

**2011 END OF SEASON REPORT
ARCO PASS C&H 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.
484	6/16	9/30	1703	138	6/16	9/30	485	138	6/17	9/30	481

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN	RIPARIAN
Brier/Hurst/Wood ¹	6/17	7/19	50% (4 in)	Brier 4'' /29% Browse Hurst 7''/29% Browse Wood No Data
Horsethief	7/20	8/21	50% (4 in)	6''/ 5% Browse
Seeding	8/22	9/30	50% (4 in)	Uplands Light

¹Andreason used Brier/Hurst and McNare used Wood Canyon.

Allotment Inspections: Visits were made on the following dates 7/20, 7/28, 8/15, 8/31 and 9/24. Allotment inspections included project maintenance checks, cattle location checks, and utilization monitoring.

Information: The precipitation for the District was below normal for 2011. Heavy precipitation came in October after the growing season. The precipitation information for the District is included in the table below. While this information is collected at the office in Mackay and is not specific to your allotment areas, it does give a good idea of the available moisture on the District. The totals for 2011 are compared to the average total precipitation by month for Mackay from the Desert Research Institute website for 1931-2005.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Precip. (in inches)	0.34	0.53	1.68	1.09	0.61	0.61	0.03	0.60	0.06	2.78	8.33
Average Precip. 1931-2005	0.78	0.60	0.61	0.68	1.09	1.34	0.93	0.80	0.67	0.57	8.07

Utilization: Riparian sedge utilization was moderate and light on grasses across the entire allotment. Upland utilization across the allotment was on average very light. End of the season woody species use was also light.

A browse standard of 50% is included in your permit and should be watched carefully. 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. In general, 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.

Compliance with Unit schedule and Project Maintenance: The allotment units were used in sequence in accordance with the annual operating instructions, with exception of moving into the seeding a week early. Fifty-five percent of the herd was moved off the allotment on September 17 & 18 and the remaining were removed of October 4th. Actual use was 29 percent of full permitted cattle numbers, two permits were in full non-use status.

Permittees were on the allotment on average 5 days per week. Cattle guards need cleaned on entire allotment.

Recommendations:

1. Prevent drift from Horsethief Unit into the Brier/Hurst Units; this will require additional riding while in these Units.
2. Upland water availability for cattle continues to be a limiting factor for scheduling the Brier/Hurst Units. Bring troughs in Horsethief up to standard and look for other potential spring developments.
3. Discourage concentration of cattle on key areas in Brier, and riparian areas with salting and riding.
4. Continue with conservative grazing periods and cattle numbers to compensate for drought and limited water, unless additional water can be hauled or by other means.
5. When not moving according to the Annual Operating Instructions, continue to contact the Forest Service with authorization of changes.