

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 63142 & 63542 WALNUT DRAW ALLOTMENTS

[01/06/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within WALNUT DRAW ALLOTMENT (63142/63542). 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 |
| 63142-W MIDDLE ARROYO-E183 | X | | | X | | | N/A | | |

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Walnut Draw Allotment 63142. 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 "P" (Improve) category.

This allotment contains 535 acres of public land. The study is located on a Gravelly CP-3 ecological site. Only one of the indicators was rated as "Moderate" degree of departure from the Ecological Site description and/or Ecological Reference Area. This was in the Gullies indicator. All of the remaining 21 indicators were either rated as 'None to Slight' or 'Slight to Moderate', with the majority of them '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' or 'Slight to Moderate' category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and perennial grass cover remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 63142/63542-W MIDDLE ARROYO-E183

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Legal Land Desc | NWSE 25 0060S 0190E Meridian 23 | Acreage | 535 |
| Ecosite | 070CY119NM GRAVELLY CP-3 | Photo Taken | Y |
| Watershed | 13060005060 MIDDLE | | |
| Observers | TRAUTNER, ORTEGA | Observation Date | 01/06/2010 |
| County Soil Survey | NM632 LINCOLN | Soil Var/Taxad | |
| Soil Map Unit | 030 | Soil Taxon Name | HOGADERO |
| Texture Class | NM632 GR-L | Soil Phase | HOGADERO- PENA |
| 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: | as expected for the site | | | | | |
| S H | Water Flow Patterns | | | | X | |
| Comments: | short and stable | | | | | |
| S H | Pedestals and/or Terracettes | | | | | X |
| Comments: | rare pedestals and/or terracettes | | | | | |
| S H | Bare Ground | | | | X | |
| Comments: | vegetation well connected & rock cover. | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| S H | Gullies | | | X | | |
| Comments: | headcuts present, but active, vegetation intermittent within the gullies. | | | | | |
| 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: | rocks & vegetation protected, except in low areas as expected. | | | | | |
| S H B | Soil Surface Loss or Degradation | | | | X | |
| Comments: | As expected. | | | | | |
| 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: | Cholla in the area, but not more than expected. | | | | | |
| B | Plant Mortality/Decadence | | | | | X |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| H B | Litter Amount | | | | | X |
| Comments: | As expected, over 15% litter. | | | | | |
| B | Annual Production | | | | X | |
| Comments: | Approximately 80% of potential production | | | | | |
| B | Invasive Plants | | | | | X |
| Comments: | | | | | | |
| B | Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants | | | | | X |
| Comments: | Plenty of seed head visible. | | | | | |
| 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 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| H | Hydrologic | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| 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 | 1 | 9 |
| Hydrologic | | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| Biotic | | 0 | 0 | 11 |

Site Notes: Species noted on site: Sideoats grama, black grama, burrograss, winterfat, fourwing saltbush, yucca and beargrass (sachuista).

Gullies right along side of road, maybe caused by the road.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63142/63542 WALNUT DRAW

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 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 the Walnut Draw allotment, 63142/63542, 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

02/18/2010
Date