

**Allotment Evaluation (AE)
For
Cañon Hondo (#892)**

Permittee		<u>Authorization Number</u> 3001568		
Livestock Use	Preference AUMs	<u>Allotment</u> 00892	<u>Active</u> 117	<u>Suspended</u> 0
	Period of Use	<u>Allotment</u> Cañon Hondo	<u>Kind</u> 9 Cattle	<u>Season of Use</u> 03/01 – 02/28
	Kind of Livestock	Cow Calf		
	Percent Public Land	AUMs are authorized at 100% public land		
Allotment Profile	Physical Description	<p>Allotment 892 is located approximately 9 miles west of Roy in Mora and Harding Counties, New Mexico. Elevation on this allotment is roughly between 5,000 and 5,500 feet. Landforms on the allotment include; uplands, sideslopes, drainages, benches and canyons. This allotment consists of five parcels.</p> <p>Seven soil types are identified within the BLM parcels. Soils within the parcels are:</p> <p>Berthoud loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes. This soil consists of loams with rooting depths greater than 60 inches. Parent material of calcareous alluvium and valley fill comprise this soil. Average annual precipitation in this area ranges from 13 to 17 inches. Hazards for erosion are moderate. Vegetation is characterized by short and mid grasses.</p> <p>Bernal-Rock outcrop-Carnero complex, moderately sloping. These soils consist of loam and clay loams, with rooting depths between 10 to 35 inches. Parent materials of residuum derived from sandstone and modified with eolian material comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 14 and 18 inches. Vegetation is characterized by blue grama, sideoats grama, galleta, little bluestem, New Mexico feathergrass, western wheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, juniper and cholla.</p> <p>Crews-Tricon association, undulating. These soils consist of silt loams, with rooting depths 8 to 40 inches. Parent materials of mixed material derived from sandstone and shale comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 14 and 18 inches. Hazards for erosion are moderate. Vegetation is characterized by blue grama, sideoats grama, little bluestem, New Mexico feathergrass, western wheatgrass, pinyon and juniper.</p> <p>Partri-Carnero-Bernal association, undulating. These soils</p>		

