Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63095 LUNA RANCH Allotment
[12/17/2009]

The ROSWELL Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63095 LUNA RANCH. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The 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
63095-IDSU-A139	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Luna Ranch, allotment 63095. 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 location within the allotment was 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 108 acres of public land. The study is located on Loamy CP-3 ecological site. Five of the indicators were rated as a "Moderate" degree of departure from the ecological site description. In each case, this was due to the presence and encroachment of juniper and cholla. All of the remaining indicators were rated as "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate". There are no riparian areas on the public land in this allotment.

Recommendations: With the majority of the indicators falling in the "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard 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. Evaluate potential for brush control. As there is only a small amount of public land on this allotment, work with other agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service to complete a land treatment if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63095-IDSU-A139			
Legal Land Desc	SENE 19 0040S 0120E Meridian 23	Acreage	108
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003030 ANCHO		
Observers	TRAUTNER, ORTEGA	Observation Date	12/17/2009
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	083	Soil Taxon Name	SHARPS
Texture Class	NM632 SIL	Soil Phase	SHARPS-ROC
Texture Modifier	NM632 SILT LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:	None present					
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:	Short and stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:	occasional pedestals					
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:	Ecological site description = 45 to 55%, this site is less than 45%					

S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
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:	soil dissolves quickly in water test.					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
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:	limited diversity of grasses and shrubs.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence			X		
Comments:	juniper, cholla & snakeweed dying.					
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production			X		
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Juniper and cholla encroaching.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
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	1	3	6
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	6	4
B	Biotic	0	0	5	5	1

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	1	9
Hydrologic		0	1	10
Biotic		0	5	6

Site Notes: Species noted at this site: blue grama, snakeweed, juniper, cholla, burrograss, and four-wing saltbush. This site is located near a dirt tank which accounts for heavy utilization, which influences the amount of litter. Recommend allowing growing season rest; there is an adjacent area with good reproductive material that would provide seed source for additional species diversity.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63095 LUNA RANCH

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 Luna Ranch, allotment #63095, 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	03/08/2010
Acting Assistant Field Manager	Date