

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 63092 RUNNELS TANK Allotment

[11/16/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63092 RUNNELS TANK. 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 |
| 63092-IDSU-A136 | X | | | X | | | N/A | | |

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Runnels Tank allotment, 63092. 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 560 acres of public land. The study is located on a Hills CP-3 ecological site. A majority of the indicators were rated either None to Slight or Slight to Moderate. Only the indicator for Invasive Plants was rated as a Moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description, due to the presence and level of both juniper and cholla. There are no riparian areas on the public land in 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 standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. As juniper and cholla were noted at the Moderate level for Invasive species, and influencing reproductive capability of the other vegetation, evaluate potential for brush control and complete a land treatment if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 63092-IDSU-A136

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Legal Land Desc | NWSW 12 0050S 0100E Meridian 23 | Acreage | 560 |
| Ecosite | 070CY106NM HILLS CP-3 | Photo Taken | Y |
| Watershed | 13050003030 ANCHO | | |
| Observers | TRAUTNER & VINSON | Observation Date | 11/16/2010 |
| County Soil Survey | NM632 LINCOLN | Soil Var/Taxad | |
| Soil Map Unit | 093 | Soil Taxon Name | TRAVESSILLA |
| Texture Class | NM632 GR-FSL | Soil Phase | TRAVESSILLA- ROC |
| Texture Modifier | NM632 GRAVELLY FINE SAND | | |
| 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: | Light 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: | | | | | | |
| S H | Water Flow Patterns | | | | X | |
| Comments: | some channels developing off steep hills | | | | | |
| S H | Pedestals and/or Terracettes | | | | X | |
| Comments: | a little but no exposed roots | | | | | |
| S H | Bare Ground | | | | | X |
| Comments: | Ecological Site description (ESD) = 40%, this location = 40% | | | | | |
| 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: | dissolves quickly in water | | | | | |
| S H B | Soil Surface Loss or Degradation | | | | X | |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| H | Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff | | | | X | |
| Comments: | juniper encroachment | | | | | |
| S H B | Compaction Layer | | | | | X |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| B | Functional/Structural Groups | | | | X | |
| Comments: | dominated by key grass species, co-dominated by shrubs | | | | | |
| B | Plant Mortality/Decadence | | | | X | |
| Comments: | cholla seems to be dying, some saltbush dying | | | | | |
| H B | Litter Amount | | | | | X |
| Comments: | ESD= 5-10%, this location 5-10% | | | | | |
| B | Annual Production | | | | X | |
| Comments: | ESD=900 lbs/acre, this location is 60% of potential. | | | | | |
| B | Invasive Plants | | | X | | |
| Comments: | Juniper and cholla are influencing this indicator | | | | | |
| B | Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants | | | | X | |
| Comments: | Reduced reproduction due to juniper encroachment. | | | | | |
| 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 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| H | Hydrologic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| B | Biotic | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 |

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 | 0 | 10 |
| Hydrologic | | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Biotic | While this indicator Meets overall, it is being influenced by the encroachment of juniper and cholla. The team would recommend working with other agencies (NRCS, NM State land office) to implement a vegetation control or manipulation, to reduce the amount and impacts of juniper and cholla. | 0 | 1 | 10 |

Site Notes: Species noted at this location: blue grama, lovegrass, bristlegrass, dropseeds, 3-awns, broom snakeweed, sideoats grama, 4 wing saltbush, cholla and juniper

Would recommend juniper control.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63092 RUNNELS TANK

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 Office 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 evaluated the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within the Runnels Tank allotment, 63092, 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
Assistant Field Manager

12/16/2010
Date