

Pass Creek Allotment

2008 Implementation Monitoring Evaluation

March 10, 2009

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 2008 grazing season.

Table 1. Summary of the 2008 grazing season. (Total of 85 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	Pine Creek ¹	1292	7/15	7/25	617	Wet Creek 4/Pine Creek 6 50% moderate-Woody	5/7	Stubble-7/6+ Woody-light	No No/No
2	North Wet Creek Basin ⁵	646	7/26		925	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5 Woody use-light	No No
3	South Wet Creek Basin ⁵	646		8/27	925	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5+ Woody use-light	No No
4	Mud Lake Southeast Pass ²	969	8/28		252	50%-Uplands	5	30% upland	No
5	Cave Gulch ²	323		9/2	84	50%-Uplands	5	50% upland	No
6	Southwest Pass Creek ³	646	9/3		280	4 50% moderate	5	5 Woody use-light	No No
7	North Pass Creek ³	646		9/12	280	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	Stubble-5" Woody use-light	No No
8	Upper Wet Creek	200	9/13	9/22	87	6-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	7	Stubble- Ocular 4 Woody use-moderate	Yes No
9	Sands/Coal Creek	1092	9/13	9/27	754	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	4 Woody use-moderate	No No
10	Lower Big Creek ⁴	646	9/28		280	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5+ Woody use-light	No No
11	Upper Big Creek ⁴	646		10/7	280	4-Stubble 50% moderate-Woody	5	5 Woody use-light	No No
	Total	1292		85	4764				

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

² The dates provided are when cattle entered the Mud Lake drainage with 75% of the herd and the other 25% in Cave Gulch, and left those two units.

³ The dates provided are when cattle entered the Southwest Pass Creek unit and left the North Pass Creek unit. 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.

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.

⁵ 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.

Table 2. Evaluation of livestock operations for the 2008 grazing season and recommended improvements for 2009 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	Pine Creek	Moderate	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle were moved according to the AOI. • Excellent re-growth on Wet Creek hydric plant species. • Maintained the upper Pine Creek spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully monitor summit. When cattle show up on summit move into next unit. • Carefully monitor historical hummocking area below summit, at key area, move cattle when they arrive.
2	North Wet Creek Basin	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sufficient Back riding. • Fifteen head of cattle were in Basin Creek for an extended period resulting in heavy utilization below the enclosure and moderate utilization inside the Basin Creek Enclosure. • Water developments continue to improve cattle distribution. • Using North and South Units as one continues to improve distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy maintenance on 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. • Porcupine trough needs to be installed to standard. • Back ride this unit often to ensure all cattle are removed.
2	South Wet Creek Basin	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water developments continue to improve cattle distribution. • Using North and South Units continues to improve distribution. • Little Basin water development needs heavy maintenance including the Enclosure fence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy maintenance on 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.
3	Cave Gulch	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring developments watered most of the cattle. Twin Lakes had water 2008. • Trigger area was dry, measured uplands below key area. • Upper Spring worked good, vapor lock fixed. • Lower Cave Gulch Spring development worked excellent. • Cattle were moved to next unit when congregated on fence. 	<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. • Winterize troughs yearly.
3	Mud Lake	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trigger area was dry, measured uplands below trigger area. • Mud Lake Dry 2008 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. • Still working on relocating lower fence and developing water in this unit.

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.
4	Southwest Pass Creek	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Drift fence above key area worked well. • Telegraph water development ran good. • Need many riders when cleaning and back riding this unit. 	<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.
5	North Pass Creek	Mod	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailing next to the road needs to be kept to a minimum. • Additional help is needed to move and clean this unit. • The summit was grazing light during the season, but when coming home this area was grazed over moderately again. 	<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.
6	Upper Wet Creek	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle drifted back into this unit while in Sands Creek and exceeded utilization standards. • Upper wet creek is cutting and the water table is dropping causing unstable banks, cattle contributed to the unstable banks this year. • Exclosure fence was maintained and NO cattle were in this year. Needs additional work. • Cattle wouldn't stay in upper springs, possible predation. 	<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. • Use unit light and move cattle when trigger is met. • Understand cattle will use this unit very quickly. • Provide additional back riders to ensure unit is cleaned and stays cleaned.
6	Sands/Coal Creek	Moderate	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle were drifted and placed into Big Creek and this worked well. Some cattle got back into Upper Wet Creek. • Only water on Sands was at the trigger and at the road crossings. 	<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. • Coal Creek? Water developments?

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.
7	Lower Big Creek	Moderate	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left adequate amount of forage to meet standards. Extended the time in this Unit. Used the North and South units as one and got better distribution. 	<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. Temporary electric fence along private worked well in 2007. Off site water developments.
8	Upper Big Creek	Moderate	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. Massacre spring not maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure cattle do not get into enclosure. Understand cattle will use this unit very quickly. Back ride to ensure all cattle are removed. Maintain Massacre Spring enclosure before turn out, and winterize yearly.

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?
Pine Creek	No				
North Wet Creek Basin	No				
South Wet Creek Basin	No				
Mud Lake	No				
Cave Gulch	No				
Southwest Pass Creek	No				
North Pass Creek	No				
Upper Wet Creek	Yes	Back riding not adequate.	Rest	Moderate on Stubble, Streambank stability excessive.	Rest
Sands/Coal Creek	No				
Lower Big Creek	No				
Upper Big Creek	No				

