

P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, Ca. 94701

November 1, 1973

Memorandum

To: Director, BLM
From: August L. Hornay, Range Conservationist, Berkeley
Subject: Reassignment

This is in reply to Associate Director George Turcott's memorandum of October 24, 1973.

When I joined The Bureau in 1966 it was with the understanding that I would not be assigned to a Service Center. I felt that such an office was not a suitable place for me to carry out my ideas on rest-rotation land management. Events of the past seven years have convinced me of this more than ever.

I was reluctant also about being assigned to the Range Division. I was afraid people would get the impression my main interest was grazing. And it turned out this way. Many, if not most, people stamp me as a range man in spite of the fact that in all my lectures and pronouncements my main theme has been multiple-use land management. The principal reason for this misunderstanding stems from the fact that I have not been associated with the office that deals with multiple-use management - namely, the Resources Office.

The Bureau has proceeded with its own ideas on rest-rotation management, seeking little or no advice from me about planning and practicing it. To say the least results to date have been less than satisfactory.

With the proper approach there is no reason why The Bureau could not acquire sound understanding, and a good working knowledge of rest-rotation land management in two or three years. I will be glad to discuss this approach with The Bureau if it is interested.

I am not interested in being assigned to the Denver Service Center, nor travelling the route of the past seven years.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

NORTH PLATTE STATION

NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA 69101

November 8, 1973

PHONE: 308 532-3611

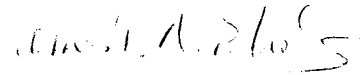
Dr. August L. Hormay
101 Acadia
San Francisco, California 94131

Dear Gus:

I need all the information I can get my hands on relating to grazing systems. Could you send me reprints of the work you have published and any training manuals you have available such as the Forest Service text 4(2200).

Your consideration to this request will certainly be appreciated.

Sincerely,



James T. Nichols
Associate Professor
Agronomy (Range & Forage)

ma

November 14, 1973

File

Dr. James T. Nichols
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln
College of Agriculture
North Platte Station
North Platte, Nebraska 69101

Dear Dr. Nichols:

Enclosed are three of my publications on grazing management:

1. How Livestock Grazing Habits and Growth Requirements of Range Plants Determine Sound Grazing Management - 1956.
2. Rest-Rotation Grazing...A New Management System for Perennial Bunchgrass Ranges - 1961.
3. Principles of Rest-Rotation Grazing and Multiple-Use Land Management - 1970.

Wayne C. Hickey, Jr. of the Forest Service prepared a publication entitled "A Discussion of Grazing Management Systems and Some Pertinent Literature (Abstracts and Excerpts); 1895 - 1966." Perhaps you have a copy. If not, you probably can get one from the Forest Service.

Grazing systems described in publications have little practical utility. The range manager is left with the question "Does this or that system fit my situation?" I did not conclude this question with the word "best" because a system may be the best of a lot and still be wholly inadequate. No two ranges are alike. Each requires a particular or special grazing system. Such a unique system must be formulated. This is what range managers must learn to do.

A rest-rotation grazing system is a designed system. It does not exist until it is formulated by the range manager to meet objectives and conditions of the particular range.

Development of a good range manager starts in school. I wish you success in teaching the fundamentals of range management.

Sincerely,

AUGUST L. HORMAY
Range Conservationist

cc: Director, Wash., D.C.
Enclosures

Form 1542-4
 (August 1965)
 (formerly 4-112a)

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO			ACTION	ROOM NO.
CODE	NAME	ORGANIZATION		
358	Range			

Indicate Action by Number

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Necessary action | 6. Note and surname |
| 2. Approval | 7. Note and return |
| 3. Signature | 8. Your information |
| 4. Prepare reply | 9. See me |
| 5. Your comment and return | 10. |

From	<i>Shu Lee</i>	Date	<i>11/15</i>	Room No.	
Office	<i>acting 300</i>			Phone	

Remarks

*See Hasteys note on Horvay memo.
 We should write Horvay telling him
 he is assigned to DSC under sup. of
 Fulcher. He may stay at Berkeley.
 and that Fulcher will be in contact
 with him to work out Awp details*



United States Department of the Interior

3112(330)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, Ca. 94701

*Direction from
S.C. - Chief
Resources
Expect more
experience work
what in support
Do to do*

November 1, 1973

Memorandum

To: Director, BLM

From: August L. Hormay, Range Conservationist, Berkeley

Subject: Reassignment

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A. L. Hormay

*rest-rotation
center
difficult
Do further
will be in
contact to
budget - ADP*

State Director, Montana

November 29, 1973

Ref: 1400-410

District Manager, Billings

Request for Gus Hormay to
Conduct Rest-Rotation Training

Please see if you can arrange for Gus Hormay to personally conduct a rest-rotation training session in Billings this FY.

