Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63105 OLD FEARS PLACE Allotment
[12/11/2009]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63105 OLD FEARS PLACE. 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
63105-IDSU-A145	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Old Fears Place, allotment 63105. 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 40 acres of public land. The study is located on a Limestone Hills CP-3 ecological site. Only two of the indicators, Functional/Structural Groups and Invasive Plants, rated a moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description. The team indicated that there was a shift away from grasses to the shrub component and that there was an increase in the amount of juniper, cholla and oak species. The remaining 20 indicators were rated either None to Slight or Slight to Moderate. 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 the 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 that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. Evaluate the potential for brush control (cholla, juniper, and oak brush) and complete a land treatment if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63105-IDSU-A145			
Legal Land Desc	NENE 5 0100S 0180E Meridian 23	Acreage	40
Ecosite	070CY107NM LIMESTONE HILLS CP	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060008110 DEADMAN		
Observers	REESE, TRAUTNER	Observation Date	12/11/2009
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	014	Soil Taxon Name	DEAMA
Texture Class	NM632 CBV-L	Soil Phase	DEAMA-ROC
Texture Modifier	NM632 VERY COBBLY 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:	Estimated at 10%					
S H	Gullies				X	

Comments:	Drainage along side of the road, but becoming vegetated.					
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:	Very well protected by vegetation and rock					
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:	Minimal litter movement, litter found in areas between plants.					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation					X
Comments:	Lots of cover keeps soils together.					
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Change in shift between grass and shrubs, grass still present under canopy.					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	Increase in shrubs (30%), no sign of cool season grasses.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence				X	
Comments:	Cactus species dying or diseased. Grasses in good health					
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:	coverage good (15-20%)					
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	Estimated at 900 lbs per acre, projected 400-1200 lbs/acre					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Juniper, cholla, oak species.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:	Seed bank good despite invasives encroachment					
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:	Presence of lichens on bare soils.					
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:	Good cover, food and nesting					
B	Wildlife Populations					X

Comments:	mule deer sign, northern harrier, quail noted.					
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	3	7
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	3	8
B	Biotic	0	0	2	2	7

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	2	9

Site Notes: Species noted at site: pinon, juniper, oak, mohagany,cactus spp., yucca, sideoats grama, black grama, blue grama, three-awn, little bluestem, tobosa, dropseeds, plains lovegrass.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63105 OLD FEARS PLACE

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 the Old Fears Place, allotment #63105, 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	03/03/2010
Acting Assistant Field Manager	Date