

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 63100 ROADRUNNER NORTH Allotment [03/29/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 3 study sites within 63100 ROADRUNNER NORTH. 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
63100-JULIA-E124	X			X			N/A		
63100-LAMB-E123	X			X			N/A		
63100-PHELPS-E125	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Roadrunner North allotment, 63100. 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 "M" (Maintain) category.

This allotment contains 3,962 acres of public land. The studies are located on two ecological sites; Loamy CP-3 and Shallow CP-3.

The first study (Julia) location is in a Loamy CP-3 ecological site. All of the indicators for this location fell into either the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate category; the indicator for Invasive Plants was noted for cholla and bear grass at the "Slight to Moderate" departure from the ecological site. The team suggests that the location be monitored but did not recommend the pasture be mapped for the level of invasion at this time.

The study (Lamb) is also located in a Loamy CP-3 ecological site and had one indicator rated as Moderate: Invasive Plants – due to the level of cholla. The remaining indicators were rated as None to Slight or Slight to Moderate.

All of the indicators for the Shallow CP-3 study in the Phelps Pasture were rated as predominately None to Slight with two indicators rated as Slight to Moderate.

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

Recommendations: With a majority of the indicators falling in the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate 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 grasscover and good plant composition remains. Continue to monitor the cholla population in Lamb Pasture and evaluate the potential for brush if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 63100-JULIA-E124

Legal Land Desc	NWNE 21 0010S 0180E Meridian 23	Acreage	1400
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060003130 GYPSUM		
Observers	ORTEGA & COLBERT	Observation Date	03/29/2010
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	054	Soil Taxon Name	PASTURA
Texture Class	NM632 L	Soil Phase	PASTURA- HARVEY
Texture Modifier	NM632 SANDY LOAM		
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

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:	Short & stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:	Stable channels					

S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:	Uniform distribution					
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:	Minor changes					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	Cholla & bear grass increasing					
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:	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	4	6
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	5	6
B	Biotic	0	0	0	6	5

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: Species noted at this site: cholla, sideoats grama, black grama, blue grama, arisida, bear grass, yucca, ear muhly

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 63100-LAMB-E123

Legal Land Desc	NWNW 9 0010S 0180E Meridian 23	Acreage	562
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060003020 MORGAN		
Observers	ORTEGA & COLBERT	Observation Date	03/29/2010
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	009	Soil Taxon Name	DARVEY
Texture Class	NM632 L	Soil Phase	DARVEY- PASTURA
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM		
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:	Uniform distribution					
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:	Minor effect of infestation of cholla					
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence				X	
Comments:	20-30% cholla					
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:	approximately 80%					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	cholla					
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	2	8
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	2	9
B	Biotic	0	0	1	5	5

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: This trend site is approximately 100 yards from a livestock water and should be

moved to a location that better represents the pasture.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 63100-PHELPS-E125

Legal Land Desc	SWNW 20 0010S 0180E Meridian 23	Acreage	2000
Ecosite	070CY113NM SHALLOW CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060003130 GYPSUM		
Observers	ORTEGA & COLBERT	Observation Date	03/29/2010
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		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
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:						
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:	rocky surface					
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:	approximately 80%					
B	Invasive Plants					X
Comments:	Invasive species barely present					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						

S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:	As expected for the site.					
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	1	9
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	1	10
B	Biotic	0	0	0	2	9

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:

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63100 ROADRUNNER NORTH

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 Roadrunner North, allotment #63100, 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
Acting Assistant Field Manager

04/12/2010
Date