

**2012 END OF SEASON REPORT  
COPPER BASIN 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.
1589	6/6	10/15	6896	1030	6/6	10/15	4470	597	6/6	10/13	2552
1228	7/1	10/15	4320	1178	7/1	10/15	4144	314	6/15	10/13	1249
				75	7/5	10/15	254	1295	7/3	10/13	4385
				420	7/20	10/15	1215	415	7/20	10/13	1173
<b>2817</b>			<b>11216</b>	<b>2703</b>			<b>10083</b>	<b>2621</b>			<b>9359</b>

Actual use was 83.4% of full permitted head months, and 93.0% 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	% Utilization/Stubble Height (% Browse)
<b>Navarre</b>	6/6	6/19	50%	4"	(50%)	5", (19%)
<b>Hamilton</b>	7/3	7/12	50%	4"	(50%)	No Data
<b>Sugarloaf/ Coyote</b>	6/20 7/6	7/10 7/13	50%	4"	(50%)	6", (41%) 7", (21%)
<b>Upper Lower</b>						
<b>Corral Creek</b>	7/11	7/19	50%	4"	(50%)	5" (18%)
<b>Cabin Creek/ Mine Canyon</b>	7/20	7/26	50%	4"	(50%)	4", (31%),
<b>Swamps/ Anderson</b>	7/27	8/9	50%	4"	(50%)	4", (46%)
<b>Little Canyons (trail)</b>	8/10	8/10				No Utilization on DMA's
<b>High Canyons</b>	8/11	9/10	50%	4"	(50%)	40% ocular 4", (No Browse) 4", (17%) 4", (No Browse)
Muldoon Starhope Broad Canyon Lake Creek						
<b>Basin Flats/ Potholes</b>	9/11	9/22	50%	4"	(50%)	4", 50% ocular uplands 4", (49%), 25% uplands
<b>Upper Riparian</b>	9/23	9/27	50%	4"	(50%)	7", (18%) 5", (27%)
Above Burma						
<b>Lower Riparian</b>	9/28	9/30	50%	4"	(50%)	6", (14%)
<b>Little Lake Creek</b>	10/1	10/3	50%	4"	(50%)	No Data
<b>Lehman Basin/Canyon</b>	10/4	10/13	50%	4"	(50%)	Photos
<b>Mine Hill</b>			50%	4"	(50%)	<b>REST</b>
<b>Horse Wallow</b>			50%	4"	(50%)	<b>REST</b>
<b>Little Canyons</b>			50%	4"	(50%)	<b>1/2 day trail</b>

**Allotment Inspections:** Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 5/23, 5/30, 6/21, 7/10, 7/18, 7/23, 7/26, 7/30, 7/31, 8/1, 8/10, 8/13, 8/20, 8/28, 9/5, 9/10, 9/13, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/15, 10/17 and 10/22 . Allotment inspections included project maintenance checks, cattle location checks and utilization monitoring.

Rested units included: Mine Hill, Horse Wallow and the only portion of the Little Canyons that was impacted by livestock was the lower fenceline used to actively trail cattle through to the High Canyons.

**Information:** The precipitation for this area on the District was 111% of average for the 2012 Water Year (Oct 1- Sept. 30). Although the water year information looks very good the active growing season precipitation (April-September) shows 77% of normal precipitation when compared to the average. This resulted in low forage production across the allotment with plants losing their nutritional value early. The totals for 2012, shown below, are compared to the average total precipitation for the water year by month for the Bear Canyon SNOTEL site in Copper Basin from the NRCS National Water and Climate Center website for 1982-2012.

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
2012 Precip. (in inches)	5.2	2.7	1.7	2.6	0.5	9.7	3.1	2.2	1.1	1.6	0.3	0.3	31.0
2012 % of Average	260%	104%	50%	93%	19%	294%	135%	79%	48%	123%	27%	23%	111%
Average Precip. 1982-2012	2.0	2.6	3.4	2.8	2.6	3.3	2.3	2.8	2.3	1.3	1.1	1.3	28.0

The Association had two riders through most of the season and another part-time person for improvement maintenance. Assistance was provided by permittees as necessary and quite frequently. The season started off with cattle tearing down the Forest Service boundary fence in Navarre and frequent riding and maintenance kept the cattle pushed back to the BLM. In late July the cattle spilled out of Cabin Creek into the Swamps. The permittees responded quickly, caught the remainder of the herd up to the Swamps and got the herd together effectively. The rotation was changed in September to allow use of the Upper and Lower Riparian units. The Potholes unit was used in conjunction with the Basin Flats and the cattle needed to be moved off of the Potholes before the Basin Flats had neared use standards. Trailing the cattle back into the Potholes would have been difficult and created more resource impacts so it was decided to take the cattle from the Basin Flats to the Upper Riparian and then down through the Lower Riparian to Little Lake Creek. The herd movements went well until the cattle were in Little Lake Creek and tore down the electric fence and trickled into Upper Horse Wallow. The fence was up and was pressured by the cattle until it failed. At that point the permittees and rider were actively cleaning Horse Wallow into and through Lehman Canyon.