The Billings District is urgently in need of Gus's assistance. We have five employees who are working directly with AMP's who have not had any training. If the session is held in Billings, I have an additional 6 employees that it would be highly desirable to have attend making a total of 11 trainees.

We have an additional reason for making the request. Gus's personal assistance is urgently needed for advice on how to approach a rest-rotation grazing system for the Pryor Mountain wild horses.

The proposal for a wild horse system was dropped out early in the Pryor Mountain MFP process due to adverse reaction at early interest group meetings.

However, in the final analysis of public comments, we have recently agreed with the Forest Service to resurface the matter in the decisions in order to be responsive to valid criticism of the Montana Fish and Game Department. The decisions will be issued in the near future and will state that all possible efforts will be made to see if a system can be worked out. Therefore, we need Gus's personal assistance considering the degree of adverse reaction received to the proposal earlier in the planning process.

Gus's time schedule should be prepared to allow for two to three days on the wild horse range in addition to conducting the training session.

We appreciate your assistance.

/s/ G. Rex Cleaver

bcc: August L. (Gus) Hormay



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

6701(M-3)(930)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho State Office
Room 398, Federal Building
550 W. Fort Street
P.O. Box 042
Boise, Idaho 83724

November 30, 1973

Mr. A.L. "Gus" Hormay, Range Conservationist
Bureau of Land Management
Pacific Southwest Forest & Range Experiment
Station, U.S. Forest Service
1960 Addison Street, P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, California 94701

Dear Gus;

Attached is a copy of a letter we received from Jim Morgan concerning the Morgan Creek Area which should interest you.

If you have any suggestions for implementing his recommendations, please let us know.

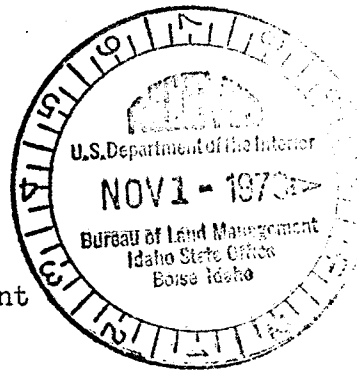
We plan to make some adjustments in licensing procedures in the Black Mountain Allotment this winter and are looking forward to receiving your recommendations for establishing a grazing system for this area.

Sincerely yours,

Attachment

Oct 26, 1973

James K. Morgan
Route 1 box 49
Stevensville, Mont. 59870



Wm. L. Mathews
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Boise, Idaho

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your letter and kind comments on the National Geographic article. It seems like public interest in both bighorns and public lands is picking up and it's rewarding to me to think that will help stabilize bighorn's dwindling numbers.

I did spend a few days on the Morgan Creek study area to refresh my memory and look into current progress there. My strongest impressions were; (1) that the bighorn sheep pasture has made excellent recovery and gives me greater hope than at any future time that the bighorn decline will be stabilized, (2) the spray area on third springs has blossomed beautifully out into golden grasses, another encouraging sign, and (3) the small, but vital, segment of pasture 2 on the lower SW side of Morgan Creek is still suffering from overgrazing and should be included with the already reserved NE side for exclusive bighorn use.

Overall, there is more grass standing crop on the Morgan Creek Range now than I've ever seen. Your people are to be commended for a good job done under admittedly difficult circumstances. Specifically, I feel that if you could add that small segment of lower morgan creek on the SW side to the reserved bighorn sheep pasture, your chances of stabilizing the bighorn sheep herd until future benefits of the rest rotation grazing become available to them would be excellent. I strongly recommend that this action be considered at once.

