

**Allotment Evaluation (AE)
For
Lagartija Creek (#771)**

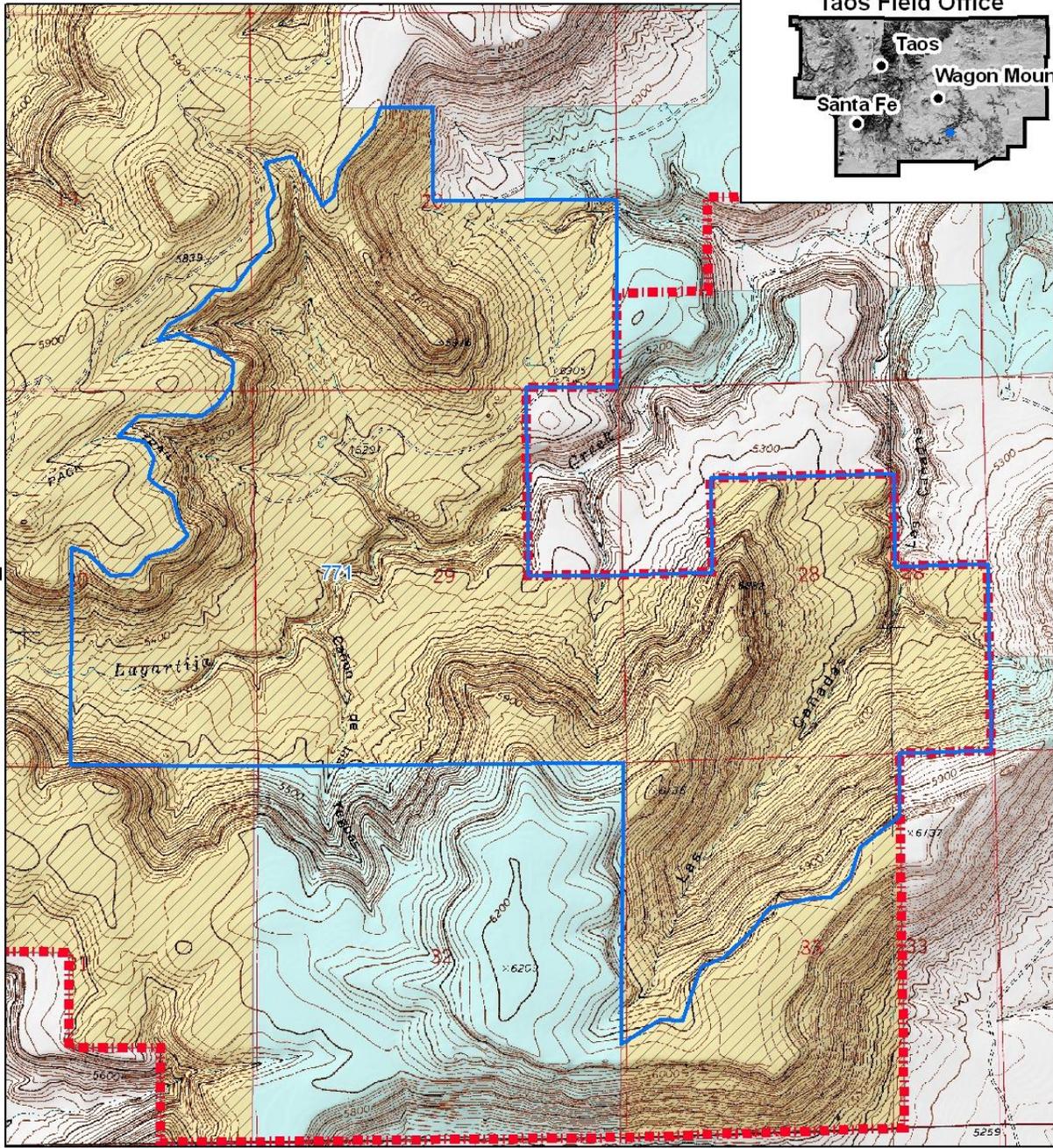
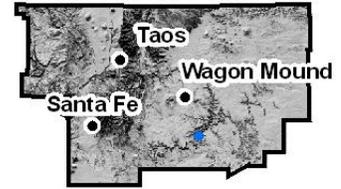
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| Permittee | | <u>Authorization Number</u> 3001614 | | |
| Livestock Use | Preference AUMs | <u>Allotment</u> 00771 | <u>Active</u> 380 | <u>Suspended</u> 0 |
| | Period of Use | <u>Allotment</u> Lagartija Creek | <u>Kind</u> 75 Cattle | <u>Season of Use</u> 10/01 – 02/28 |
| | Kind of Livestock | Cow Calf | | |
| | Percent Public Land | AUMs are authorized at 100% public land | | |
| Allotment Profile | Physical Description | <p>Allotment 771 is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Sabinoso in San Miguel County, New Mexico. Elevation on this allotment is roughly between 5,200 and 6,100 feet. Landforms on the allotment include; drainages, escarpments, mesa and uplands. This allotment is within the Sabinoso Wilderness Area.</p> <p>Three soil types are identified within the BLM parcels. Soils within the parcels are:</p> <p>Latom-Newkirk-Rock outcrop association, rolling. These soils consist of fine sandy loams and rock outcrops, with shallow rooting depths of approximately 13 to 20 inches. Parent material is sandstone. Average annual precipitation is around 14 inches. Hazards for erosion are moderate to high. Vegetation is characterized by sideoats grama, blue grama, black grama and little bluestem.</p> <p>Rock outcrop-Torriorthents complex, very steep. This soil is stony with variable depths and texture. Parent materials of sandstone and shale comprise this soil. Average annual precipitation is around 14 inches. Vegetation is characterized by little bluestem, sideoats grama, blue grama and galleta.</p> <p>Ustorthents-Rock outcrop complex, very steep. This soil is stony with variable depths and texture. Parent materials of sandstone and shale comprise this soil. Average annual precipitation is around 16 inches. Vegetation is characterized by sideoats grama, pinyon, juniper and oak.</p> | | |
| | Land Status Acreage | <u>BLM</u> 1,823 | <u>State</u> 0 | <u>Private</u> 0 |
| | Management Objectives | The allotment is under a ‘Custodial’ (‘C’) management category. ‘C’ category allotments have evidence of a “not apparent” to “upward” long term trend, have no significant resource conflicts and have a low potential for improvement in vegetative production. | | |

