

## Standards of Public Land Health

### Evaluation of 62037 ROSENDO PADILLA Allotment [ 01/06/2011 ]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 62037 ROSENDO PADILLA. 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 |
| 62037-IDSU-A044               | X      |                      |               | X      |                      |               | N/A      |                      |               |

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Rosendo Padilla allotment, #62037. 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 440 acres of public land. The study is located on one ecological site; Hills CP-3. A majority of the indicators for this location fell into the None to Slight category or the Slight to Moderate category. Two indicators were rated as a Moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description – Functional Structural Groups and Invasive Species. Both were due to the amount of juniper and pinon present. The interdisciplinary team also estimated the production on this location to be approximately 80% to 100% of annual production, and noted that recent grazing here was not apparent.

There are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

**Recommendations:** With the majority of the indicators falling in the None to Slight category or Slight to Moderate, 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. There is a potential to work with other agencies, such as the New Mexico State Land office or the Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) to map and discuss the feasibility of implementing a vegetation treatment to reduce the amount of juniper if warranted. This would not be economical

if only applied to the 440 acres of public land. The team also noted the area had a developing Wind Farm on the private lands in the vicinity.

## RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

### SITE 62037-IDSU-A044

|                                      |   |  |                    |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| Legal Land Desc                      | NENE 20 0070N 0180E<br>Meridian 23                  | Acreage                                      | 440                |
| Ecosite                              | 070CY106NM HILLS<br>CP-3                            | Photo Taken                                  | Y                  |
| Watershed                            | 13060002030 AGUA<br>NEGRA                           |  |                    |
| Observers                            | ORTEGA &<br>TRAUTNER                                | Observation Date                             | 01/06/2011         |
| County Soil Survey                   | NM019 GUADALUPE                                     | Soil Var/Taxad                               |                    |
| Soil Map Unit                        | 076   | Soil Taxon Name                              | PASTURA            |
| Texture Class                        | NM019 FSL   | Soil Phase                                   | PASTURA-<br>CLOVIS |
| Texture Modifier                     | NM019 FINE SANDY<br>LOAM                            |  |                    |
| Observed Avg Annual<br>Precipitation |   | Observed Avg Growing<br>Season Precipitation |                    |
| NOAA Annual<br>Precipitation         |   | NOAA Growing Season<br>Precipitation         |                    |
| NOAA Avg Annual<br>Precipitation     |   | NOAA Avg Growing<br>Season Precipitation     |                    |
| Disturbances and<br>Animal Use:      | Wind towers on private land around the public land. |  |                    |

### Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

|           |                              | Departure from Ecological Site<br>Description/Ecological Reference Areas |                           |          |                       |                      |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Attribute | Indicators                   | Extreme  | Moderate<br>to<br>Extreme | Moderate | Slight to<br>Moderate | None<br>to<br>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: | Rock and good grass cover  |  |  |   |   |   |
| H         | Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff |  |  |   | X |   |
| Comments: | Juniper noted  |  |  |   |   |   |
| S H B     | Compaction Layer   |  |  |   |   | X |
| Comments: |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| B         | Functional/Structural Groups   |  |  | X |   |   |
| Comments: | Juniper and pinon influencing this indicator                                     |  |  |   |   |   |
| B         | Plant Mortality/Decadence  |  |  |   |   | X |
| Comments: |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| H B       | Litter Amount  |  |  |   |   | X |
| Comments: |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| B         | Annual Production  |  |  |   |   | X |
| Comments: | Estimated 80 to 100 % of expected annual production                              |  |  |   |   |   |
| B         | Invasive Plants  |  |  | X |   |   |
| Comments: | Juniper and pinon noted here   |  |  |   |   |   |
| 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: | Mountain lions are supposed to be prevalent here - affecting the deer populations. |  |  |  |   |  |
| 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        | 0                  | 10             |
| H                  | Hydrologic | 0       | 0                   | 0        | 1                  | 10             |
| B                  | Biotic     | 0       | 0                   | 2        | 1                  | 8              |

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: All grass species expected for this ecological site are present. The site does not appear to have been grazed recently. A wind farm is in the area, although not on public land.

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 62037 ROSENDO PADILLA**

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing (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 evaluated the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within the Rosendo Padilla allotment, 62037, 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

01/20/2011  
Date