

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 62057 MORRIS PLACE Allotment

[02/05/2010]

The Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary team conducted a Rangeland Health Assessment on the Morris Place allotment, #62057. This assessment evaluated soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of the range study location. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. A summary of the 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
62057-IDSU-A062	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Morris Place allotment, 62057. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 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 evaluation 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 160 acres of public land. The study is located on a Sandy CP-3 ecological site. Only one of the indicators, Litter movement, rated a moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description. The team indicated that there was very little litter in the plant innerspaces. The remaining 21 indicators were rated either 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.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 62057-IDSU-A062

Legal Land Desc	NENE 30 0030N 0230E Meridian 23	Acreage	160
Ecosite	070CY112NM SANDY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060003080 AGUDO		
Observers	BURGER & TRAUTNER	Observation Date	02/05/2010
County Soil Survey	NM011 DE BACA	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	066	Soil Taxon Name	POJO
Texture Class	NM011 LFS	Soil Phase	POJO- KOLAR
Texture Modifier	NM011 LOAMY FINE SANDS		
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:	A little but no exposed roots.					
S H	Bare Ground				X	

Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas				X	
Comments:	Maybe a little deposition around shrubs					
H	Litter Movement			X		
Comments:	Very little litter in the plant innerspaces.					
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:	Good community of grasses and shrubs.					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	should be more bluestems and winterfat.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:	Less than 10% decadence.					
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	Very good level of production					
B	Invasive Plants					X
Comments:	Very little thistle and mesquite.					
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	0	6	4
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	6	4
B	Biotic	0	0	0	6	5

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	1	10
Biotic		0	0	11

Site Notes: Plants noted on site: yucca, skunkbush, sideoats grama, blue grama, dropseed, three awn, black grama, mesquite, broom snakeweed, cactus, thistle, some perennial forbs. Very little evidence of cattle. Recommend continuation of current management.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 62057 MORRIS PLACE

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 the Morris Place, allotment #62057, 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

2/16/2010
Date