

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 64070 CHINA DRAW Allotment

[12/02/2009]

The Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary team conducted a Rangeland Health Assessment on the China Draw allotment, #64070. This assessment evaluated Soil/Site stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of the range study location. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. A summary of the 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
64070-CRANE-E104	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the China Draw allotment, 64070. 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 was utilized to make rangeland health determinations. 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 "M" (Maintain) category.

This allotment contains 2258 acres of public land. The study is located on a Limestone Hills SD-3 ecological site. Only one of the indicators, Invasive Plants, rated a moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description. The team indicated an early invasion of mesquite, creosote and cactus. The remaining 21 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 Slight to Moderate category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. Also continue monitoring the level of invasive plants and if necessary, implement a land treatment to reduce or control the population.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

SITE 64070-CRANE-E104

Legal Land Desc	SESE 4 0070S 0220E Meridian 23	Acreage	2258
Ecosite	042CY020NM LIMESTONE HILLS SD-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060005080 MACHO		
Observers	TRAUTNER, ORTEGA, ARNOLD, HOWARD	Observation Date	12/02/2009
County Soil Survey	NM644 CHAVES NORTH	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	ESD	Soil Taxon Name	ECTOR
Texture Class	NM644 CBX-L	Soil Phase	ECTOR- ROC
Texture Modifier	NM644 EXTREMELY COBBLY L		
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:	Very little 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:	Not present					
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:	normal erosion patterns					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:	As expected for this site					
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:	Normal, measured @ 10% bare ground					

S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:	no litter movement					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	Right on the border of interspaces					
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:	approximately 20%					
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	90%					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Mesquite, creosote and cacti					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:	Soils not conducive to biological crusts, not expected for this site. Physical crusts are present in amounts 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	4	6
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	4	7
B	Biotic	0	0	1	2	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	11
Biotic		0	1	10

Site Notes: Species present: Blue grama, black grama, sideoats grama, cactus species, three-awn, tobosa, mesquite, yucca, panic grass & sumac.

Recommend no changes in management, all key species are present and healthy & vigorous. The invasive plants may present a problem in the future, and may be an area for future land treatments.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 64070 CHINA 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 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 China Draw allotment, 64070, 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