

**Allotment Evaluation (AE)  
For  
T.A. Allotment (#563)**

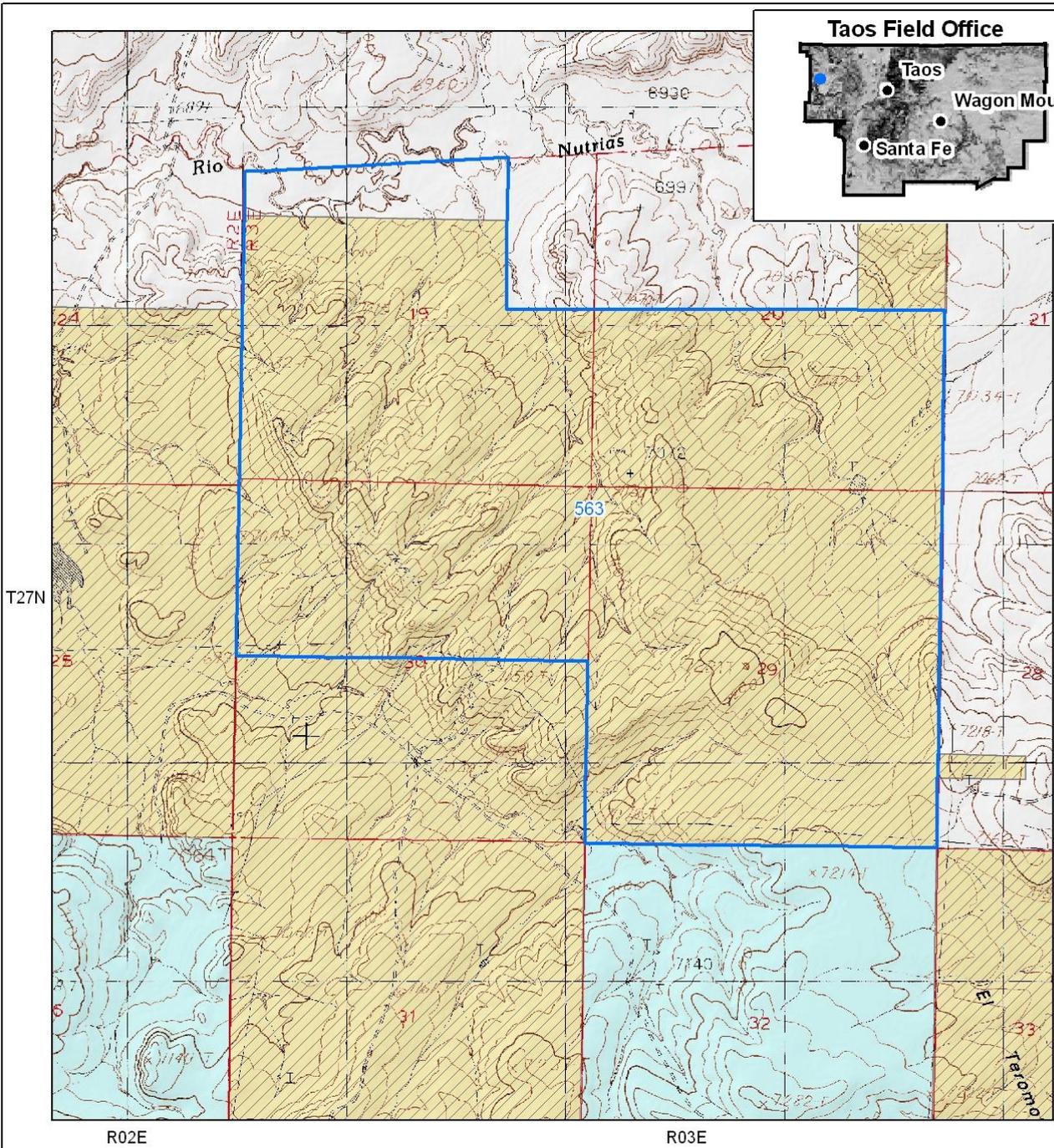
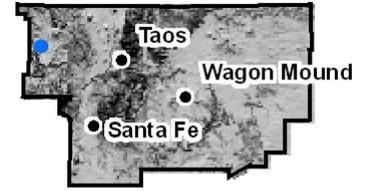
Permittee		<u>Authorization Number</u> 3001124		
Livestock Use	Preference AUMs	<u>Allotment</u> 00563	<u>Active</u> 288	<u>Suspended</u> 0
	Period of Use	<u>Allotment</u> T.A. Allotment	<u>Kind</u> 60 Cattle	<u>Season of Use</u> 05/01 - 09/30
	Kind of Livestock	Cow Calf		
	Percent Public Land	AUMs are authorized at 96% public land		
Allotment Profile	Physical Description	<p>Allotment 563 is located approximately 9 miles west of Cebolla, in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Elevation on this allotment is roughly between 7,000 and 7,200 feet. Landforms on the allotment include; uplands.</p> <p>Three soil types are identified within the BLM lands in this allotment. They include:</p> <p>Berryman-Ruson association, 1 to 8 percent slopes. The soil consists of silt loams, with rooting depths over 60 inches. Parent materials of alluvium derived from limestone and shale comprise this soil. Average annual precipitation ranges between 14 and 16 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, squirreltail, blue grama, alkali sacaton and sagebrush.</p> <p>Calendar gravelly loam, 5 to 35 percent slopes. The soil consists of loams, with rooting depths around 40 inches. Parent materials of alluvium from shale comprise this soil. Average annual precipitation ranges between 14 and 17 inches. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, oak, june grass, muttongrass and sagebrush.</p> <p>Tinaja-Rock outcrop complex, 45 to 75 percent slopes. These soils consist of loam and sandy clay loams, with rooting depths between over 60 inches. Parent materials of colluvium derived from sandstone comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 13 and 15 inches. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, blue grama, sideoats grama, muttongrass and mahogany.</p>		
	Land Status Acreage	<u>BLM</u> 1,676	<u>State</u> 0	<u>Private</u> 69
	Management Objectives	The allotment is under an 'Improve' ('I') management category. 'I' category allotments are managed in a manner to help the allotment achieve satisfactory ecological condition.		

