

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 65060 BOTTOMLESS RANCH**

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 the 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 the assessments, it is my determination that the public land within the Bottomless Ranch allotment #65060 meets the 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/ Jerry Dutchover .  
Assistant Field Manager

08/08/2012 .  
Date

## Standards of Public Land Health

### Evaluation of 65060 BOTTOMLESS RANCH Allotment [ 07/10/2012 ]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 65060 BOTTOMLESS RANCH. 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 |
| 65060-HW104-C052              | X      |                      |               | X      |                      |               | N/A      |                      |               |

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on Bottomless Ranch Allotment #65060. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 for biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected on 1 trend plot location within this allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. These collections were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 to 10 years.

This allotment contains 221 acres of public land and 1,094 acres of private land. It is a "C" (Custodial) category allotment. The study is located on a Salty Bottomland SD-3 ecological site. All of the indicators were rated as either a "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" departure from the ecological site description.

**Recommendations:** As all of the indicators fall 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 studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grasscover and good plant composition remains.

## RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

### SITE 65060-HW104-C052

|                                   |                                    |   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Legal Land Desc                   | NESE 33 0110S 0260E<br>Meridian 23 | Acreage                                   | 221                      |
| Ecosite                           | 042CY033NM SALTY<br>BOTTOMLAND S   | Photo Taken                               | N                        |
| Watershed                         | 13060007010 GOPHER                 |   |                          |
| Observers                         | BURKHARDT/PIERCE                   | Observation Date                          | 07/10/2012               |
| County Soil Survey                | NM666 CHAVES SOUTH                 | Soil Var/Taxad                            |                          |
| Soil Map Unit                     | Hp                                 | Soil Taxon Name                           | HOLLOMAN                 |
| Texture Class                     | NM666 L                            | Soil Phase                                | HOLLOMAN-<br>GYPSUM LAND |
| Texture Modifier                  | NM666 LOAM                         |   |                          |
| Observed Avg Annual Precipitation |                                    | Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation |                          |
| NOAA Annual Precipitation         | 1.6                                | NOAA Growing Season Precipitation         | 0.84                     |
| NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation     | 4.93                               | NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation     | 3.81                     |
| 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: | Water flow patterns are expected                               |   |                     |          |                    |                |
| S H       | Pedestals and/or Terracettes                                   |   |                     |          |                    | X              |
| Comments: | Pedestals were present as expected from flooding and overflows |   |                     |          |                    |                |
| S H       | Bare Ground  |   |                     |          |                    | X              |

|           |  |  |  |  |   |   |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| Comments: | As expected  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 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: | This site is commonly subject to flooding and overflow                           |  |  |  |   |   |
| 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: | As expected for this site  |  |  |  |   |   |
| B         | Invasive Plants  |  |  |  | X |   |
| Comments: |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| B         | Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants                                      |  |  |  |   | X |
| Comments: | very good, majority of perennials had seedhead                                   |  |  |  |   |   |
| S         | Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts  |  |  |  | X |   |
| Comments: |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| B         | Wildlife Habitat   |  |  |  |   | X |

|           |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Comments: |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| B         | Wildlife Populations                         |  |  |  |  | X |
| Comments: | Dis not see any wildlife during site review. |  |  |  |  |   |
| B         | Special Status Species Habitat               |  |  |  |  | X |
| Comments: |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| B         | Special Status Species Populations           |  |  |  |  | X |
| Comments: |  |  |  |  |  |   |

### 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                  | 11             |

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                  | 13    |

Site Notes: