

**2003 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.
3305	6/6	10/15	12,904	1114	6/6	9/20	3882	597	6/6	9/24	2179
				1178	7/1	9/20	3137	154	6/19	9/24	496
								1165	7/1	9/24	3294
								240	7/2	9/24	671
								70	7/8	9/24	182

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
Mine Hill*	6/6	6/30	50%/4"	No Data
Navarre, Left, Right	7/1	7/11	50%/4"	No Data
Hamilton	7/12	7/17	50%/4"	No Data
Sugarloaf	7/18	7/23	50%/4"	No Data
Cabin, Corral Creek	7/24	7/31	50%/4"	4,6"
Mine Canyon	8/1	8/5	50%/4"	4"
Little Canyons	8/3	8/6	50%/4"	4,5,5"
High Canyons	8/7	9/3	50%/4"	4,5"
Basin Flats	9/4	9/12	50%/4"	No Data
Upper Riparian	9/13	9/17	50%/4"	4"
Horse Wallow	9/17	9/18	50%/4"	Trail/No Data
Coyote Creek	9/19	9/23	50%/4"	4"
Hamilton	9/24	9/26	50%/4"	No Data
Lower Riparian	Rested		50%/4"	No Data

Potholes	Rested		50%/4”	No Data
Swamps	Rested		50%/4”	No Data
Anderson Canyon	Rested		50%/4”	No Data

* The Mine Hill has Forest and BLM range; cattle enter the unit in mid May and tend to use the lower BLM range earlier and the Forest range later.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/29, 8/25, 8/27, 9/3, 9/8, 9/11, 9/15, 9/16, 9/22, 10/29, 11/12, 11 visits made. Allotment inspections included project maintenance checks, cattle location checks and utilization monitoring.

Information: The district experienced a below average precipitation year for the fourth year in a row. The allotment received infrequent rainfall during the season, July and August were the driest, light rains and cooler temperatures in September improved cattle distribution and forage utilization patterns.

Four years of drought conditions is continuing to have a cumulative effect on vegetation production, water availability for both livestock and plant growth. Seed production for perennial grasses was extremely low again this year.

Utilization: Riparian utilization standards were met on all units. Upland utilization was heavier within one half mile of riparian areas and light to moderate farther away.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The allotment units were used in sequence in accordance with the annual operating instructions. Four units were rested bringing the allotment back into scheduled rest outlined in the AMP. A small group of cattle drifted into the Hamilton unit in July because a gate between Navarre and Hamilton was open and later closed once detected. Fence maintenance continues to be completed to forest standards. Permittees used an innovative approach with electric fence to successfully trail cattle through the east side of the Horse Wallow unit and avoid using riparian resources. Repairs to a trough and enclosure fences in the Basin Flats were made. The pipelines in the Mine Hill unit were repaired. Permittees cleaned silt from a number of ponds in the Coyote unit prior to using the unit. The additional water storage improved cattle grazing utilization patterns.

Actual use was 53% (6822) of full permitted head months, and 2226 cattle, 67% of full permitted cattle. Two permits were in approved non-use status. One permit was in partial non-use status. Cattle were removed 4 days later than originally authorized with Forest service approval during unit monitoring.

Recommendations:

Should drought conditions remain in 2004, continue to plan unit grazing periods conservatively and hold cattle numbers constant; continue to improve water storage wherever needed.

Permittees have requested locating potential key areas for implementation monitoring in the Coyote Creek, Corral Creek and Cabin Creek; schedule use of Mine Hill early again in 2004.