

2003 Fish Creek, Trail Creek, and Hurst Canyon S&G End of Season Report

Actual Use Dates:

Allotment	Date on National Forest	Date off National Forest	Number of Ewes	Number of Lambs
Fish Creek	7/9	7/20	903	1242
Trail Creek	7/3	8/3	719	818
	8/5	8/8	1217	--
	9/11	9/14	1217	--
Hurst Canyon	*8/9	9/10	1217	--
	#8/15	9/16	1050	--
Park Creek	7/19	7/26	910	1284
	9/13	9/14	1103	--
North Fork	7/28	7/31	725	--
	8/1	9/12	1103	--

*Lava Lake's Band
#J. Cenarrusa's Band

Forage Harvested:

Allotment	Total HM's Permitted	Total HM's Harvested
Fish Creek	3156	356
Trail Creek	2525	1076
Hurst Canyon	4374	2459
Park Creek	1775	312
North Fork	3252	1654

Allotment Inspections: Time did not allow us to visit these allotments throughout the year but Fish Creek was visited for end of season stubble height measurements on 10/28. I met with Lava Lakes Monitoring technician and Herding Foreman. A 12" median stubble height was recorded in Long Canyon. The Park Creek and North Fork were visited late August and mid September.

Livestock issues: There were a number of problems of unauthorized livestock use on the south end of the Lost River Ranger District in the 2003 grazing season, but fewer than in past years. There is a historic sheep driveway through the Leadbelt and Antelope C&H allotments. Trailing sheep through these allotments is permissible, however, the time spent on the cattle allotments must be as short as possible. One, or at most, two days should be sufficient to move sheep across these allotments. The moves took place in a timely manner this year. There was an instance where sheep were trailed and stayed overnight in Slim Creek without authorization. Appropriate contacts were made and the sheep were removed.

Cattle were seen on the Fish Creek Allotment from a recon flight on 3 separate occasions. There were also cattle seen along the Fish Creek road throughout the season.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: Leadbelt, Fish Creek, Trail Creek, and Dry Fork permittees completed maintenance of adjacent boundary fences and filled gaps in these boundaries late in the season. This will help with unauthorized use issues in this area. Ocular reconnaissance of riparian areas in the Park Creek and North Fork allotments showed end of season stubble heights to be 12 inches or taller.

Recommendations: Permittees must inform the Forest Service of the exact day that sheep enter onto cattle allotments to trail though so that trailing may be monitored. The driveway boundaries must be followed, and no extra time should be spent on cattle allotments. Permittees should also be reminded in the Annual Operating Instructions of the soil erosion potential in the Fish Creek and Trail Creek drainages so livestock can be handled accordingly in these areas.

Unauthorized livestock use should be viewed as an unacceptable thing of the past. Permittees need to inform Forest Service personnel of materials needed to construct or maintain fence so all livestock will remain on their permitted range. The work done to minimize this is appreciated and maintenance should be done every year prior to turning livestock out.