

**2003 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	177	6/15	9/1	372	53 88	6/16 7/3	9/30 9/7	134 194

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	RIPARIAN	RIPARIAN
Seeding	6/16	6/29	50% (4 in)	None
Horsethief	6/30	9/4	50% (4 in)	4"
Brier/Hurst	6/30	9/4	50% (4 in)	3', 3"
Seeding	9/5	9/30	50% (4 in)	None

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/13, 6/25, 6/26, 6/30, 7/1, 7/2, 7/10, 7/11, 8/27, 9/02, 10/08. Allotment inspections include cattle location checks, weed control, riparian and upland vegetation surveys, and utilization monitoring. The original plan was to use the Seeding earlier in June, but weather prevented the permittees from fixing unit fences prior to turnout.

Information: Range in the southern half of the Little Lost River watershed was ready much earlier than the rest of the district for the second year in a row. Spring precipitation and warm temperatures occurred on the allotment which resulted in adequate growing conditions slightly earlier than last season.

Permittees in the Howe area reported heavy spring rains in May. Upland vegetation production on the allotment was higher and closer to normal compared to range production in the Big Lost River watershed. Water availability, was low in ponds and upland springs again this year. Some springs in the Horsethief Canyon unit produced adequate water for stock use.

Utilization: End of season stubble height standards were being met in late August in the Hurst Canyon-Brier Creek unit. Stray cattle later regrazed the riparian areas which resulted in stubble height being left just below end of season standard. Streambanks were not impaired and numerous ungrazed sedges barely reached a height of 4 inches.

Upland utilization across the allotment units was less than 30% at locations greater than ¼ mile from water and varied closer to the riparian zone but stayed less than 50% within 200 yards of a stream.

Wood Canyon was not used again this year due to lack of available water.

Compliance with Unit schedule and Project Maintenance: Two developed springs in tributaries of the main stem of Horsethief Canyon and a division fence were repaired to standards. Permittees increased their level of communication with the range staff personnel this year which assisted with grazing plan adjustments and relocating stray cattle.

Actual use was 19% of permitted full head months, and 29% of full permitted cattle numbers. Two thirds of the cattle turned out went on the allotment 2 weeks late and were removed 3 weeks early compared to normal permitted use.

Permittees were granted additional time to use the allotment due to abundant forage supply in the uplands and low cattle numbers on the allotment.

Recommendations:

Controlling cattle from re-grazing small riparian areas continues to be a management concern late in the season. Additional riding and monitoring of cattle distribution is necessary to prevent excessive use of riparian areas.

Upland water availability for cattle continues to be a limiting factor for scheduling the Hurst-Brier Creek unit. Late use of the Seeding unit can alleviate grazing pressure on riparian areas in the adjacent units.