

# BUDD-FALEN LAW OFFICES

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October 31, 2018

VIA U.S. MAIL

Katie Stevens, Field Manager  
Grand Junction Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
United States Department of the Interior  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

Re: *Grazing permit for the West Salt Common Allotment held by  
McKenzie and Ashley Flanigan*

Dear Ms. Stevens,

Our office has been retained by McKenzie and Ashley Flanigan to assist them with the use and management of the West Salt Common Allotment. The actions of the BLM concerning McKenzie and Ashley Flanigan and the West Salt Common Allotment are of concern and should be reevaluated.

I have personally worked with the Flanigan's range consultants for almost twenty years. I have found them to be individuals of integrity with a technical expertise in resource management, grazing management and data collection. They have always proven to be effective and provide a fair evaluation of currently-existing rangeland conditions and health. Their data and findings for the West Salt Common Allotment confirm good and improving conditions and sound proper management on the West Salt Common Allotment.

We respectfully request that you reconsider your efforts to reduce livestock grazing on the West Salt Common Allotment. These efforts appear to be driven by and related to cheatgrass-dominated pastures caused by historic fires that are located within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. The West Salt Common Allotment has successfully practiced targeted grazing for over fifteen years under winter dormant season grazing to keep the

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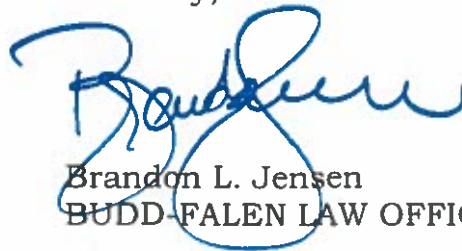
cheatgrass fire fuel load in check. There have been no fires in that time period. If grazing is reduced, an increased fire fuel load in that high use recreation area could threaten property and human life.

Additionally, we respectfully request that you consider the impacts of your actions on the Flanigan's outfitting and hunting operations. Too much activity in hunting areas by vehicles and individuals can and often does change the habits of wildlife, specifically elk.

McKenzie and Ashley Flanigan are a young ranching family and proven stewards of the public lands. The actions of the BLM in reducing livestock grazing on the West Salt Common Allotment could potentially and unnecessarily force them out of business.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your assistance in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,



Brandon L. Jensen  
BUDD-FALEN LAW OFFICES, LLC

xc: McKenzie and Ashley Flanigan (via email)  
Sean Flanigan (via email)  
Robert Stager (via email)  
Paul Curtis (via email)  
John Martin, Garfield County Commissioner (via U.S. Mail)  
John Justman, Mesa County Commissioner (via U.S. Mail)  
Richard Connell, Colorado Farm Bureau (via U.S. Mail)  
Les Owen, Colorado Department of Agriculture (via U.S. Mail)