

**Standards of Public Land Health**  
**Evaluation of 63052 NORTH ARCHULETA CREEK**  
**Allotment**  
**[ 10/20/2011 ]**

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
63052-IDSU-A115	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the North Archuleta Creek allotment, 63052. 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 were utilized to make rangeland health determination. 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 400 acres of public land. The study is located on a Loamy CP-3 ecological site but the allotment also contains a large mix of Shallow Limestone CP-3 and Limestone Hills ecological sites. Most of the 22 indicators were rated as either 'None to Slight' or 'Slight to Moderate' degree of departure from the Ecological Site description and/or Ecological Reference Area(s). The indicator for Annual production was rated as Moderate due to the low amount of precipitation received during the past year. The indicator for Invasive Species was consistently rated as "Slight to Moderate" due to the presence of cholla, prickly pear and scattered thistle. The team also noted that the allotment had good vegetative ground cover as well as good levels of reproductive material. There are no riparian areas on the public land in this allotment.

**Recommendations:** As most 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. The team recommends 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 63052-IDSU-A115**

Legal Land Desc	NWNW 28 0080S 0190E Meridian 23	Acreage	400
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060005050 SECO		
Observers	MILLER, BURGER, ORTEGA	Observation Date	10/20/2011
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	011	Soil Taxon Name	DEAMA
Texture Class	NM632 CBV-L	Soil Phase	DEAMA
Texture Modifier	NM632 VERY COBBLY LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	0	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	0
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	0	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	0
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:						
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:						

S H	Gullies					X
Comments:	minor headcuts in draw, road influence					
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					
Comments:						
B	Annual Production			X		
Comments:	Annual production heavily influenced by drought conditions. Precipitation received this year was less than 1/2 of normal.					
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments:	some thistle, cholla & prickly pear present - very scattered.					
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	0	10
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	1	9
B	Biotic	0	0	1	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	10
Biotic	Drought conditions are apparent and show influence on the annual production. Even though there was little production this year, plants still showed reproduction in seeds and tillering. Very little if any use was made by livestock, some use was noted by wildlife such as deer.	0	1	9

Site Notes:

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63052 NORTH ARCHULETA CREEK**

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, 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 North Archuleta Creek allotment, #63052, 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/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Assistant Field Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date