

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

TERM GRAZING PERMIT				AUTHORIZED USE				ACTUAL USE			
NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.
821	7/11	10/15	2618	434	7/11	10/15	1384	403	7/11	9/25	1020

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			% ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN/ UPLANDS	RIPARIAN/ UPLANDS
Poison Creek/Flower Garden	7/11	8/11	50% (4in)	No Data
Left Fork	8/12	9/03	50% (4 in)	5 inches
Richardson/Crawford	9/04	**	50% (4 in)	No Data
Middle Fork	**	9/25	50% (4 in)	5 inches

**Used in conjunction.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/16, 7/17, 7/18, 8/15, 8/20, 9/27. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, weed spraying and utilization monitoring.

Information: Forest sprayed the leafy spurge up Cherry Creek this year. In addition, the district burned over 600 acres of sagebrush this spring in the Middle Mountain area. Riders and permittees did an excellent job of keeping cattle out of the burn area.

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. Normal precipitation occurred this year, but drought effects are still prevalent. Seed production for perennial grasses was variable this year. Upland range with southern aspects had noticeably less production than northern aspects.

Utilization: Upland forage utilization of bunchgrasses was light. Riparian sedge utilization was moderate and utilization on grasses was light. Utilization on woody browse was moderate.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: Rough Canyon and Bailey Canyon were dry this year, so the allotment schedule was not used in sequence in accordance with the annual operating instructions. Rotation was used as shown above. Cattle need to be kept out of the Mud Lake enclosure; cattle used the enclosure light this year because the gate was left open.

Actual use was 39 percent of permitted numbers. One permit was in approved non-use status and one was in approved partial non-use.

Recommendations:

1. Livestock drift concern 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 due to the Non-use. 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. Rider needs to keep horses at rider's camp down to 4 head at any one time, including pack animals. This area is not to be over used and certified weed free hay needs to be used or other weed free supplements.