In thinking about long term objectives, my immediate impulse is to say that since the Morgan Creek Allotment is a fragile watershed with a high potential for damage from grazing, and since it also has a high potential for recreation, watershed and wildlife, we ought to be thinking of easing grazing off the area in favor of these other, soon to be in short supply values. I'm wondering if operation of some BIM land in the valley bottom as irrigated pastures wouldn't cost us less, in both money and resources, in the long run. And an irrigated acre in the bottom would take a lot of cows off a watershed. I forsee the demand for public use of public lands to eventually crowd the livestock industry more and more onto private lands and feel we ought to be looking that way in our planning.

I have enclosed a summary of my observations and recommendations resulting from my visit to the Morgan Creek study area. I'm planning to maintain communications with the Salmon District people as this project evolves. Hugh Harper has given me a glimpse of the problems you've encountered with land planning in the Challis Unit and I also intend to work to assist you with this if I can. I'll be submitting my suggestions on this and the East Fork bighorn herd soon.

It's too bad you lost Hugh Harper. He's a good man and I'll bet he won't like the polluted air of Denver much.

Sincerely
James K. Morgan

October 26, 1973

James K. Morgan
Route 1, box 49
Stevensville, Mont. 59870

OBSERVATIONS, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
STEMMING FROM A SEPTEMBER, 1973 VISIT TO
MORGAN CREEK BIGHORN SHEEP WINTER RANGES

CAT-EARS BIGHORN SHEEP PASTURE.

There is currently a greater standing crop of grass in this pasture than at any previous time in my experience. While the number of individual grassplants has not increased, a marked recovery of existing grassplants is evident, particularly in the sheep-trap basin vicinity. The increased standing crop and vigor of existing grassplants appears to be a direct response to curtailment of grazing in this unit. The dramatic recovery of grasses in the sheep-trap basin area appears to be a direct response to the sagebrush spray project combined with cessation of grazing. Lack of grassplant reproduction in this pasture appears to be related to previous soil erosion in the area that has removed soil necessary for optimum seedling establishment and low rainfall in the area. It can be predicted that re-establishment of grass seedlings will be slow.

The sage spray project appears to have been successful. Grassplants have made impressive recovery with death of sage. The primary limitations of this project were; (1) the random manner of spray application which left much of the sage untouched and, (2) the small, limited area sprayed which did not increase grass standing crop significantly in relation to the whole. An early fear with regards to sagebrush spraying was the possibility of erosion due to lessened plant cover as the sage died. This fear appears to be unfounded. The dead sage trunks remain standing and appear to be holding soil as effectively as when the plant was alive. The rapid recovery of individual grass plants with death of the sage would appear to be increasing the soil-holding capability of the watershed.

Total exclusion of grazing from the Cat-Ears Bighorn Sheep Pasture has resulted in promising and, for such a low rainfall area, rapid increase in the amount of grass forage available to wintering bighorn sheep. The Bureau of Land Management is to be highly commended for this vital consideration to the welfare of the Morgan Creek Bighorn Sheep Herd.

SECOND SPRING BASIN SPRAY AREA

Excessive past use has fostered heavy cheatgrass invasions in the bottoms and proximate sidehills. Sagebrush kill as a result of spraying and apparent grass recovery are negligible. The sage spray job in this area would have to be adjudged a failure at this point and the question of grass recovery is contingent on alleviation of future grazing pressure. This area has had heavy use resulting in severe depletion of native grasses and will require carefully controlled use in the future to achieve any measure of recovery.

Since sage spray jobs in nearby areas were much more successful I find it interesting that this one did not show more results. Two possibilities are, (1) Initial condition at time of spraying which has retarded recovery, and (2) error in mixing spray in tanks (I personally witnessed one serious error by the mixing crew, which was not supervised).

THIRD SPRING SPRAY AREA

The excellent recovery of grasses on this sprayed area is the most rewarding and promising aspect of the Morgan Creek Management Plan. This area shows excellent promise for grass rejuvenation and could potentially absorb grazing pressure from lower and more critical ranges in the future.

There are strong indications that sage, once established, is able to inhibit the vigor of grasses. The enclosure in this area, which is half sprayed and half unsprayed, bears out this contention. Grasses are apparently recovering much better in the sprayed portion.

