

**2007 END OF SEASON REPORT
DRY FORK**

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE				ALLOWABLE USE	ACTUAL USE
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	Cow/Calf Pair #'s	RIPARIAN	RIPARIAN
Dry Fork	09/10	09/20	80	4 inches	4 inches

Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 07/12, 07/18, 08/15, 09/27. Allotment inspections include cattle location checks, improvement maintenance checks, vegetation monitoring (aspen and springs) and utilization monitoring.

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	0.78	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. 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.

The browse use is measured within 3 feet of the greenline on both sides of the creek with only those plants at 5 feet tall or less being considered for cattle browsing. Some meadows have extensive woody browse away from the greenline that was used at a heavier level and these areas should be watched carefully by permittees and range specialists to prevent unacceptable use in the future. In addition, dry meadows on benches along creeks should be left with patchy use

patterns to avoid overuse of these areas. Your range specialist may be placing cages in some of these dry meadows to better gauge growth of vegetation and actual use by livestock in these areas in the future.

The Forest Service is in the process of completing an environmental analysis on your allotment and others in Antelope Valley. If you have any questions or comments on the information we are collecting to complete this analysis, please contact your range specialist or the district ranger.