

**2008 END OF SEASON REPORT
WILDHORSE 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.
1892	6/9	9/30	7091	1269 300	6/9 6/28	9/30 9/30	4756 937	1269 300 *(800)	6/19 6/30 9/26	9/25 9/25 9/30	4130 868 132
1892			7091	1569			5693	1569			5130

** the 800 head were from the original 1569 put on the allotment. That number was used to show that about half of the herd was off by September 25th leaving the 800 until the 30th.*

Actual use was 5130 head months which is 72.3% of permitted headmonths, 90.1% of authorized head months for 2008 and 1569 cow/calf pair were authorized which is 82.9% of permitted numbers.

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN %Utilization/Stubble Height	RIPARIAN %Utilization/Stubble Height/(% Browse)
Garden/Burnt/Pinto Creeks	6/19	7/15	50%/4''/(50%)	No Data
Twin Bridges/Lake Creek	7/12	8/9	50%/4''/(50%)	4''(21%), 4''(18%)
North Fork	8/10	8/26	50%/4''/(50%)	4''(28%), 4''(24%), 6''(14%), 5''(11%), 4''(11%), 3''(19%)
Summit Cr/Kane Canyon	8/27	9/9	50%/4''/(50%)	4''(14%), 4''(28%)
Newton Creek/Wildhorse Creek	9/10	9/19	50%/4''/(50%)	Above Fall Creek 0-25% Ocular riparian Below Fall Creek 25-50% Ocular riparian
East Fork	9/20	9/24	50%/4''/(50%)	4'', 4''(8%)

Grant Creek	9/25	9/30	50%/4"/(50%)	No Data
-------------	------	------	--------------	---------

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/9, 6/19, 7/1, 7/11, 8/6, 8/14, 8/25, 8/28, 9/2, 9/5, 9/8, 9/12, 9/16, 9/18, 9/23, 9/25, 10/1, 10/2, and 10/23. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, contact with rider and permittees, and utilization monitoring.

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 2008 are compared to the average total precipitation by month for Mackay from the Desert Research Institute website for 1931-2005. Low precipitation levels and a late summer with cooler temperatures caused vegetation to mature later than usual this year. This helped in preventing upland vegetation from drying out early but slowed grass production on early units.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Precipitation (in inches)	2.26	0.28	0.78	0.11	0.39	0.47	0.00	1.01	0.18	0.55	6.03
Average Precipitation 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 cooler conditions made woody browse utilization patterns more consistent with past use levels than those seen in the 2007 grazing season. This lighter 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 hot, dry years. 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 drought years.

There was an issue with the unit boundary fence at the bottom of the North Fork Unit. The rider had said that the adjacent landowner was cutting the wire on the drift fence. This was looked into by Range personnel and Law Enforcement and the landowner was cutting the wires where the fence was located on her property where the drift fence ties into her private land fence. This is a problem because the private land fence was inside the private boundary making a portion of our fence on private land. This will have to be dealt with or there will be a gap in the fence allowing cattle through. There was a fence before on line with the property boundary that we could rebuild or relocate the fence to another location.

Livestock losses from wolves occurred in the 2008 grazing season in the North Fork and Twin Bridges Units. These units seem to have the most recurring livestock loss on the allotment.

Utilization: Riparian area utilization was moderate with some small areas showing heavy use in the early units. Riparian sedge utilization was moderate. Upland forage utilization patterns were widely distributed and utilization of bunchgrasses was light to moderate with some areas adjacent to water used 35-50 %.

In the North Fork unit all sites met the 4" stubble height requirement but Grasshopper creek DMA. This site was measured at a 3" stubble height. Work needs to be done to ensure that Grasshopper meets the 4" stubble height. This sight is dominated by hydric species in the first 20' and then becomes dominated by bluegrass and forbs. The streambanks are not being disturbed excessively and appear to be stable. On the North Fork Big Lost the utilization was moderate but lighter than that of previous seasons.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The BLM allowed for the cattle to stay 10 days longer than they scheduled putting the cattle on the forest 10 days late. This altered the schedule for the remainder of the season. With utilization checks by range staff move dates were determined as the season went on.

There was a problem with cleaning Wildhorse Canyon. The rider was told that it was time to clean the unit on September 16th and there were cattle still remaining in the unit on September 30th. Livestock need to be cleaned from units in a more timely manner.

Recommendations: Herd management improved greatly this season. There were 2 riders for the first half of the season. The cattle were seen out of place at times but not as frequently or in large numbers, as has been seen in the past. Response time by the rider was very quick. He cleaned up problems as they were found. Keep working to maintain good herd management. Having two riders and frequent help for the rider on the allotment next season will be beneficial to resource management.

Keep the cattle high in the North Fork unit reducing the use on Grasshopper Creek to ensure that the 4" stubble height is met in the future.

Work with the range staff to develop a plan to fix issues with the boundary fence adjacent to the private land in the lower portion of North Fork.

Keep up range improvement maintenance and reconstruction of existing improvements.