

**2007 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.        |
| 2077                | 6/6     | 10/15    | 9014         | 1312           | 6/6     | 10/15    | 5694         | 1224        | 6/6     | 10/3     | 4829        |
| 1228                | 7/1     | 10/15    | 4320         | 1368           | 7/1     | 10/15    | 4812         | 350         | 6/28    | 10/3     | 1128        |
|                     |         |          |              |                |         |          |              | 493         | 7/1     | 10/3     | 1540        |
|                     |         |          |              |                |         |          |              | 325         | 7/7     | 10/3     | 951         |
| <b>3305</b>         |         |          | <b>13334</b> | <b>2680</b>    |         |          | <b>10506</b> | <b>2392</b> |         |          | <b>8448</b> |

Actual use was 63% of full permitted head months, and 72% of full permitted cattle numbers.

**UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:**

| ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE       |         |          | ALLOWABLE STDS                       | ACTUAL RESULTS                                  |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|--------------------------------------|---|
| UNIT NAME                     | ON DATE | OFF DATE | RIPARIAN %Utilization/Stubble Height | RIPARIAN %Utilization/Stubble Height (% Browse) |
| Mine Hill                     | 6/6     | 7/2      | 50%                                  | No data   |
| East and West Navarre         | 6/25    | 7/20     | 50%                                  | 4", (63%)                                       |
| Sugarloaf                     | 7/13    | 7/24     | 50%/4"                               | No Data   |
| Lower Corral Creek            | 7/19    | 7/24     | 50%/4"                               | 4", (33%)                                       |
| Upper Riparian                | 7/21    | 7/26     | 50%/4"                               | 5", 5", (22%)                                   |
| Little Canyons                | 7/25    | 8/11     | 50%/4"                               | 4", (70% & 95%)                                 |
| High Canyons                  | 8/7     | 9/10     | 50%/4"                               | 4"(10%), 4"(49%), 4"(23%),5"(25%)               |
| Potholes/Basin Flats          | 9/4     | 9/25     | 50%/4"                               | <b>3", 3"</b>                                   |
| Lower Riparian                | 9/19*   | 9/27*    | 50%/4"                               | <b>3"(72%)</b>                                  |
| Coyote                        | 9/27    | 10/1     | 50%/4"                               | 4"(22%), 5"(26%)                                |
| Hamilton                      | 10/1    | 10/3     | 50%/4"                               | No Data   |
| <b>Upper Corral Creek</b>     |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |
| <b>Cabin Creek</b>            |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |
| <b>Mine Canyon</b>            |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |
| <b>Swamps</b>                 |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |
| <b>Anderson</b>               |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |
| <b>Little Lake Creek</b>      |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |
| <b>Horse Wallow</b>           |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |
| <b>Lehman Basin &amp; Cyn</b> |         |          |                                      | <b>REST</b>                                     |

\* Actual Use Report shows a different date than recorded in allotment inspection notes by Range Specialist. Dates from inspection notes used in End of Season Report.

**Allotment Inspections:** Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 5/17, 5/24, 6/8, 6/14, 7/17, 7/19, 7/21, 7/23, 7/27, 7/31, 8/9, 8/16, 8/22, 8/23, 8/28, 9/5, 9/10, 9/12, 9/17, 9/19, 9/25, 9/26, 10/4, 10/18, 10/23, 10/24, 10/29, 11/1 and 11/5. Allotment inspections included project maintenance checks, cattle location checks and utilization monitoring.

**Information:** Rested units included: Upper Corral Creek, Cabin Creek, Mine Canyon, Swamps, Anderson, Little Lake Creek, Horse Wallow, Lehman Canyon and Lehman Basin.

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 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 | 0.78 | 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 on the allotment in the 2007 grazing season.

**Utilization:** Upland forage utilization was slight to light over most of the units this season. The forage in the uplands dried out quickly and was not desired by livestock starting in early July. This proved to be problematic with livestock distribution. Riparian areas were utilized more heavily and more evenly than the uplands. Many of the springs were also dry this season making water scarce, compounding distribution issues.

Utilization on woody plants exceeded the permitted allowable use level of 50% in the Navarre, Little Canyons and Lower Riparian units. In Navarre, with re-growth the stubble height met 4" but the browse use was excessive at 63%. There was excessive disturbance from hoof action in the riparian meadows and greenline areas. The use in the mesic meadows was heavy also showing 60-70% use.

The 4" stubble height was missed in the Potholes, Basin Flats and Lower Riparian units this season. There were warning letters sent based on the utilization levels in the Navarre and Lower Riparian Units. The Little Canyons, Basin Flats and Potholes were not used properly this season and the use levels found in these areas is not acceptable.

**Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance:** The units on the allotment were used in an altered sequence from the initial annual operating instructions in order to rest the Swamps unit and to assist in management during the drought situation. Upper Corral, Cabin Creek, Mine Canyon the Swamps and Anderson were all rested in exchange for use in the High Canyons. Making this adjustment helped with the management of the allotment this season.

There were problems with permit compliance this season. The problem with exceeding forage use levels is discussed above. In addition to forage utilization issues, there were also livestock management problems. Permittees assisted the rider in placing cattle on uplands and back riding, but there were still herd management issues out there this year. There were numerous sightings of cattle in areas outside scheduled timeframes. Livestock were left in some areas too long. Of most concern is when management direction was given it was not followed. This led to a Notice of Non-Compliance.

The 2007 grazing season proved difficult for managing livestock due to lack of water and forage. Even with the riding conducted by the riders and permittees, permittees were required to remove all livestock from the allotment 12 days prior to the permitted off-date due to forage utilization standards being met or exceeded in almost all units.

### **Recommendations:**

The association needs to function as a group. Communication between the Allotment Management Team and other members was better this year, but still needs improvement. This must be done to make herd management more effective.

Herd management must improve. The biggest concern on the allotment this year was herd management. The cattle were seen in units that they were not to be in and were left in four other units longer than scheduled which resulted in exceeding allowable utilization levels in riparian vegetation. There is a general rule of thumb that it takes one rider per 900 cattle for adequate management. Over 3000 head of cattle are permitted on this allotment. It was apparent in the 2007 grazing season, that one rider, even with assistance of permittees, is unable to maintain proper herd management. It is understood that the drought conditions made management more difficult this season. As discussed at the beginning of the grazing season, if one rider was found to be inadequate, two full-time riders would be required in the future. **Given the results of the 2007 grazing season, two full-time riders will be required in the future to adequately cover riding duties on the allotment.** The rider(s) need to be on the allotment riding more than what

occurred this season. If they cannot be there, association members need to be informed and prepared to pick up the riding duties as necessary

Follow management instructions in order to avoid any permit action, suspension or cancellation, as you have received a Notice of Non-Compliance for not doing so.

Continue to maintain range improvements to standard and replace older fence material on the Mine Hill. Plan to replace the older Potholes division fence. Reconstruct the jack fence between the Boone Creek and Copper Basin allotments near Bellas Canyon.

Continue to hold monthly meetings with all Association members and the Forest Service during grazing season to discuss needs, issues and strategize herd management.

Learn to implement a monitoring program and make livestock moves based on appropriate use levels.