

Pass Creek Allotment

2007 Implementation Monitoring Evaluation

and

2008 Annual Operating Instructions

November 30, 2007

Summary

The Pass Creek Allotment Management Plan (2000-2005) was developed by a team consisting of representatives of the Forest Service, the Pass Creek Association, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to improve resource conditions on the Pass Creek Allotment. This plan requires that participants meet annually to 1) evaluate the success in implementing the plan, 2) identify actions to improve the management of the allotment, and 3) develop a grazing strategy for the following season. This report follows these guidelines and summarizes the results of this effort for the 2007 grazing season.

Table 1. Summary of the 2007 grazing season. (Total of 72 days actual use)

Order of Use	Unit Name	Number of Head	On Date	Off Date	AUM's	End of Growing Season Stubble Height/ Woody Use/Uplands	Trigger	Actual End of Season Stubble Height Woody Use/Uplands	Use Exceeded
1	North Pass Creek ²	544	7/15			4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody 50% - Uplands	5	Stubble-5" Woody use-moderate Upland Meadow- >65%	No No Yes
2	Southwest Pass Creek ²	543				4 50% moderate	5	5 Woody use-light	No No
3	Mud Lake Southeast Pass ²	272				50%-Uplands	5	30% upland	No
4	Cave Gulch ²	271		8/2	1344	50%-Uplands	5	40% upland	No
5	Upper Wet Creek	200	8/3			6-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	7	6 Woody use-heavy	No Yes
6	Sands/Coal Creek	1430		8/13	778	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5 Woody use-moderate	No No
7	Lower Big Creek ⁴	815	8/14			4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5 Woody use-moderate	No No
8	Upper Big Creek ⁴	815		8/21	566	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5 Woody use-moderate	No No
9	Pine Creek ¹	1630	8/22	8/30	707	Wet Creek 4/Pine Creek 6 50% moderate-Woody	5/7	Stubble-8/6 Woody- Heavy/Moderate	No Yes/No
10	North Wet Creek Basin ³	815	8/31			4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	4 Woody use-moderate	No No
11	South Wet Creek Basin ³	815		9/24	1698	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5 Woody use-moderate	No No
	Total	1630		72	5093				

¹ Data collected for unnamed tributary that has a 6 inch stubble height standard.

² The dates provided are when cattle entered the Pass Creek drainage used as one.

³ The dates provided are when cattle entered the South Basin Creek unit and left the North Basin Creek unit. The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in the South Wet Creek Basin unit and 50% of the use occurring in the North Wet Creek Basin Unit.

⁴ Exact records on the number of head in these two units were not recorded. The dates provided are when cattle entered Upper Big Creek and left Lower Big Creek.

Table 2. Evaluation of livestock operations for the 2007 grazing season and recommended improvements for 2008 grazing season.

Order of Use	Unit Name	Amount of Available Forage Left Unused	Priority for Providing For Better Livestock Distribution	Things That Worked/Did Not Work	Recommended Improvements to Better Protect Resource. Utilize Forage, etc.
1	North Pass Creek	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent re-growth on hydric plants when used first, upland plants did not re-grow. • Trailing next to the road needs to be kept to a minimum. • Additional help is needed to move and clean this unit. • Used Pass Creek units together and cattle were moved out of units early. • Cattle were congregated and left on the summit when moved in and upper meadows were overgrazed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use half of the herd on each side of unit • Maintain spring exclosures (Wagon Box and Telephone Canyon), and winterize yearly. • Monitor and move cattle when trigger is met. • Watch concentration of cattle near the summit. • When moving off the allotment, permittees need to move the herd off in a timelier manner to prevent re-grazing Unit.
1	Southwest Pass Creek	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent re-growth on hydric plants when used first, upland plants didn't re-grow. • Some drift near key area, need additional back riding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use half of the herd on each side of unit. • Monitor and move cattle when trigger is met • Maintain blue Jay jack fence, especially the gate, to ensure no excessive use occurs. • When moving off the allotment, permittees need to move the herd off in a timelier manner to prevent re-grazing Unit.
1	Cave Gulch	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring developments watered most of the cattle. • Trigger area was dry, measured uplands below key area. • Upper Spring continues to vapor lock. • Lower Cave Gulch Spring development and fence was installed in November 2006, worked excellent. Needed to be winterized in 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water continues to be a concern in this unit. • Move cattle when trigger is met or cattle are congregated along fence. • Fix upper spring development, and winterize trough yearly. • Maintain lower electric fence, needs new braces. • Complete lower water development.
1	Mud Lake	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trigger area was dry, measured uplands below trigger area. • Mud Lake Dry 2007 grazing season, used this unit light. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water continues to be a problem in this unit. • Move cattle when trigger is met or cattle are congregated along fence. • Look at moving lower trigger monitoring location. • Look at relocating lower fence 2008, and develop spring.

