

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 65175 THOMAS TRAP**

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 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 my review of the Assessment Team's recommendation and other relevant data and information, I have determined that the site within 65175 THOMAS TRAP meet the Standards of Rangeland Health.

/s/ Jerry Dutchover .  
Assistant Field Manager

08/02/2012  
Date

## Standards of Public Land Health Evaluation of 65175 THOMAS TRAP Allotment [ 12/12/2011 ]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessment at 1 study site within 65175 THOMAS TRAP. 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
65175-NW #1 RIVER-D216	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on Thomas Trap, allotment #65175. 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 2,236 acres of public land. The study is located on a Loamy SD-3 ecological site. At the study location a majority of the 22 indicators were rated as either 'None to Slight' or 'Slight to Moderate' degree of departure from the Ecological Site description and/or Ecological Reference Area. The indicator for Invasive Species was rated as "Moderate" due to the presence of mesquite and creosote.

**Recommendations:** As the majority 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. The team recommends that the mesquite and creosote populations be mapped, and if warranted, the areas considered for a vegetative treatment. As the public land lay intermingled with private and state lease holdings, it would also be a good opportunity to work with the private land owner and other agencies such as New Mexico State Land Office and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement the vegetation treatments.

## RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet

### SITE 65175-NW #1 RIVER-D216

Legal Land Desc	NENE 6 0160S 0270E Meridian 23	Acreage	2236
Ecosite	042CY007NM LOAMY SD-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060007120 DOG		
Observers	ARNOLD & CURNUTT	Observation Date	12/12/2011
County Soil Survey	NM614 EDDY	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	RM	Soil Taxon Name	REEVES
Texture Class	NM614 L	Soil Phase	REEVES- REAGAN
Texture Modifier	NM614 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	0	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	0
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	0	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	0
Disturbances and Animal Use:	No stock observed		

### 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:						
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:	Low production due to drought conditions					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Mesquite and creosote present at this location.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:	Reduced due to drought conditions					
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X

Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	NA					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	NA					

**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	6	5
B	Biotic	0	0	1	6	4

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: Pasture looks good overall. Some areas have mesquite encroachment and others have creosote. No livestock were observed on the allotment at this time.