OLD STAGE ROAD, SW SIDE OF LOWER MORGAN CREEK.

This area, the small, lower segment of pasture 2, is of crucial importance to the survival of bighorn sheep on Morgan Creek. There is evidence that some segments of the herd depend heavily on this area during winter and seldom, if ever, cross to the NorthEast side.

South slopes are severely exposed with heavy soil erosion still evident. No grass recovery due to either spray or rest-rotation grazing is evident. During winter, deer competition is most severe in this segment. Currently it is in the poorest condition of any part of the range utilized by bighorns. The enclosure in the area is showing strong grass recovery as opposed to little or none on the outside. Sandberg bluegrass seems to be holding better in the grazed area than Bluebunch wheatgrass, opening the possibility that *Agropyron spicatum*, the most important grass for bighorns, is being eliminated in the area by excessive grazing.

The deteriorating condition of this vital winter range segment remains the most significant current limitation to stabilization of the Morgan Creek Bighorn Sheep Herd and continued grazing will aggravate the existing deteriorated forage and soil condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS.....

I. Cat Bars Bighorn Sheep Pasture

- A. Continue to reserve this area for exclusive bighorn sheep use and as a test area for comparing grass and soil stabilization recovery in grazed and non-grazed segments.
- B. Pursue an active program of trespass deterrant to avoid the possibility of accidental or deliberate release of livestock into this important area.
- C. Initiate experimental sage burning in the sheep trap basin vicinity to accelerate the recovery of grasses and to compare the effectiveness of fire as opposed to spray. This is the only area with sage heavy enough to carry fire and a juxtaposition of successful spray-killed sage.

II. Second Spring Spray Area (Darling Creek).

- A. Build a one acre grazing enclosure, located in the basin bottom and encompassing both some cheatgrass infested area and adjacent sidehill, to measure the effects of future grazing as opposed to no grazing.
- B. Try some experimental sage burning in the heavy sage along the bottoms to see if grass recovery can be accelerated.

III. Third Spring Area.

- A. Offer salvage lumber sales to clearcut the areas of encroaching fir and pines. This could be done on a few experimental areas of low erosion potential to test grass recovery. A good deal of grazing acreage is being lost to encroaching conifers.

IV. Old Stage Road, SW Side of Lower Morgan Creek.

- A. It is most strongly recommended that this area be immediately excluded from all livestock use and reserved specifically for bighorn sheep use in conjunction with the already reserved NE pasture. The area to be reserved should include the land lying from First Crossing Gulch camp spot, including the state-owned section, South to the mouth of Stephen's Gulch on the main Salmon River. Adequate fences now exist to accomplish livestock exclusion and, since further fencing would cut directly across bighorn sheep migration routes, no further fencing should be undertaken.
- B. Initiate a land exchange with the state of Idaho Land Board so as to include the state owned section under BLM administration and reserve this section exclusively for bighorn sheep use.
- C. Stop maintaining the old stage road and curtail all future developments in this area.

V. General

- A. Remove any fences not absolutely necessary for implementation of the rest rotation grazing system and curtail all future fence building.

One known bighorn fatality due to entanglement in fences is already known to have occurred.

- B. Hold feral burros to a maximum of 15 and post notices in local papers that further releases of feral burros will result in their impoundment and filing of trespass charges against those responsible.
- C. Since horses are not a basic economic unit essential to livestock production, cancel all horse grazing permits on the Morgan Creek allotment.
- D. Close off the road up Spring Gulch (across from Brunols). Spring lambing could be adversely affected by vehicle traffic on this road.
- E. Continue to request of the Idaho Fish and Game Department the maximum possible mule deer harvest from the Northern 1/3 of unit 36B.
- F. Prior to the expenditure of further money in support of livestock grazing on the Morgan Creek Allotment, serious consideration be given alternatives whereby the money could be used to assist permittees with transition to other grazing ranges. For instance, the BLM could underwrite the costs of converting either public or private valley bottom lands to sprinkler-irrigated pastures which would carry much heavier grazing pressures, thereby allowing permittee's to be transferred off the Morgan Creek Allotment.

James K. Morgan
Oct 26, 1973