Order of Use	Unit Name	Amount of Available Forage Left Unused	Priority for Providing For Better Livestock Distribution	Things That Worked/Did Not Work	Recommended Improvements to Better Protect Resource. Utilize Forage, etc.
2	Upper Wet Creek	Moderate	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woody use exceeded standard. • Exclosure fence was maintained and few cattle were in there this year. Needs additional work. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS will improve and maintain exclosure fence at beginning of season, then it is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure cattle do not get into the exclosure or remove cattle quickly, and repair damage to the fence during season. • Only place a couple hundred cattle in this unit at any one time. • Move cattle when trigger is met. • Understand cattle will use this unit very quickly. • Provide additional back riders to ensure unit is cleaned.
2	Sands/Coal Creek	Moderate	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle were drifted into Big Creek and this worked well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move cattle when trigger is met and cattle are congregating along fence. • Provide additional back riders to ensure unit is cleaned.
3	Lower Big Creek	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left adequate amount of forage to meet standards. • Used the North and South units as one and got better distribution. • Built temporary electric fence along private boundary, this worked well, however cattle got back into this area and used it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand cattle will use this unit very quickly. • Move cattle when trigger is met and/or cattle are congregating along fence. • Continue to maintain fence between BLM/FS boundary to prevent early use on FS.
4	Upper Big Creek	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left adequate amount of forage to meet standards. • Used the North and South units as one and got better distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure cattle do not get into exclosure. • Understand cattle will use this unit very quickly. • Back ride to ensure all cattle are removed. • Maintain Massacre Spring exclosure before turn out, and winterize yearly.
5	Pine Creek	Moderate	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle were not moved according to the AOI. • Woody use exceeded standard. • Excellent re-growth on Wet Creek hydric plant species. • Moved unnamed tributary key area to where the 2006 Greenlines were re-read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully monitor summit. When cattle show up on summit move into next unit. • Maintain the upper Pine Creek spring.
6	South Wet Creek Basin	Low	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water developments continue to improve cattle distribution. • Using North and South Units continues to improve distribution. • Pine Creek exclosure moved and repaired by Forest contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain all spring developments to standard prior to entering unit, and winterize troughs yearly. • Move cattle when trigger is met and cattle are congregating along fence. • Increase cattle distribution on upper spring fed streams.

7	North Wet Creek Basin	Low	Mod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water developments continue to improve cattle distribution. • Using North and South Units continues to improve distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain all spring developments to standard prior to entering unit, and winterize troughs yearly. • Move cattle when trigger is met or cattle are congregating along fence. • Permittees are to maintain electric enclosure fence on Wet Basin Creek and ensure cattle don't get in.
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Table 3. Summary of implementation review and management action being taken in units where end of season indicator was exceeded.

Unit	Was the indicator exceeded?	Why was the indicator exceeded?	How will the plan be revised to ensure the indicator is not exceeded?	What was the extent of the overuse?	How can the resource damage caused by the overuse be restored?
North Pass Creek	Yes-Woody Yes-Uplands	Drought Cattle left at Summit/ Cattle not mothered	Move Cattle when triggers are met. Stagger cattle when moving and place them away from creek.	Moderate	Utilize the resource to their appropriate end of season indicator. 50% Uplands/ Woody
Southwest Pass Creek	No				
Mud Lake	No				
Cave Gulch	No				
Upper Wet Creek	Yes-Woody	Drought/ Elk	Move when triggers are met.	Moderate	Utilize the resource to their appropriate end of season indicator. 50% Woody
Sands/Coal Creek	No				
Lower Big Creek	No				
Upper Big Creek	No				
Pine Creek	Yes-Woody	Drought/ Cattle not moved when triggers met.	Move when triggers are met.	Moderate	Utilize the resource to their appropriate end of season indicator. 50% Woody
South Wet Creek Basin	No				
North Wet Creek Basin	No				

Table 4. 2008 Annual Operating Instructions Summary *Estimated 79 days with 1461 head.

