

Pass Creek C&H Allotment

2015 End of Season

Table 1. Summary of the 2015 grazing season. (Total of 47 days actual use)

Order of Use	Unit Name	Number of Head	On Date	Off Date	AUM's Permitted 5691	End of Growing Season Stubble Height Indicator/Streambank Alteration/Woody Browse	Trigger Stubble Height	Actual End of Season Stubble Height/streambank Alteration/Woody Browse	Use Exceeded
1	Lower Big Creek	1471	7/15			4/NA/30%	5	3"/14%alt/34%Brws	Yes, stubble and Browse Use
1	Upper Big Creek					4/NA/30%	5	3"/16%alt/55%Brws	Yes, stubble and Browse Use
1	Sands/Coal Creek			8/7		4/NA/50%	5	4"/NA/18%Brws	No
2	Wet Creek (upper)	200	8/5	8/11		6/15%/50%	7	6"/24%alt/26%Brws	Yes, Alteration
3	Pine Creek		8/8	8/10		Wet Creek 6/20%/30% Pine Creek 6/20%/30%	7/7	REST 9"/7%alt/ N-Slight Brws	No
4	North Wet Creek Basin		8/11			4/NA/50%	5	2"/100%alt/15%Brws	Yes, Stubble/alteration
4	South Wet Creek Basin			9/11		4/NA/50%	5	3"/25%alt/62% Brws	Yes, stubble and Browse Use
5	Southeast Pass Creek		9/12			4/NA/50%	5	4"/54%alt/9%Brws	No
5	Twin Lakes					4/NA/50%	5	3"/NA/NA	Yes, Stubble
5	North Pass Creek					4/NA/50%	5	3.5"/27%alt/13%Brws	Yes/no, Stubble
5	South Pass Creek			10/1		4/NA/50%	5	3"/32%alt/32%Brws	Yes, Stubble
	Total			79					

Utilization: Standards were not met on Lower Big Creek (3 inch Stubble height instead of 4 and 34% browse use instead of 30%), Upper Big Creek (3 inch Stubble height instead of 4 inches and 37% browse instead of 30%), Sand/Coal Creeks (heavy alteration to the point of reducing vegetation), Wet Creek (24% alteration instead of 20%), North Wet Creek Basin (<2 inch stubble height instead of 4 inches), South Wet Creek Basin (3 inch stubble height instead of 4 inches and 62% browse use instead of 50%), Twin Lakes (3 inch stubble height instead of 4 inches), South Pass Creek (3 inch stubble height instead of 4 inches) and North Pass Creek (3 inch stubble height instead of 4 inches). All other standards were met. Upland utilization was none to slight on grasses throughout much of the allotment. This was most likely a result of the amount and timing of precipitation this year.

Other issues during the 2015 grazing season mostly involved managing the distribution of cattle. Multiple times during the beginning of the season while cattle were in the Upper/Lower Big Creek and Sands\Coal Creek Units, small groups of cattle would be found in the Wet Creek Unit. This issue was typically taken care of quickly when noticed but the frequency could be an issue in the future. Also, during this same time, Cattle would occasionally congregate in the water gap just above the private ground on Wet Creek. Again this was taken care of quickly but the potential for the cattle to break through the fence into the Wet Creek Enclosure is very high and should be watched

carefully in the future. The construction of a “fence” by USFS along Coal Creek did not aid in cattle distribution for this area. Cattle were able to enter the top or bottom of the creek and would have to trail up or down the creek to get out. This caused excessive alteration on Coal creek. The excessive alteration combined with stubble height measurements on Sand Creek led to an early move out of these pastures.

After the cattle were moved across the Pine Creek Unit, cattle were repeatedly found on Wet Creek during Bull Trout Spawning season when they were not authorized to be there. Almost immediately after the move the USFS was notified that there were cattle in the Basin Creek Exclosure. Again this was taken care of quickly, however, alteration in areas just above the exclosure on many of the seeps and springs was very heavy. The utilization of seeps and springs throughout the allotment was typified by excessive alteration. Though many of them do not directly affect the perennial streams, water availability can be lost when these areas are altered too much causing a drop in the water table.

The last couple weeks of the grazing season were plagued by reports of cattle gathering at the cattle guard at the top of the Pass Creek “narrows”. Despite efforts of the rider cattle continuously congregated at the cattleguard which lead to extreme utilization of the areas nearby.

One thing to note, is that all units still had plenty of upland forage available. If cattle would have spent less time in the riparian areas and more time in the uplands, all standards would have been met.