

## Standards of Public Land Health

### Evaluation of 63080 COYOTE SPRINGS SOUTH Allotment [ 05/27/2010 ]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 2 study sites within 63080 COYOTE SPRINGS SOUTH. 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
63080-#1 SOUTH-E195	X			X			N/A		
63080-#2 NORTH-E196	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Coyote Springs South allotment, 63080. 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 4,725 acres of public land. The studies are located on Malpais SD-2 ecological sites. At the South study, only one of the indicators rated a "Slight to Moderate" degree of departure from the ecological site description, Litter. The remaining indicators were rated at "None to Slight". At the North Pasture study, one indicator, Reproductive Capability of Plants, was rated as "Moderate", due to the amount of dying cactus. All of the remaining categories were rated as "None to Slight". 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, 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 63080-#1 SOUTH-E195

Legal Land Desc	SENE 14 0080S 0090E Meridian 23	Acreage	440
Ecosite	042BY037NM MALPAIS SD-2	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003060 COTTONWOOD		
Observers	TRAUTNER	Observation Date	05/27/2010
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	031	Soil Taxon Name	LAVA FLOWS
Texture Class	NM632 UWB	Soil Phase	LAVA FLOWS
Texture Modifier	NM632 LAVA		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	1.22	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	0
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	1.1	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	0
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:	Ecological site description indicates 25%, this location is estimated to be 10%.					
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:	all vegetation grows in deposition areas from surrounding slopes - this is natural for this area.					
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:	Excellent variety of grass/forbs/shrubs/trees					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups					X
Comments:	gramas, bush muhly, three-awn, vine mesquite, 4-wing saltbush present					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:	Very vigorous plants					
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	Ecological site description indicates 500lbs/acre, this site is estimated at 80% of that.					
B	Invasive Plants					X
Comments:						
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:	not expected for this site					

B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:	Excellent structure & forbs for food					
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	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: Site looks excellent, continue current management. All key grass/forb/shrub species are present.

## RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

### SITE 63080-#2 NORTH-E196

Legal Land Desc	SENE 10 0070S 0100E Meridian 23	Acreage	420
Ecosite	042BY037NM MALPAIS SD-2	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003040 WHITE OAKS		
Observers	TRAUTNER, BURGER	Observation Date	11/23/2009
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	031	Soil Taxon Name	LAVA FLOWS
Texture Class	NM632 UWB	Soil Phase	LAVA FLOWS
Texture Modifier	NM632 LAVA		
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:						
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:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants					X
Comments:						
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants			X		
Comments:	Cactus is dying.					
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:						

B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:	None observed.					
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	0	11
B	Biotic	0	0	1	0	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	1	10

Site Notes: All of the key grass/shrub species are present, healthy and vigorous. All of the public land located in the allotment is in the malpais, and is not grazeable to livestock. All key species are present. Grass/forbs & shrub species are located in areas where wind blown soil accumulates in cracks of the lava flows.

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63080 COYOTE SPRINGS SOUTH**

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 Coyote Springs South, allotment #63080, 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/ Michael McGee

Acting Assistant Field Manager

08/06/2010

Date