

**2007 END OF SEASON REPORT
ALDER CREEK ALLOTMENT**

TERM GRAZING PERMIT				AUTHORIZED USE				ACTUAL USE			
NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	HM.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	HM.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	HM.
604	6/16	10/6	2244	546	6/16	10/6	2028	543	6/16	10/6	2017

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN/ UPLAND	RIPARIAN/ UPLAND
Big and Little Blind/Body Canyon	6/16	7/15	55% Upland	45%
¹ South Fork of Alder	No Data	No Data	50% (4in)Riparian 55% Upland	4 inches 40%
¹ Trail Creek/Sawmill	No Data	No Data	50% (4 in) Riparian	5 inches
¹ Stewart/Mammoth	No Data	No Data	50% (4 in) Riparian	No Data
¹ Tuscarora Gulch	No Data	No Data	55% Upland	55%
Willow Creek	10/1	10/6	50% (4 in)Riparian 55% Upland	No Data 20%

¹Used in conjunction as one unit.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/26, 7/18, 8/22, 9/10, 10/3, 10/6. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, contact with rider, weed control and utilization monitoring. Contacts were made to inform riders and permittees to manage moves between units in a timely manner, and remove cattle from back-units.

Information: The precipitation information for the District is included in the table below. While this information is collected at the office in Mackay and is not specific to your allotment areas, it does give a good idea of the available moisture on the District.

The totals for 2007 are compared to the average total precipitation by month for Mackay from the Desert Research Institute website for 1931-2005. The low precipitation levels and early warm temperatures caused vegetation to mature at a faster rate this year, two to three weeks ahead of normal in many areas. This caused upland vegetation to dry out at a faster rate and made these grasses less desirable to your livestock.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Precip (in)	0.03	0.48	0.59	0.48	0.36	1.07	0.17	0.46	0.88	1.19	5.71
Ave Precip. 1931-2005	0.78	0.60	0.61	0.68	1.09	1.34	0.93	0.80	0.67	0.57	8.07

The warmer, drier conditions caused cattle to utilize woody browse species heavier than in normal precipitation years. This use was seen across the district as a whole. A browse standard of 50% is included in your permit and should be watched carefully in the future. While this standard has not been focused on by range specialists in the past because minimal use of woody browse by livestock was observed, browse on willows, aspen, and riparian shrubs is an important consideration especially in dry years. Generally speaking, cattle began to shift to woody browse species as the four inch stubble height on grasses and sedges was met which could be used as an indicator for riders/ permittees to move cattle in the future. Using this tool to adjust movement dates could avoid overuse or missing end of season standards for herbaceous and woody species in these riparian areas during years of low precipitation.

Utilization: Upland forage utilization of bunchgrasses was moderate in most areas except the fence line in South Fork of Alder along the fence and cattle guard. Riparian sedge utilization was moderate and light on grasses across the entire allotment.

Willow Creek unit still is a concern for management but permittee's have voluntarily used it light to help with the riparian and water concerns.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The allotment units were used in sequence in accordance with the annual operating instructions. Fence maintenance needs to be completed to forest standards.

Actual use was 543 head, 90 percent of permitted use. One permit was in partial non-use. Shane & Mimi Rosenkrance acquired the Hintze permit. Cattle were on the forest for the full season.

Recommendations:

1. Livestock drift concerns between the Alder Creek and Cherry Creek Allotments in the vicinity of Sheep Mountain and Flat Top was minimal this year, but remains an issue. A proposed fence location at the boundary from Sheep Mountain to the existing fence near Flat Top to solve the drift problem was delayed this year. We will need to look at the feasibility of this project in context with other proposed range improvement projects on the District for implementing

on a priority basis. Until this is resolved it is your responsibility to ride and keep the drift down to a minimum.

2. Permittees taking non-use need to be reminded that they still have a responsibility to maintain their portions of improvement maintenance. Fence maintenance needs to be a priority on the whole allotment.
3. Meet end of season standards and continue to improve on overall allotment management (i.e. keep the cattle in designated units, make timely moves).
4. Establish a range improvement schedule that focuses on rebuilding existing water developments as well as identifies areas where additional off channel water sources may be developed, particularly in the Willow Cr. unit and from the Trail Creek drainage downstream to the allotment boundary.
5. Provide additional help to rider when units need cleaned and/or moving from unit to unit.
6. Address grazing capacity (Head Months) issue, to achieve proper use across the entire allotment.(Permittees have been voluntarily coming off early and taking partial non-use to compensate for the capacity issue)
7. Establish additional long-term monitoring sites and determine ecological status of streams.
8. Avoid having Copper Basin cattle in Mine Hill Unit at the same time that Alder Creek cattle are in Willow Creek Unit to avoid intermixing at shared water source along the fence line. Copper Basin is scheduled to use the Mine Hill Unit early in 2007.