

**2013 END OF SEASON REPORT
BOONE CREEK ALLOTMENT**

TERM GRAZING PERMIT				AUTHORIZED USE				ACTUAL USE Reported by Permittee			
NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.
1275	6/6	10/15	5533	888	6/6	10/15	3883	548	6/8	7/6	523
				24	6/6	10/15	104	730	7/7	8/28	1272
				264	7/15	10/15	807	688	9/6	9/20	340
								468	9/21	10/1	170
								380	10/2	10/6	63
								264	7/14	10/6	729
								25	6/6	10/10	105
1275			5533	1176			4794	1019			3202

Actual use was 58% of full permitted head months and 80% of full permitted cattle numbers.

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS			ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN			RIPARIAN
			% Use	Stubble Height inches	Woody Browse Use	% Use/Stubble Height/% Browse use
Garden Creek	6/8	6/16	50%	4"	50%	No Data
Right Fork Boone	6/17	7/6	50%	4"	50%	4"/40%
Road Creek Upper Lower	7/7	7/15	50%	4"	50%	5"/36% 5"/36%
Ramey Creek	7/16	8/9	50%	4"	50%	4"/14%
Fox Creek Fox Little Boone Rider	8/10	8/28	50%	4"	50%	4"/40% 3"/NA 4"/19%
Castle Creek	9/6	10/1	50%	4"	50%	No Data
Main Boone Creek Main Boone Left Boone	9/6	10/1	50%	4"	50%	5"/10% 4"/34%
Rock Creek	10/2	10/6	50%	4"	50%	No Data

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/11, 6/13, 6/19, 6/21, 8/5, 8/9, 8/27, 8/29, 9/9, 9/18, 9/30, 10/25. Allotment inspections include utilization monitoring, cattle location and range improvement maintenance checks.

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 (°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

The Boone Creek permittees ran fewer cattle and moved through the rotation quicker to manage for the expected dry conditions that persisted this season. The Boone Creek permittees weaned their calves on the forest this year from August 29th to September 5th on the private property between the Fox Creek and Castel Creek Units. They brought the cattle into the private property early in order to meet end of season indicators in Fox Creek and wean calves while letting the cows settle down. They turned the cattle into the Main Boone and Castle Creek Units which were next to be grazed for the season. The reduction in use equated to 58% of head months being used on the allotment in 2013.

Utilization: Stubble height use levels were met across a majority of the allotment showing that the permittees and riders were monitoring use levels. Little Boone had very little water this year and therefore vegetation production. It was the only area where an end of season indicator was exceeded as it had a 3 inch stubble height.

The uplands showed light to moderate use in a majority of the allotment with moderate use adjacent to riparian systems. The Fox Creek Unit received moderate upland use throughout the pasture.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The Allotment's units were used in sequence according to annual operating instructions. Castle Creek was grazed in conjunction with the Main Boone Creek Unit. Wildhorse cattle were not an issue on Castle Creek this year. The schedule was adjusted slightly throughout the season to graze pastures with limited forage for fewer days. The permittees took their cattle to private property from August 29th to September 5th while weaning. This allowed the cattle to stay on the Forest a little later in the season.

The Bellas Lakes area was inspected multiple times during the grazing season. Suzie said that she was checking the lakes every 3 days while in Ramey Creek Unit and once cattle were found at the lakes she rode up there every day while cattle were in the Ramey Creek Unit. There was 8 pair of cattle found around the lakes on August 29th, which Suzie brought out. There was limited grazing on the sedges and cow pies scattered around between and around the lakes. Suzie showed Thad Berrett where she thinks the cattle are coming up to the lakes from and where they head down the hill when they are brought out of the area. A tentative proposed route for a drift fence is being looked at to reduce the chances of cattle getting to Bellas Lakes.

Boone Creek cattle got on the Copper Basin Allotment in Lehman Basin this year. The rider's brought the cattle back to the Garden Creek Unit and checked fences. It appeared that cattle got through a gate or went around the fence as there were no down sections of fence.

Several dugouts were inspected by a permittee and Thad Berrett to evaluate which ones should be cleaned and which should be evaluated for pond to trough conversions. RAC funding did not come through for some of the cleaning of dugouts. Salt and mineral tub locations were not an issue this grazing season.

Recommendations:

Continue working with district personnel to ensure effective movement between units based on utilization levels so that overuse does not occur. Adjustments must be made throughout the season to ensure allowable use levels are not surpassed. If you think that appropriate utilization levels are being approached, move the cattle and/or call and a field visit will take place to ensure use levels are not exceeded. Be aware of the browse use on woody species such as willows and aspen on the allotment. If there are questions on assessing use values or any other issues Thad Berrett can help you in obtaining the answers you need.

Provide help to the rider in back riding and in their absence to maintain smooth operations on the allotment. Early pastures will be monitored to ensure that the unit is clean for the remainder of the grazing season. Monitor allotment perimeter to ensure cattle are not straying to adjoining allotments.

Continue to keep current on range improvement maintenance. Maintain fences early in the season, especially along the allotment boundary between the Wildhorse and Boone Creek Allotments along Castle Creek. It is imperative that permittees on both allotments maintain their portion of this fence. Evaluate the effectiveness of the fence between Garden Creek and Lehman Basin.

If economically feasible consider protein supplements after grasses have cured to help disperse livestock to the uplands effectively. The Forest Service and the permittees will work together to identify appropriate salt and mineral locations.

Continue to work with Forest Service personnel on dugout cleaning. A request to take equipment off designated routes should be made prior to any work so that the Forest Service can authorize such travel. Further evaluate the potential for some pond to trough conversions on the allotment.

Maintain flexibility with respect to grazing rotations to avoid wolf/livestock interactions wherever possible.

Consider changing the grazing rotation from the normal deferred system to mix up the timing of use on those mid season pastures that see use during the hot season every year.

Work to reduce grazing pressure on Little Boone Creek. Small changes will show improvement on this site.

Continue to monitor the Bellas Lakes area for livestock use while using the Ramey Creek Unit. The Forest Service will evaluate the potential drift fence location to reduce possibilities of livestock going off the allotment around Bellas Lakes.

Prepare for another hot and dry season. The precipitation for this winter is low and 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.

Be flexible in weaning dates and monitor vegetation conditions closely when preparing to wean.