

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 62008 NORTH BULL CANYON Allotment [03/02/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted Rangeland Health Assessments at 1 location within allotment #62008, North Bull Canyon. These assessments evaluated Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data and Ecological Site Descriptions were incorporated into and in support of this field assessment. A summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
62008-IDSU-A016	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the North Bull Canyon allotment, 62008. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot locations within the allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 674 acres of public land. The study is located on one ecological site; Loamy HP-2. The majority of the indicators for this location fell into the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate category; Gullies, Soil Surface Loss or Degradation and Invasive Plants were each rated as Moderate. Cholla was noted here as well as juniper and mesquite, to the level that the team rated this as Moderate.

There are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

Recommendations: With a majority of the indicators falling in the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standards for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. Continue to monitor and evaluate the potential for brush control and complete a land treatment for juniper, cholla or mesquite if warranted.

As this allotment contains 674 acres of public land which are scattered in amongst private and state tracts, any proposed vegetation treatment should be coordinated with the private land owner, the state land office, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the local Soil & Water Conservation District to achieve an effective manipulation.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 62008-IDSU-A016			
Legal Land Desc	NENE 28 0090N 0260E Meridian 23	Acreage	80
Ecosite	077BY026NM LOAMY HP-2	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	11080006060 UPPER PAJARITO		
Observers	ORTEGA & TRAUTNER	Observation Date	03/02/2010
County Soil Survey	NM019 GUADALUPE	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	010	Soil Taxon Name	REGNIER
Texture Class	NM019 L	Soil Phase	REGNIER-ROC-LATOM
Texture Modifier	NM019 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	5.12	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	3.7
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	5.69	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	4.67
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

Attribute	Indicators	Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills				X	
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						

S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:						
S H	Gullies			X		
Comments: As expected for this location - gullies do have vegetation on the edges.						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation			X		
Comments: high flows evident						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments: Mesquite, juniper and cholla present						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments: Mesquite, cholla and juniper						
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological					X

	Crusts					
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	2	4	4
H	Hydrologic	0	0	2	6	3
B	Biotic	0	0	2	3	6

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	2	8
Hydrologic		0	2	9
Biotic		0	2	9

Site Notes:

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 62008 NORTH BULL CANYON

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within North Bull Canyon, allotment #62008, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman
Acting Assistant Field Manager

05/20/2010
Date