

**2007 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.
1286	6/6	10/15	5537	680 214	6/6 7/5	10/15 10/15	2951 725	680 214	6/6 7/13	9/28 9/28	2571 549
<b>1286</b>			<b>5537</b>	<b>894</b>			<b>3676</b>	<b>894</b>			<b>3120</b>

Actual use was 56.3% of full permitted head months and 69.5% of full permitted cattle numbers.

**UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:**

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN % Use/Stubble Height/(% Browse Use)	RIPARIAN % Use/Stubble Height/(% Browse use)
Garden Creek	6/6	6/19	50%/4''/(50%)	No data
Right Fork Boone	6/20	7/8	50%/4''/(50%)	3''(72%)
Road Creek	7/9	7/19	50%/4''/(50%)	6''(60%),4''(73%)
Ramey Creek	7/20	8/11	50%/4''/(50%)	4''(24%)
Fox Creek	8/12	8/29	50%/4''/(50%)	4'',4''(17%),3'', 20% uplands
Boone Cr./Castle Cr.	8/30	9/14	50%/4''/(50%)	4''(15%), 4''(14%),2''(71%)
Rock Creek	9/15	9/28	50%/4''/(50%)	Occular Estimate 40-50% riparian (40-50% browse)

**Allotment Inspections:** Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/19, 7/23, 7/27, 8/9, 8/16, 8/22, 8/23, 9/5, 9/19, 9/26, 10/4, 10/11, 11/6 and 11/8.

Allotment inspections include utilization monitoring, cattle location and range improvement maintenance checks.

**Information:** 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 2007 are compared to the average total precipitation by month for Mackay from the Desert Research Institute website for 1931-2005. The low precipitation levels and early warm temperatures caused vegetation to mature at a faster rate this year, two to three weeks ahead of normal in many areas. This caused upland vegetation to dry out at a faster rate and made these grasses less desirable to your livestock.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Precipitation (in inches)	0.03	0.48	0.59	0.48	0.36	1.07	0.17	0.46	0.88	1.19	5.71
Average Precipitation 1931-2005	0.7	0.60	0.61	0.68	1.09	1.34	0.93	0.80	0.67	0.57	8.07

The warmer, drier conditions caused cattle to utilize woody browse species heavier than in normal precipitation years. This use was seen across the district as a whole. 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.

It was not communicated to the Forest Service that wolves were a management issue in the 2007 grazing season.

**Utilization:** Allowable use levels were exceeded in several areas within the Boon Creek allotment this year. These areas included:

- The right fork of Boone Creek, an early use pasture, received heavy use on woody browse (72%) and herbaceous utilization (3" stubble height).
- The lower reaches of Fox Creek and Little Boone Creek received heavy use on riparian areas (3" stubble height). The sagebrush areas along the bottom of the valley above the fence in Fox Creek also received heavy use.
- Road Creek received moderate use on riparian herbaceous species and heavy use (60% and 73%) on the woody browse.

- The Castle Creek unit was very heavily used this year on woody browse (71%) and riparian area forage utilization (2" stubble height), with upland use slight to light.

In the remaining units, riparian areas received moderate utilization levels. The uplands dried out in early July this year and showed slight to light use with moderate use very close to riparian systems.

**Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance:** Allotment units were used in sequence according to annual operating instructions. The schedule was adjusted slightly as drought impacted time on the later units. The permittees did come off about 19 days early this year as a result of drought conditions. Fence maintenance continues to be completed to standards.

**Recommendations:**

Work with district personnel to resolve issues of exceeding allowable use levels. Improve movement between units based on utilization levels so that overuse does not occur. This was done effectively on some units this year, but not on others. Adjustments must be made throughout the season to ensure allowable use levels are not surpassed. Be aware of the use on woody species such as willows and aspen on the allotment. If there are questions on assessing this Josh Edwards can help you with getting the answers you need.

Continue to stay up on range improvement maintenance.

Remain flexible in grazing rotation to avoid direct contact with wolf occurrence wherever possible.