

**2003 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	1385	6/9	9/12	4371	1008	6/9	8/17	2320
								370	7/8	8/17	499
								700	8/18	8/22	115

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
Grant Creek	6/9	6/18	50%/4"	No data
East Fork(Deer, Pole Cr)	6/19	7/7	50%/4"	7",10"
Wildhorse/Newton Cr	7/8	7/12	50%/4"	6"
Summit Cr/Kane Cr	7/13	7/24	50%/4"	5",4"
North Fork	7/25	8/17	40%/4", 4", 5"	6",4",4"
Twin Bridges	Rest		50%/4"	No data
BLM Trail Through	8/18	8/23	50%/4"	No data

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/14, 7/22, 7/30, 8/25, 8/26, 9/3, 9/4, 9/11, 9/17, 10/6, 10/15. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, contact with rider and permittees, and utilization monitoring.

Information: The district experienced a below average precipitation year for the fourth year in a row. Summer rainfall was scarce throughout the allotment units. Annual vegetation production was below average for the fourth consecutive year. Seed production of bunchgrasses was extremely low. July and August were the warmest and driest months. September was seasonably cooler but provided little relief from drought stress to range.

Utilization: Deer and Pole Creeks hydric sedges regrew vigorously after grazing. Upland production adjacent to these streams was limited and very low. Ungrazed Bluebunch grasses tended to be 10 inches tall or less.

Small wet meadows between Wildhorse creek campground and Fall Creek regrew to 6 inches. The spring at Burnt Aspen Creek regrew to 7-10 inches on sedges and rushes. Again, upland grasses not grazed were noticeably short.

Riparian areas in Kane and Summit Creeks were used heavy in July but regrew slowly by late September. Upland production was low and similar to the East Fork and Wildhorse Creek drainages.

Tributaries to the North Fork; Tool Box, and Horse creek received heavy grazing pressure when cattle entered the unit but recovered by late September. Sedges along the banks of the river below Grasshopper Creek were 4 inches at end of season. Sedges inside a cage at the same location were 10 inches and did not produce seed. This equated to a 40% utilization level by weight.

Upland utilization observations on Bluebunch wheatgrass varied between 30% and 50%. The uplands within ½ mile of a river or stream tended to be used 40-50%. Lighter use patterns occurred beyond ½ mile from riparian areas.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The allotment units were used in sequence in accordance with the annual operating instructions. Fence maintenance was completed to forest standards, with the exception of the fence between upper Twin Bridges unit and the Herd Creek allotment. Some confusion between Forest Service, BLM, and the permittees occurred which led to no reconstruction on portions of the fence. This fence will be scheduled for reconstruction next spring.

Actual use was 2934 head months, 67% of authorized use (41% of full permitted use). The agreement agreed to in correspondence of April 11, 2003 was to implement a 50% reduction in head months from June 9- September 12 using 38% fewer cattle and 16% less time. Cattle numbers were 27% fewer than full permitted numbers, which was 11% more than originally planned. However, the entire herd was not placed on the allotment at the same time. A group of 370 cattle did not go on the allotment until a month after the first 1008 head. All cattle came off the allotment between 21 and 25 days earlier than September 12. The end result met the intended objective of the terms of the April 11 agreement.

Recommendations:

Develop a conservative grazing plan for 2004 in accordance with correspondence dated April 11, 2003. This correspondence discusses a 25% reduction in use and other criteria concerning range improvement maintenance, and livestock monitoring to be followed. We believe the 2004 plan should include resting at least one grazing unit.