

**2012 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	1487	6/9	9/30	5573	1485	6/9	9/27	5419
				202	9/1	9/30	199	202	9/1	9/27	179
1892			7091	1689			5772	1687			5598

Actual use was 5598 head months which is 79% of permitted head months and 89% of permitted numbers.

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE USE VALUES			ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN			RIPARIAN
			% Use	Stubble Height inches	Woody Browse Use	Stubble Height/ (% Browse)
Pinto/Burnt/Garden Burnt Creek	6/9	7/8	50%	4"	(50%)	4", (47%)
Twin Bridges	7/9	7/27	50%	4"	(50%)	3", (53%)
North Fork Grasshopper Horse Creek Toolbox	7/28	8/13	50%	4"	(50%)	4", (17%) 4", (no apparent browse use) 4", (40%)
Summit/Kane Upper Kane Lower Kane Summit Creek	8/14	8/31	50%	4"	(50%)	4", (no apparent browse use) 4", (42%) 4", (no apparent browse use)
Newton Creek	9/1	9/7	50%	4"	(50%)	No Data
Wildhorse Canyon	9/4	9/7	50%	4"	(50%)	4", (38%)
East Fork Deer Creek Pole Creek	9/8	9/14	50%	4"	(50%)	4", (10%) 4", (15%)
Grant Creek	9/15	9/27	50%	4"	(50%)	

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/17, 6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/15, 7/26, 8/4, 8/9, 8/16, 8/24, 8/29, 8/30, 9/6, 9/7, 9/13, 9/14, 9/22, 9/30, 10/3, 10/13 and 11/2. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, contact with rider and permittees, and utilization monitoring.

Information: The precipitation information for this allotment was collected from the Stickney Mill SNOTEL site and showed 95% of average for 2012 Water Year (Oct 1- Sept. 30). Although the water year information does not appear to be terribly low the active growing season (April-September) shows 66% 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 precipitation data is provided below. The totals for 2012 are compared to the average total precipitation for the water year by month for the Stickney Mill SNOTEL site 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)	3.6	1.1	0.8	1.3	0.5	5.4	2.6	1.6	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2	18.60
2012 % of Average	240%	65%	42%	76%	33%	257%	153%	73%	37%	50%	22%	18%	95%
Average Precip. 1982-2012	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.5	2.1	1.7	2.2	1.9	1.2	0.9	1.1	19.55

Utilization: Utilization levels in the Wildhorse allotment monitoring areas this season for stubble height were not met on Twin Bridges Creek (3"). Riparian areas received moderate utilization of herbaceous and woody vegetation. Woody browse ranged from 0 to 53% across the allotment with areas of use being in the slight (0-10%), light (11-40%) or moderate (41-60%) use categories. The data is collected using use categories and is a weighted average which will give variability from the actual percentage of use. Upland forage utilization patterns were widely distributed and utilization of bunchgrasses was light to moderate with some areas adjacent to water used 35-50 %.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: A Notice of Non-Compliance was issued to the permittees on the Wildhorse Allotment in 2011 for **failure to keep cattle within the allotment boundary and in scheduled units during scheduled time periods.**

It is believed that management improved during the 2012 grazing season as compared to the last couple of years, but is still less than is required and is in need of further improvement. There were several observations of livestock in units before or after the scheduled time or in areas off the allotment, this is summarized below.

- Cattle were scheduled to be in the North Fork Unit beginning August 1 (as adjusted from the AOI), yet cattle were reported in this unit five different times from July 10 to July 30.
- Cattle were seen off the allotment in the North Fork sheep allotment, over a mile above the trailhead in Kane Canyon, and on the Boone Creek Allotment.
- Cattle were seen back in the first units toward the end of the grazing season.

Recommendations:

Ensure that all end of season utilization levels are met across the allotment. Establish move triggers that will allow you to get livestock moved without exceeding use levels.

Improve herd management. There were 3 riders this season but permittee assistance is necessary. Helping with back riding and checking grazing units in front and behind the herd will free riders up to stay with the main herd and keep them placed in the scheduled unit. It seemed as though the riders spent a considerable amount of time back riding this season.

Keep your units clean once the cattle are moved. Keeping units clean will improve the potential for regrowth on previously grazed plants and if move triggers are used it will reduce the chance of use levels being exceeded.

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.

Maintain the fence below Wildhorse Campground and keep up on range improvement maintenance and reconstruction of existing improvements in need. We have the materials for the fence at Castle Rock.

Continue to incorporate rest into your grazing system.