Order of Use	Unit Name	Number of Head	On Date	Off Date	AUM's	End of Growing Season Stubble Height Standard	Trigger	Actual End of Season Stubble Height	Use Exceeded
1	North Wet Creek Basin ³	730	7/15			4	5		
2	South Wet Creek Basin ³	731		8/13	1902	4	5		
3	Mud Lake Southeast Pass ²	1261	8/14			4	5		
4	Cave Gulch ²	200		8/19	444	4	5		
5	Southwest Pass Creek ⁵	730	8/20		824	4	5		
6	North Pass Creek ⁵	731		9/1		4	5		
7	Upper Wet Creek	200	9/2		104	6	7		
8	Sands/Coal Creek	1261		9/13	657	4	5		
9	Lower Big Creek ⁴	730	9/14			4	5		
10	Upper Big Creek ⁴	731		9/23	634	4	5		
11	Pine Creek ¹	1461	9/24	10/1	444	Wet Creek 4/Pine Creek 6	5/7		
	Total	1461		79	5009				

¹ Tributary that has a 6 inch stubble height standard.

² The number of head is based on approximately 14% of the use occurring in the Mud Lake unit, and approximately 86% of the use occurring in the Cave Gulch unit.

³ The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in the South Wet Creek Basin unit and 50% of the use occurring in the North Wet Creek Basin Unit.

⁴ The dates provided are when cattle enter Lower Big Creek and leave Upper Big Creek.

⁵ The number of head is based on approximately 50% of the use occurring in the Southwest Pass Creek unit and 50% of the use occurring in the North Pass Creek Unit.

***Length of season may change depending on management and weather factors. (See part three of individual permits).**

This Plan was estimated at the winter meeting and will be finalized at the spring meeting.

Table 5. 2008 Annual Operating Instructions *Estimated 79 days with 1461 head. (All actions are permittees responsibility, unless otherwise noted)

Order of Use	Unit Name	EOS Season Stubble Height Standard	Trigger	Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit	Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit
1	North Wet Creek Basin	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permittees to maintain spring exclosures to standard and install floats. • Placement of salt and fence maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move cattle out of North Wet Creek Basin an *estimated 30 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. • Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.
2	South Wet Creek Basin	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permittees to maintain spring exclosures to standard. • Placement of salt and fence maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move cattle out of South Wet Creek Basin an *estimated 30 days from entering either units, when trigger is met, or if cattle congregate along fence. • Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.
3	Mud Lake	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permittees ensure electric fence and charger is repaired and working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place 1/3 of herd in Cave Gulch Unit. (*Total of an estimated 6 days in both Mud Lake and Twin Lake Units combined, or when trigger is met) • Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.
4	Cave Gulch	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain permanent spring exclosure to standard. • Fix upper spring development, and winterize trough yearly. • Irrigate trigger area with dirt tank out flow channel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place approximately 1/3 herd in Cave Gulch for an *estimated 6 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. • Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean. • Maintain to standard spring developments.
5	Southwest Pass Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent re-growth on plants when used first. • Cattle were moved when triggers were met. • Excessive drift near key area, need additional back riding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place 1/2 herd along each side of unit. • Monitor and move cattle when trigger is met • Move cattle out of Southwest pass Creek an estimated 12 days form entering unit.
6	North Pass Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain fences and newly developed springs in Wagon Box and Telephone to standard. • Maintain floats to troughs. • Install temporary electric fence. • Do Not leave cattle on Summit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place 1/2 herd along each side of unit. • Move cattle out of North Pass Creek an *estimated 12 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. (*Total of an estimated 19 days in the entire Pass Creek Unit.) • Permittees provide additional riding during move, and back ride to ensure unit is clean. • Maintain Wagon Box spring to standard. • Look at feasibility of developing water along rock wall. •