	Key Forage Species	western wheat, squirreltail, blue grama, alkali sacaton, june grass, sideoats grama, and muttongrass																						
	Grazing System	Deferred rest rotation																						
Management Evaluation	Actual Use	<p>Actual use has not been reported, the following values are based of paid bill reports.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>AUMs</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>290</td> <td>2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>175</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>290</td> <td>2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>169</td> <td>2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>204</td> <td>2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>290</td> <td>2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>290</td> <td>2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>265</td> <td>2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-use</td> <td>1999</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-use</td> <td>1998</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AUMs	Year	290	2007	175	2006	290	2005	169	2004	204	2003	290	2002	290	2001	265	2000	Non-use	1999	Non-use	1998
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	Utilization	Due to the lack of staff utilization studies have not been conducted. During the assessment visit it was determined that the allotment was either receiving slight to moderate amounts of utilization.																						
	Climate	<p>The past water year (Oct. 1, 2007 – Sept. 30, 2008) the average temperature has been nearly average (0 to 1 degrees Fahrenheit below average) and precipitation has been slightly above average (0 to 1 inches). This should provide near average plant growth on cool season plants and near average for warm season plants.</p> <p>During the past 10 years (1998-2007) the temperature has been at or above average and precipitation has been fluctuating annually, but it is important to note that between 2000 and 2004 the 12 month running average was below the annual average. (Based on the Northern Mountains Climate Division, New Mexico from the Western Regional Climate Center.)</p> <p>Climate change is a concern not only in New Mexico but globally. “Effects of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels on plants are predicted to cause dramatic changes in native vegetation. Global climate change may accelerate rates of plant extinction, while ecosystem structure and function may shift. Ecological response to global changes in climate could shift ecosystems (i.e., shrublands replacing grasslands) and have effects, not only to an individual species, but to the ecosystem itself by additions and deletions of vegetation species” (Johnson, H.B., and H.S. Mayeux. 1992. Viewpoint: A view on species additions and deletions and the balance of nature. Journal of Wildlife Management 45:322-333.)</p> <p>We anticipate that our monitoring efforts will help indicate vegetation shifts, allowing for management modifications to address global climate change.</p>																						

