

**2008 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	193	6/16	9/30	896	145 48	6/16 6/16	9/27 10/3	654 <u>229</u> *883

\*These head months are higher than actual and don't reflect Maratech Inc. cattle staggering on the allotment on July 21<sup>st</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:**

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN	RIPARIAN
Seeding	6/15	7/15	50% (4 in)	Light Use
Horsethief	7/16	8/16	50% (4 in)	4"
Brier/Hurst	8/17	10/3	50% (4 in)	3"/4"

**Allotment Inspections:** Visits were made on the following dates 7/17, 7/21, 7/25, 8/8, 9/6, 9/9, 9/30, and 10/3. Allotment inspections included project maintenance checks, cattle location checks, counting cattle on 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.

**Utilization:** Upland utilization across the allotment was on average less than 15 percent at locations greater than ¼ mile from water and varied closer to seeps and streams. An estimated 35 to 40 percent use occurred within ¼ mile of water. End of the season woody species vegetation was grazed heavy in Brier and extremely heavy in Hurst.

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.

15 pair of unauthorized cattle were observed above King Springs on Forest at the end of the season, the owner was notified and cattle were quickly removed. However, this seems to be a reoccurring issue and permittees need to contact the Forest when this happens.

**Compliance with Unit schedule and Project Maintenance:** Maratech Inc. validated their permit with 90 percent or 93 head of cow calf pairs; on July 21<sup>st</sup> with 75 pair and July 25th with 15 pair and 3 bulls. Ren McAfee is the manager for Maratech Inc. Actual use was 40 percent of full permitted cattle numbers, two permits were in full non-use status.

Livestock were not removed from the allotment as permitted. Seventy five percent of the cattle were removed on September 27 and the remaining 25 percent were not removed until October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This resulted in a Notice of Non-Compliance letter and may have contributed to the missed trigger in Brier. Keep in mind an excess use bill will be added to the 2009 billing and refer to the letter for bringing permits back into compliance. In addition, there is no fence between Brier/Hurst and Horsethief Units; this requires additional riding to keep cattle in these Units.

Five hundred feet of pipe was replaced, headbox cleaned and fittings replaced to standard in the Seeding Unit pipeline. Heavy maintenance of fences was constructed due to late and drifted snow. Two permittees were on the allotment on average 4 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. Meet end of season stubble height requirement of 4" on entire allotment.
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. Coordinate with Forest Service when there is a need to adjust movement of livestock from what's written in the Annual Operating Instructions.