Order of Use	Unit Name	EOS Season Stubble Height Standard	Trigger	Actions to be Taken Prior to Cattle Entering Unit	Actions to be Taken During and after Cattle are in Unit
7	Upper Wet Creek	6	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use upper portion of Wet Creek in conjunction with Sands/Coal Creek. Monitor drift into upper wet creek before entering into unit. F.S. to maintain enclosure at the beginning of season. Move cattle to upper springs upon arrival. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor while in Sands/Coal Creek, Lower Wet Creek and Big Creek to ensure no drift into unit. Closely monitor enclosure and maintain to ensure cattle don't get in. Monitor key area and move cattle when trigger is met. Only place approximately 200 head for 7 days. Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean. Understand cattle will use this unit quickly.
8	Sands/Coal Creek	4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place salt in uplands and complete fence maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor Big Creek and Upper Wet Creek to ensure cattle are not getting into those units Move cattle out of Sands/Coal Creek an *estimated 12 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met. Place cattle in uplands immediately to reduce use on lower riparian areas. Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.
9	Lower Big Creek	4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain all unit boundary fences, place salt away from creeks When moving cattle in from bottom cattle will stay in bottom of unit one day and then move into Upper Big Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor Upper Wet Creek to keep cattle from drifting into that unit Keep cattle pushed to Upper Big Creek to allow for drifting back into Lower Big Creek. Move all cattle out of both upper and lower Big Creek in an *estimated 10 days from entering either unit, or when triggers are met. Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean.
10	Upper Big Creek	4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain upper enclosure fence. Maintain Massacre divide spring enclosure and reset headbox to standard before entering unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor Lower Wet Creek to keep cattle from drifting into that unit Monitor Upper Big Creek to keep cattle from congregating. Distribute cattle in uplands and monitor the Wet Creek unit for drift. Move all cattle out of both upper and lower Big Creek in an *estimated 10 days from entering either unit, or when trigger is met. Back riding to ensure unit is clean
9	Pine Creek	6 (unnamed stream-called Pine Creek by permittees) 4 (Lower Wet Creek)	7 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put up let down fence between Pass Creek and Hilts Creek Establish new key area for unnamed tributary. Forest Service remove Aspen fence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully monitor Pine Creek. When cattle show up on summit move into next unit. Back ride regularly to ensure unit is cleared and cattle do not move back into unit Permittees to provide additional riding during move, and back riding to ensure unit is clean. Move cattle out of Pine Creek an *estimated 8 days from entering unit, or when trigger is met.

***Estimated days in units are based on four years of drought. Remember these are only estimates to help meet triggers in units. If in any unit triggers are met earlier than these estimated dates, cattle need to be moved to next unit accordingly. In the same regard, if cattle are distributed and have not met triggers by the estimated date, these dates may be adjusted with approval from authorized forest officer. *Please remember to notify your association president, Keith Waymire, or Carmela Leavitt at the Forest Service with any adjustments or changes to your annual operating instructions.**

General Items To Be Completed Prior to the 2008 Grazing Season

1. Continue to work on communication system.
2. Ensure riders, permittees, and Forest Service personnel:
 - a. Are aware of need of need to complete accurate records
 - b. Know where key areas are located
 - c. Know when to measure indicators
 - d. Know how to measure indicators
 - e. Understand riders have authority to move cattle to next unit early, if necessary.
 - f. Know to look for changes in cattle behavior (distribution, congregation, walking fences) as an indication of the time to move
3. Ensure fences and water developments are maintained to standard before cattle enter allotment and units

General Items To Be Completed During the 2008 Grazing Season

1. Ensure accurate records are kept
2. Ensure salt is placed off streams; at least ¼ mile when possible
3. Ensure units are regularly ridden with emphasis on streams
4. Ensure back riding occurs in all units
5. **Remove Bulls in a timely manner after they have been effective.**
6. **Permittees need to provide additional help to riders when moving from unit to unit to ensure units are being cleaned.**

Recommended Developments to Improve Livestock Distribution in Order of Priority

1. **Maintain all improvements to standards** prior to entering the allotment.
2. Temporary electric fence east side of North Pass Creek Unit. Moj Broadie lead.
3. Evaluate springs high in Sands/Coal Creek unit for possible troughs.
4. Evaluate springs along rocky cliff above Wagon Box for development.

Recommended Developments to Protect/Restore Resource

1. Permittees Maintain Upper Cave Gulch spring development, Upper Pine Creek.
2. Forest Service to maintain Bull Trout enclosure.
3. Improve lower Mud Lake fence and dirt tank. Maintain Massacre development to standard.