| | Key Forage Species | sideoats grama, blue grama, black grama and little bluestem. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | Grazing System | Rotational grazing with private lands | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Management Evaluation | Actual Use | <p>Actual use reports were not submitted. Use was determined by billed AUMs.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>AUMs</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>372</td> <td>2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>150</td> <td>2008</td> </tr> <tr> <td>non-use</td> <td>2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>380</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>372</td> <td>2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>372</td> <td>2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>380</td> <td>2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>380</td> <td>2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>380</td> <td>2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>380</td> <td>2000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | AUMs | Year | 372 | 2009 | 150 | 2008 | non-use | 2007 | 380 | 2006 | 372 | 2005 | 372 | 2004 | 380 | 2003 | 380 | 2002 | 380 | 2001 | 380 | 2000 |
| AUMs | Year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 372 | 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 150 | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| non-use | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 380 | 2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 372 | 2005 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 372 | 2004 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 380 | 2003 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 380 | 2001 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 380 | 2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Utilization | Due to the lack of staff utilization studies have not been conducted. During the assessment visit it was determined that the allotment was receiving slight to moderate amounts of utilization. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Climate | <p>The past water year (Oct. 1, 2008 – Sept. 30, 2009) the average temperature has been slightly above average (0 to 1 degrees Fahrenheit above average) and precipitation below average (2 to 4 inches below average). The winter was slightly drier (0 to .75 inches below normal) and was warmer (2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit above average). The spring was drier (0.5 to 1 inches below normal) and was warmer (0 to 2 degrees Fahrenheit above average). This should provide below average plant growth for cool season plants. The summer precipitation was below average (1.5 to 3 below normal) and slightly warmer (0 to 1 above normal) which should provide below normal growth for warm season plants.</p> <p>Climate change is a concern not only in New Mexico but globally. “Effects of increasing atmospheric CO₂ 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> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | Trend | <p>No long term trend plots have been established on this allotment.</p> <p>A Rangeland Health Matrix was completed on April, 15 2009. 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 $5(\text{score}) \times 10(\text{indicators}) = 50/50 \times 100 = 100\%$ 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>Soil and Site Stability Five indicators were deemed None to Slight and five were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 90%</p> <p>Hydrologic Function Four indicators were deemed None to Slight and six were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 88%</p> <p>Biotic Integrity Six indicators were deemed None to Slight and three were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 93%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 90%</p> <p>Soils were rated at Functioning at Proper Functioning Condition, Flora was rated at Proper Functioning Condition, and Biotic Fauna was rated at Proper Functioning Condition.</p> <p>Current livestock use does not appear to being having an adverse affect on rangeland health.</p> |
| | Riparian | There is no riparian vegetation within this allotment. |
| | Wildlife | Seasonal home ranges in the allotment include those for deer, bear, cougar, bobcat, fox, coyote, small mammals, bats, raptors, turkey vulture, songbirds, and a variety of insects. |

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| | | Deer are browsers/grazers; however there is little dietary overlap between deer and cattle. Best management practices would ensure that forage production within this area can support both wildlife and livestock on a sustained basis. |
| | Threatened and Endangered Species | <p>It is determined that there are no 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.</p> <p>Special status species that are likely to be found on the allotment include bald eagle and ferruginous hawk.</p> |
| Conclusions and Recommendations | | Overall, the allotment is in good condition with good diversity. Monitoring will help establish true trend data and any possible changes in the future. It is recommended that grazing be renewed for another 10 years without any changes to the permit. |

Taos Field Office



T16N

R23E



Lagartija Creek (771)



Legend

-  Allotment Boundary
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  State
-  Sabinosos Wilderness Area

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7.5' Topos: Cañon Olgin & San Ramon