**Utilization:** Utilization levels in the Copper Basin allotment monitoring areas this season for stubble height and browse were met on all areas monitored. Riparian areas received light to moderate utilization of herbaceous vegetation. The uplands showed light use with moderate use close to riparian systems. The Basin Flats had very uniform use in the uplands although it looked very heavy, given the lack of production this season it equated to moderate use over a large area with some isolated areas of heavy use. The data is in the utilization table above. One of the provisions of using the Lower Riparian is that a 6" stubble height remain at the end of the season and it did.

**Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance:** A Notice of Non-Compliance was issued to the permittees on the Copper Basin Allotment in 2011 for **failure to follow management instructions**. Early in the grazing season large numbers of cattle were seen in three units away from the main herd in units they were not

authorized at that time. In the High Canyons unit cattle were seen by hikers at Baptie Lake in Broad Canyon. The area around these lakes is outside of the grazing allotment. Later in the season there were cattle noted in the High Canyons a month after they were to be removed. Cattle were also allowed to re-graze Lower Horse Wallow, which was grazed in early July, and remove all of the season's re-growth. The rider's pasture is not authorized for permitted cattle but was grazed heavily by cows.

**The following actions and timeframes for accomplishment are required of you to remedy the non-compliance:**

1. In 2012 and 2013, all livestock are to be kept in the schedule pasture according to the AOI or direction from myself or a rangeland management specialist as adjustments are made throughout the season.
2. Cattle are to be kept away from the high lakes in the Broad Canyon area.
3. Permittees will assist range riders in checking that units ahead and behind the schedule are clean.

These actions are required through the end of the 2011 grazing season and the entire 2012 and 2013 grazing seasons. **Failure to comply with these actions within the prescribed timeframes may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures.**

The cattle were kept out of the high lakes this season. There were a few head that got above the Lakes in Lake Creek but there were no sign of impacts around the lakes and they were removed promptly.

The Upper Riparian was managed well with the willow plantings.

Fences and water were maintained to standard this year.

**Recommendations:**

Continue to meet the requirements of the Notice of Non-Compliance from 2011 by keeping livestock in scheduled pastures, keeping livestock out of the high lakes (Broad Canyon/ Lake Creek) and helping range riders in making sure that units are clean.

The association should continue monthly "fence post" meetings or as needed. There were three meetings this year, 6/26, 8/1, and 9/19, all prior to substantial livestock movement on the allotment. Communication between the association, the Range Riders and District Range Specialists was good this season and communication between association members should be a priority to continue to improve upon. Continue to maintain close communications with Josh Edwards on what is going on or needs to be changed on the allotment.

Herd management was difficult given the dry year and low production but response time and effort to livestock placement issues was good. Having multiple people riding on the allotment and checking on the range rider periodically helped a lot.

Pay particularly close attention to the use levels in the Basin Flats and Potholes. Try to avoid showing heavy use in these units. Be sure to pay close attention to the springs in the potholes and upland use in the Basin Flats.

Continue to maintain range improvements to standard and reconstruct older improvements as necessary. Finish the second trough in the basin flats and replace two troughs in the head of the swamps.

Implement a permittee monitoring program and make livestock moves based on appropriate use levels.

Continue to manage the Upper Riparian willow planting area as you did this season. Also be aware of the use on young, available willows on **all units** to ensure that browse use levels are do not exceed 50%. Move livestock based on browse use, if necessary, and not stubble height by itself.

A protein supplement was used this year and worked well to locate livestock on drier feed away from the riparian areas. Continue this as it is feasible and try to exact the timing of placing it just before you move into a unit.

Prepare for another hot and dry season. The 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.

## Swamps



1998\_July22\_Swamps\_GL\_1



2009\_July6\_Swamps\_GL\_1



2012\_Aug28\_Swamps\_GL\_1(1998)



1998\_July22\_Swamps\_GL\_dwn



2009\_July6\_Swamps\_GL\_dwn



2012\_Aug28\_Swamps\_GL\_dwn(1998)

**Broad Canyon**



2007\_Oct23\_BroadCyn\_Meadow



2009\_Sept21\_BroadCyn\_Meadow(2007)



2012\_Oct15\_BroadCyn\_Meadow(2007)



2005\_Oct20\_Broad Cyn meadow

2011\_Sept27\_Broad Cyn meadow(2005)

**Broad Canyon Notes:** This meadow system is becoming wetter once again by new beaver activity upstream creating a rising water table and new channels through the meadow.



1999 Broad Canyon DMA



2010 Broad Canyon DMA