

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 63089 HIGHWAY TANK Allotment

[11/16/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63089 HIGHWAY TANK. 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
63089-IDSU-A133	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Highway Tank allotment, 63089. 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 "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 34 acres of public land. The study is located on a Hills CP-3 ecological site. All of the 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 all 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 perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. As juniper was noted as moving out of the rock outcrops into the valleys, evaluate potential for brush control and complete a land treatment if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 63089-IDSU-A133

Legal Land Desc	NWSW 7 0050S 0110E Meridian 23	Acreage	34
Ecosite	070CY106NM HILLS CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003030 ANCHO		
Observers	ARNOLD, TRAUTNER, ORTEGA	Observation Date	11/16/2010
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	093	Soil Taxon Name	TRAVESSILLA
Texture Class	NM632 GR-FSL	Soil Phase	TRAVESSILLA- ROC
Texture Modifier	NM632 GRAVELLY 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

		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:	one water depression, vegetated and stable					
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:	Ecological site description (ESD) = 5-10%, this location is 5-10%					
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	Esd= 1400 lbs/acre, this site is within 80% of that					
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments:	young juniper moving out of rock outcrops and into the valleys					
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	0	1	9
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	1	10
B	Biotic	0	0	0	1	10

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	11

Site Notes: All key grass species are present, including 3-awn, blue grama, black grama, sideoats grama, juniper, yucca and bristlegrass.

This location looks great, continue current management.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63089 HIGHWAY TANK

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) Uplands 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 Highway Tank Allotment, #3089, 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

12/16/2010
Date