

Standards of Public Land Health Evaluation of 65085 CAPROCK WEST - T Allotment [03/22/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 2 study sites within 65085 CAPROCK WEST - T. 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
65085-NO OF PAST 1-D174	X			X			N/A		
65085-W OF PAST 1-D173	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Caprock West – T allotment, 65085. 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 “I” (Improve) category.

This allotment contains 2,632 acres of public land. The studies are located on a Sand Hills CP-2 and a Sandy Plains CP-2 ecological site. The majority of the indicators were rated as “None to Slight” or “Slight to Moderate” degree of departure from the ecological site description. Two indicators were rated as “Moderate”- Functional /Structural Groups and Invasive Plants. Both of these indicators were rated at this level due to the presence of creosote and mesquite. As the mesquite had evidently been the subject of a land treatment, the team indicated the mesquite was dying and the site was moving toward recovery. Creosote was still considered to be influencing the site. 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. The team recommends that the creosote be mapped, and if feasible, considered for a land treatment. It is also recommended to work in partnership with the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement the

land treatment. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 65085-NO OF PAST 1-D174

Legal Land Desc	SESE 36 0140S 0300E Meridian 23	Acreage	1316
Ecosite	070BY055NM SANDY PLAINS CP-2	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060007090 SHINNERY SANDS		
Observers	HOWARD, ORTEGA	Observation Date	03/22/2010
County Soil Survey	NM666 CHAVES SOUTH	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	Fa	Soil Taxon Name	FASKIN
Texture Class	NM666 LFS	Soil Phase	FASKIN
Texture Modifier	NM666 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:	Little to no utilization		

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:	short and stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:	Past pedestalling on mesquite hummocks.					
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:						

S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:	In channels coming of the Caprock					
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:	Slight reduction throught the site					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:	Has occurred in innerspaces					
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	minor					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	Mesquite skeletons and cresote influencing this indicator					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence				X	
Comments:	mesquite					
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	creosote					
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:						
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:						

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	7	3
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	10	1
B	Biotic	0	0	2	7	2

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		0	2	9

Site Notes: Mesquite looks like it has been treated. Species noted at this site: dropseed species, three awn, bush muhly, fourwing saltbush is the dominant shrub.

This site is not lpc or sand dune lizard habitat.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 65085-W OF PAST 1-D173

Legal Land Desc	SESW 34 0140S 0300E Meridian 23	Acreage	1316
Ecosite	070BY061NM SAND HILLS CP-2	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060007090 SHINNERY SANDS		
Observers	HOWARD, ORTEGA	Observation Date	03/22/2010
County Soil Survey	NM666 CHAVES SOUTH	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	Rn	Soil Taxon Name	ROSWELL
Texture Class	NM666 FS	Soil Phase	ROSWELL- JALMAR
Texture Modifier	NM666 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:			

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:						
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:						
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:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments: Mesquite						
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:	Mule deer noted					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					X
Comments:	Pockets of mesquite					
B	Special Status Species Populations				X	
Comments:	Not known for lesser prairie chickens, but sand dune lizards should be present.					

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	0	10
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	0	11
B	Biotic	0	0	0	2	11

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		0	0	13

Site Notes:

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 65085 CAPROCK WEST - T

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 Caprock West - T, allotment #65085, 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

03/26/2010
Date