

**2008 END OF SEASON REPORT
ALDER CREEK ALLOTMENT**

TERM GRAZING PERMIT				AUTHORIZED USE				ACTUAL USE			
NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	HM.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	HM.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	HM.
604	6/16	10/6	2244	546	6/16	10/6	2028	543	6/16	10/05	2017

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN/ UPLAND	RIPARIAN/ UPLAND
Willow Creek	6/16	No Data	50% (4 in) Riparian 55% Upland	No Data 25%
¹ Tuscarora Gulch	No Data	No Data	55% Upland	55%
¹ Stewart/Mammoth	No Data	No Data	50% (4 in) Upland/Riparian	45%/55%
¹ Trail Creek/Sawmill	No Data	No Data	50% (4 in) Riparian	5 inches
¹ South Fork of Alder	No Data	No Data	50% (4in) Riparian 55% Upland	4 inches 40%
Big and Little Blind/Body Canyon	No Data	10/6	55% Upland	45%

¹Used in conjunction as one unit.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/21, 8/7, 8/12, 8/19, 8/21, 8/25, 9/3, 10/7. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, contact with rider, and utilization monitoring.

Information: The precipitation for the District was below normal for 2008. The late winter and cooler night time temperatures in addition to below normal precipitation levels caused vegetation to mature later and shorter this year, two to three weeks behind normal in many areas. Low moisture caused upland vegetation to dry out fast and made these grasses less desirable for livestock. These conditions continue to limit livestock water on the allotment.

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 riparian areas during years of low precipitation.

Utilization: Upland forage utilization of bunchgrasses was moderate in most areas except the Tuscarora Gulch area. Riparian sedge utilization was moderate and light on grasses across the entire allotment.

Willow Creek unit still is a concern for management but permittee's have voluntarily used it light to help with the riparian and water concerns. The fence installed and water developments planned should help with this unit.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The allotment units were used in sequence in accordance with the annual operating instructions. The Willow Creek Division Fence was constructed by permittees. The fence was approximately 2 miles of three-strand electric, Forest Service provided materials.

Actual use was 543 head, 90 percent of permitted use. One permit was in partial non-use. Cattle were on the Forest for the full season.

Recommendations:

1. Livestock drift concerns between the Alder Creek and Cherry Creek Allotments in the vicinity of Sheep Mountain and Flat Top was minimal this year. A proposed drift fence located at the boundary from Sheep Mountain to the existing fence near Flat Top to solve the drift problem was delayed this year. Until this is resolved it is your responsibility to ride and keep the drift down to a minimum.
2. Permittees taking non-use need to be reminded that they still have a responsibility to maintain their portions of improvement maintenance. Fence maintenance needs to be a priority on the whole allotment.
3. Meet end of season standards and continue to improve on overall allotment management (i.e. keep the cattle in designated units, make timely moves).
4. Continue to focus on rebuilding existing water developments, as well as identifying areas where additional off channel water sources may be developed, particularly in the Willow Cr. unit and from the Trail Creek drainage downstream to the allotment boundary.
5. Avoid having Copper Basin cattle in Mine Hill Unit at the same time that Alder Creek cattle are in Willow Creek Unit to avoid intermixing at shared water source along the fence line.