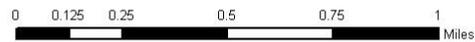
	Trend	<p>One long term trend plot has been established on this allotment. But it has not been run since 1991 due to the lack of staffing. A Rangeland Health Matrix was completed on June 28, 2006. The actual survey forms are available within the allotment file. Below is a summation of the information gathered by the survey. Within the Rangeland Health Attributes are three different categories of indicators. The categories include; Soil and Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity. The percent of indicator score was created by multiplying an assigned value for departure from site descriptions/reference areas by the number of indicators at the level. Departure scores are categorized as: none to slight = 5, slight to moderate = 4, moderate = 3, moderate to extreme = 2 and extreme = 1. For example, if all indicators under Soil/Site Stability were rated none to slight (best condition), the equation would be <math>5(\text{score}) \times 10(\text{indicators}) = 50/50 \times 100 = 100\%</math> similarity, or what is expected based on an Ecological Site Description. Standards for each individual category are met when they are rated Proper Functioning Condition or Functioning at Risk-Upward Trend. Not meeting standards are ratings of; Functioning at Risk-Static, Functioning at Risk-Downward Trend and Non Functional.</p> <p><b>Soil and Site Stability</b> Five indicators were deemed None to Slight, three were deemed Slight to Moderate, one was deemed Moderate and one was deemed Moderate to Extreme. Rating: 84%</p> <p><b>Hydrologic Function</b> Four indicators were deemed None to Slight, four were deemed Slight to Moderate, one was deemed Moderate and one was deemed Moderate to Extreme. Rating: 82%</p> <p><b>Biotic Integrity</b> Four indicators were deemed None to Slight, four were deemed Slight to Moderate and one was deemed Moderate. Rating: 87%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 84%</p> <p>Soils were rated at Functioning at Risk-Static, Biotic Flora was rated at Functioning at Risk-Downward Trend and Biotic Fauna was rated at Proper Functioning Condition.</p> <p>Current livestock use was deemed a contributing factor to the above standards not being met.</p>
	Riparian	There is no riparian vegetation within this allotment.
	Wildlife	Seasonal home ranges in the allotment include those for elk,

		<p>deer, mountain lion, black bear, bobcat, fox, coyote, small mammals, bats, raptors, turkey vulture, songbirds, and a variety of insects.</p> <p>Elk, and deer are grazers, however there is little dietary overlap between deer and cattle. Best management practices (rotational grazing; enhancement of cool season grasses; and promotion of a mixed-aged sagebrush community) would ensure that forage production within this area can support both wildlife and livestock on a sustained basis.</p>
	Threatened and Endangered Species	It is determined that there are no state or federally listed threatened or endangered species likely to be found in the subject allotment. There is no designated critical habitat for any species listed by the USFWS within the allotment.
Conclusions and Recommendations		<p>Overall, the vegetation appears to be in fair to good condition with fair diversity. Based on the survey western wheat and other cool season grasses should be at a higher frequency and cover. The initiation of monitoring will help establish any possible trends or possible causal factors to the loss or gain of graminoids. It was determined that grazing is having an effect on cool season graminoids. Possible recommendations include working with the permittee to change the season of use to eliminate grazing during the spring, - a critical period for cool season grasses, developing a deferred, or deferred rest grazing schedule, or discing and seeding the allotment to increase structural diversity and open resources for the cool season grasses. It is recommended that grazing be renewed for another 10 years without any changes to the permit.</p>

**Taos Field Office**



**T.A. Allotment (563)**



Legend	
	Allotment Boundary
	Bureau of Land Management
	State
	Private

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Friday, October 20, 2008

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7.5' Topos: El Vado