

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63013 - AUTOMOBILE

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 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 my review of the Assessment Team's recommendation and other relevant data and information, I have determined that the sites within 63013 - AUTOMOBILE meet the Standards of Rangeland Health.

/s/ Jerry Dutchover
Assistant Field Manager

August 17, 2012
Date

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 63013 - AUTOMOBILE Allotment

[07/18/2012]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63013 - AUTOMOBILE. 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
63013-SIMPSON #3-F155	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on Automobile, Allotment #63013. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 for biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected on 1 trend plot location within this allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. These collections were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conduction approximately every 5 to 10 years.

This allotment contains 2,008 acres of public land, and 30,833 acres of private land. The study is located on a Loamy CP-3 ecological or range site. A majority of the indicators were rated as either a "None to Slight" or a "Slight to Moderate" departure from the ecological site description. The indicator for Bare Ground was rated at "Moderate". This area has received approximately 6 inches of precipitation in the previous 12 months, when the average for the area is about 12 inches. Given adequate precipitation, this indicator should improve.

Recommendations: As a majority of the indicators fall 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 that 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 63013-SIMPSON #3-F155

Legal Land Desc	SWSE 34 0010S 0190E Meridian 23	Acreage	2000
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060003140 RAMON		
Observers	PIERCE,BRUAND,BURKHARDT	Observation Date	07/18/2012
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	053	Soil Taxon Name	PASTURA
Texture Class	NM632 L	Soil Phase	PASTURA
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	0	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	0
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	11.05	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	8.67
Disturbances and 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:						
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					X

	Deposition Areas					
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:						
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:	NA					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	NA					

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	1	1	8
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	4	6
B	Biotic	0	0	0	3	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	1	9
Hydrologic		0	1	10
Biotic		0	0	11

Site Notes: