

Standards of Public Land Health Evaluation of 62019 LAKE SUMNER Allotment [03/01/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 62019 LAKE SUMNER. 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 |
| 62019-IDSU-A027 | X | | | X | | | N/A | | |

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Lake Sumner allotment, 62019. 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 80 acres of public land. The study is located on one ecological site; Gravelly CP-2. A majority of the indicators for this location fell into the None to Slight category or Slight to Moderate category; Plant community composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and runoff, Functional/Structural Groups and Invasive Plants were all rated as a Moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description. In each case mesquite and juniper were noted as influencing the category.

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.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 62019-IDSU-A027

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|------------|
| Legal Land Desc | NWNW 22 0050N 0240E Meridian 23 | Acreage | 80 |
| Ecosite | 070BY065NM GRAVELLY CP-2 | Photo Taken | Y |
| Watershed | 13060001230 ALAMOGORDO | | |
| Observers | ORTEGA & TRAUTNER | Observation Date | 03/01/2010 |
| County Soil Survey | NM019 GUADALUPE | Soil Var/Taxad | |
| Soil Map Unit | 019 | Soil Taxon Name | GALLEN |
| Texture Class | NM019 GRV-SL | Soil Phase | GALLEN |
| Texture Modifier | NM019 VERY GRAVELLY 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: | A livestock water site is located within 200 yards of this study. | | |

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: | Near a lake, lots of water flow | | | | | |
| 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: | some bare areas | | | | | |
| S H B | Soil Surface Loss or Degradation | | | | | X |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| H | Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff | | | X | | |
| Comments: | Mesquite and juniper influence | | | | | |
| S H B | Compaction Layer | | | | | X |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| B | Functional/Structural Groups | | | X | | |
| Comments: | Mesquite and juniper | | | | | |
| B | Plant Mortality/Decadence | | | | | X |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| H B | Litter Amount | | | | X | |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| B | Annual Production | | | | X | |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| B | Invasive Plants | | | X | | |
| Comments: | Juniper and mesquite 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 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| H | Hydrologic | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| 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 | 0 | 10 |
| Hydrologic | | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| Biotic | | 0 | 2 | 9 |

Site Notes: This site is highly influenced by proximity to water well - overall the area appears good, management practices are sufficient. Mesquite and juniper are encroaching.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 62019 LAKE SUMNER

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 Lake Sumner, allotment #62019, 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

05/21/2010
Date