mulch brought onto the forest must be Certified Weed Free.
9. The agency requests that you (the permittee) be a pro-active partner in the inventory, management, and treatment of noxious weeds on your allotment and adjacent National Forest System lands. All equipment which is used off of open roads on federal lands (for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities) should be cleaned and free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands. Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your Range Management Specialist. Inspect and clean motorized and mechanized trail vehicles of weeds and their seeds before and after using Forest roads and trails.
10. *The move-off date is the date you must have all livestock off the grazing Allotment, not the day to start moving livestock off the Allotment.*

Range Improvements

Thank you for your efforts to continue maintenance and/or reconstruction to structural improvements on your allotment. Per our meeting this spring, reconstruction and/or maintenance needs are tying the newly constructed Morgan Creek protection fence near Lick Creek into the rocks above the road; the removal of the old Cow Camp fence along Morgan Creek road; and the maintenance of all fences in Units 1 and 3. **These developments are necessary to control livestock and will need to be fully functional prior to livestock turnout in 2013.**

All annual maintenance on assigned improvements must be completed per your Term Grazing Permit. Range improvements will be maintained *before livestock enter a pasture or the allotment*. They should be kept to a standard of repair which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are shown on the Allotment map. If you have questions regarding what improvements are your responsibilities, please contact your Range Management Specialist. *Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.*

Other Considerations

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your allotment.

Enclosed is a Year-End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use data for 2013 and range improvement needs for future grazing season. Please record the date and number of livestock turned onto the allotment, the dates livestock are moved to and from each pasture, and the date livestock are removed off the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work completed, and future range improvement needs should be returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds, which are used to purchase materials for improvement reconstruction.

If you have any questions regarding these Annual Operating Instructions, please call me or Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, at 208-879-4100. We are looking forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

KRIS STEIN
District Ranger

Enclosure