2013 END OF SEASON REPORT
CHERRY CREEK 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.
405 *387	7/11	10/15	1292 1234	530	7/11	10/15	1690	*530	7/10	10/6	1534

*PU was allowed to increase numbers under temporary authorization to prove the carrying capacity on the allotment. The Term Permit for PU authorizes 405 cattle while the Forest Service holds the unobligated portion for the additional 387 head.

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			% ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN/ UPLANDS	RIPARIAN/ UPLANDS/BROWSE
Richardson/Crawford	7/11	8/7	4”/50%	7”/ Light/ 27%
Middle Fork	8/8	9/7	4”/50%	7”/No Data/45% browse
Left Fork	9/8	9/24	4”/50%	No Data
Riparian Meadow/ Richardson Unit	9/25	9/30	4”/50%	Photo
Poison Creek	10/1	10/6	4”/50%	No Data

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/2, 7/24, 8/15, 8/28, 9/12, and 10/24. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, range improvement inspections, and utilization monitoring.

Information: The precipitation for the Bear Canyon Snotel was above average at 90% for the precipitation year of October 2012 through September 2013. The growing season precipitation for the months of April through September was well below average at 78% of the 30 year average for the site. The precipitation information for the Bear Canyon Snotel site is included in the table below. The totals for 2013 are compared to the average total precipitation by month for the Bear Canyon Snotel site from 1982-2013.

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Year Total	Apr-Sept Total
2013 Precip. (inches)	1.4	4.2	7.6	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.4	1.5	1.4	0.6	0.4	4.4	25.1	8.7
Average Precip. 1982-2013	2.0	2.7	3.6	2.8	2.6	3.3	2.4	2.8	2.2	1.3	1.0	1.4	27.9	11.10

The temperature for the growing season as measured at the Bear Canyon Snotel site shows a much warmer growing season than average at 2.7 degrees F warmer than the 30 year average as indicated in the table below. The 6 month growing season temperature is the third warmest out of the 30 year record for the Bear Canyon Snotel site. The warm temperature and limited moisture during the growing season greatly limited vegetation growth on the District.

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Apr-Sept Avg
2013 Temperature (^{o}F)	32.0	41.0	50.0	60.8	59.0	48.2	48.5
Average Temp. 1984-2013	30.7	38.8	48.3	56.5	55.0	45.5	45.8

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 dry years. Generally speaking, cattle began to shift to woody browse species as the four inch stubble height on grasses and sedges was met which could be used as an indicator for riders/ permittees to move cattle in the future. 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 years of low precipitation.

Utilization: Upland forage utilization of bunchgrasses was light to moderate. Riparian sedge utilization was light to moderate with two end of season locations measured. Woody browse received moderate utilization. Mud Lake fence was fairly effective this year. Mud Lake was checked daily while cattle were in the Middle Fork Unit and cattle were removed promptly when found within the fence. A range inspection documented light use within the fenced area.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The allotment units were used in sequence in accordance with the annual operating instructions. Rotation was used as shown above. The small riparian pasture at the west end of the Richardson Canyon Unit was only grazed as livestock moved from the Left Fork Cherry to Poison Creek Units.

The pasture boundary between the Richardson Canyon and Middle Fork Cherry pastures was redrawn to allow easier management in regards to keeping cattle in the correct pastures. It is felt that the Middle Fork Cherry Creek Unit could use more days of use and there should be an equivalent less number of days in the Poison Creek Unit. The number of days should be agreed upon at the 2014 AOI meeting.

Livestock were found to drift from the Richardson Canyon to the Poison Creek Units early in the year. The permittee identified this as a problem while using the rotation used this year. The potential for drift should be monitored closely in the future.

Range Improvements: The Flower Garden trough in the Richardson Canyon Unit and the Larkspur trough in the Left Fork Cherry Creek Unit were reconstructed in 2013. The Larkspur trough worked well with a good flow of water to the trough. The Flower Garden trough needs some additional work to the headbox to ensure a good flow of water to the trough. The Forest Service and permittee will evaluate which additional troughs may be reconstructed in 2014.

The Cherry Creek permittee and the Antelope permittees got together early in the year and constructed the drift fence between the two allotments, completing a project that was started several years ago. This should limit drift between the allotments in this location.

Recommendations:

1. There should be a few less days in the Left Fork Cherry Unit and a few more in Middle Fork Cherry Unit.
2. Livestock drift between the Alder Creek and Cherry Creek Allotments in the vicinity of Sheep Mountain and Flat Top occurred this year. The fence at the boundary from Sheep Mountain to the existing fence near Flat Top may need to be built since it appears that riding cannot curtail the cattle drift. It is your responsibility to ride, jointly maintain the fences and keep the drift down to a minimum in the meantime.
3. The Forest Service will work with the permittee to complete as much trough maintenance and repairs as possible.
4. Riders need to keep horses at rider's camp down to 10 head at any one time, including pack animals. This area is not to be over used and certified weed free hay needs to be used or other weed free supplements.
5. Ensure livestock are kept out of the Mud Lake Fence. Add additional fence materials to ensure electric fence works around the entire perimeter of the fence.
6. The electric fencer needs to remain on the Mud Lake exclosure fence throughout the entire season to reduce impacts from cattle drifting from the Alder Creek Allotment.
7. Prepare for another hot and dry season. The limited precipitation from this winter will prove insignificant to forage production if we do not get any moisture during the spring and active growing season. In preparing, thoughts of running fewer cattle, less time in each unit and lighter use will reduce the chances of long lasting impacts to the forage species on the allotment.