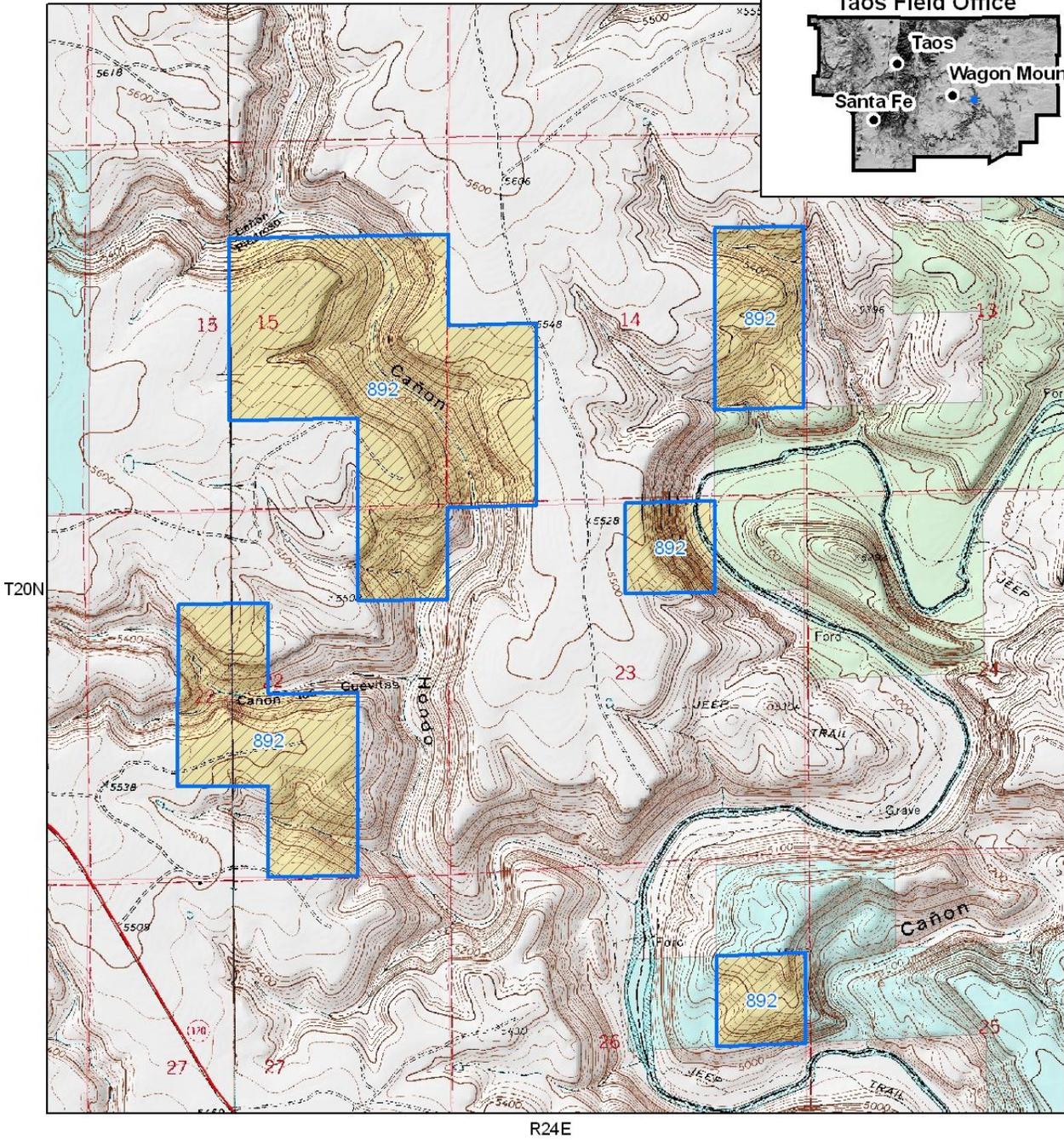
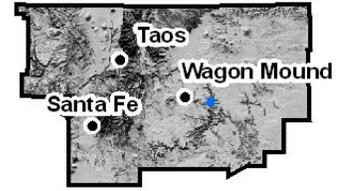
		<p>consist of loam and clay loams, with rooting depths from 10 to over 60 inches. Parent materials of residuum derived from sandstone and modified with eolian material and limestone comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 14 and 18 inches. Hazards for erosion are moderate to high. Vegetation is characterized by blue grama, sideoats grama, galleta, western wheatgrass, juniper, ring muhly and cholla.</p> <p>Rough Broken and Stony Land, 30 to 80% slope. This soil consists of stony loams on shallow soils with mainly steep slopes and rock outcrops with rooting depths between 5 to 40 inches. Some drainages have “meadow” inclusions that include deep, loamy soils. Average annual precipitation in this area ranges from 14 to 17 inches. Hazards for erosion are slight to moderate. Vegetation is characterized by blue grama, galleta, sideoats grama, oak, juniper and pinyon pine.</p> <p>Sombordoro-Rock outcrop-Tuloso complex, moderately sloping. These soils consist of very stoney sandy loams, with rooting depths between 6 to 19 inches. Parent materials of mixed material derived from sandstone and shale comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 14 and 18 inches. Hazards for erosion are moderate to high. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, blue grama, oak, sideoats grama, green needlegrass, pinyon ricegrass and little bluestem.</p> <p>Sombordoro-Rock outcrop-Tuloso complex, very steep. These soils consist of very stoney sandy loams, with rooting depths between 6 to 19 inches. Parent materials of mixed material derived from sandstone and shale comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 14 and 18 inches. Hazards for erosion are moderate to high. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, blue grama, oak, sideoats grama, and little bluestem.</p>						
	Land Status Acreage	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>BLM</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>State</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Private</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">685</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Private</u>	685	0	0
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	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	blue grama, western wheatgrass, little bluestem, New Mexico feathergrass, galleta, sideoats grama						
	Grazing System	Rotaional						
Management Evaluation	Actual Use	Actual use reports were not submitted. Use was determined by billed AUMs.						
		<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>AUMs</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Year</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">117</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2009</td> </tr> </table>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Year</u>	117	2009		
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		117 2008 117 2007 117 2006 117 2005 117 2004 117 2003 117 2002 117 2001 117 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 (1 to 2 degrees Fahrenheit above average) and precipitation below average (6 to 8 inches below average). The winter was slightly drier (.75 to 1.5 inches below normal) and was warmer (2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit above average). The spring was drier (1.5 to 2 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 (3 to 4.5 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>
	Trend	<p>No long term trend plots have been established on this allotment.</p> <p>A Rangeland Health Matrix was completed on May 6, 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</p>

		<p>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 Two indicators were deemed None to Slight and eight were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 84%</p> <p>Hydrologic Function Two indicators were deemed None to Slight and eight were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 84%</p> <p>Biotic Integrity Six indicators were deemed None to Slight and three were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 93%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 87%</p> <p>Soils were rated 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 be having an adverse affect on rangeland health.</p>
	Riparian	<p>Approximately 250 yards of the Canadian River is within one of the parcels of this allotment. Riparian vegetation consists of tamarisk and Siberian elm. Assessment in 1999 rated the riparian area as Proper Functioning Condition and no changes were apparent.</p>
	Wildlife	<p>Seasonal home ranges in the allotment include those for deer, bobcat, fox, coyote, small mammals, bats, raptors, turkey vulture, songbirds, and a variety of insects.</p> <p>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</p>

		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		<p>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.</p>

Taos Field Office



T20N

R24E



Cañon Hondo (892)



Legend

-  Allotment Boundary
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  State
-  Private
-  Forest Service

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Friday, May 14, 2010

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7.5' Topos: Beaver Canyon & Cañon las Cuevas