

**Allotment Evaluation (AE)
For
El Cerrito Allotment (#907)**

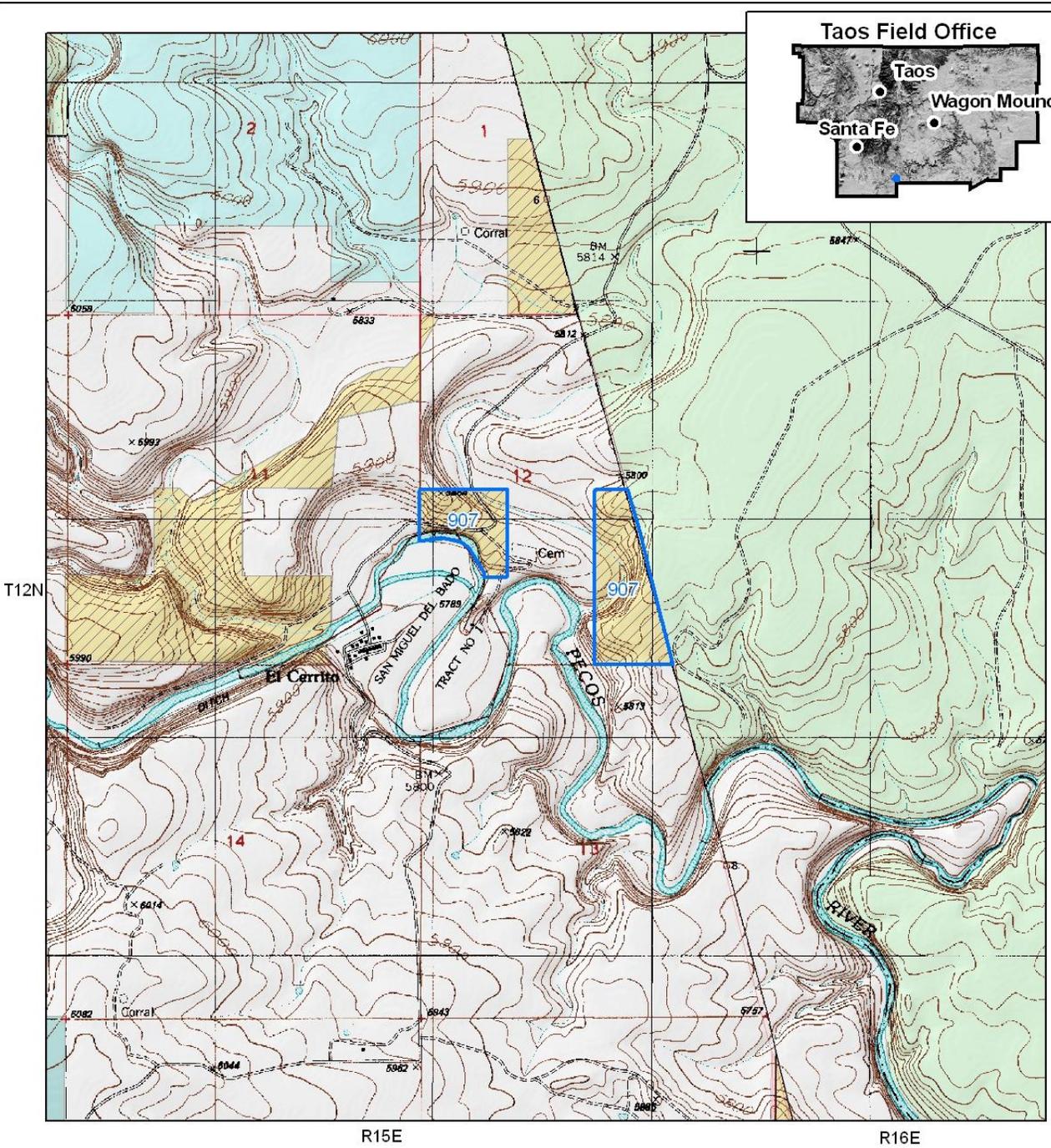
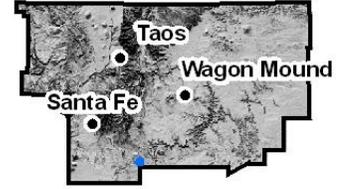
Permittee		<u>Authorization Number</u> 3001574		
Livestock Use	Preference AUMs	<u>Allotment</u> 00907	<u>Active</u> 12	<u>Suspended</u> 0
	Period of Use	<u>Allotment</u> El Cerrito Allotment	<u>Kind</u> 1 Cattle	<u>Season of Use</u> 03/01 – 02/28
	Kind of Livestock	Cow Calf		
	Percent Public Land	AUMs are authorized at 100% public land		
Allotment Profile	Physical Description	<p>Allotment 907 is located approximately 3 miles east of Villanueva in San Miguel County, New Mexico. Elevation on this allotment is roughly between 5,600 to 5,800 feet. Landforms on the allotment include; uplands, drainages and a portion of the Pecos River Canyon. This allotment consists of two parcels.</p> <p>Four soil types are identified within the BLM parcels. Soils within the parcels are:</p> <p>Ribera-Sombordoro-Vibo association, moderately sloping. These soils consist of loams, sandy loams and stony fine sandy loams with rooting depths between 8 to over 60 inches. Parent materials of alluvial and eolian material derived from mixed sources comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 16 and 20 inches. Hazards for erosion are slight to high. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, blue grama, sideoats grama, little bluestem, pinyon ricegrass and western wheat.</p> <p>Tuloso-Sombordoro-Rock outcrop complex moderately sloping. These soils consist of stony sandy and stony loams with rooting depths ranging from 8 to 20 inches. Parent materials are primarily derived from sandstone. Average annual precipitation is about 16 inches. Hazards for erosion are slight to moderate. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, blue grama, hairy grama, sideoats grama, and pinyon ricegrass.</p> <p>Tuloso-Rock outcrop-Sombordoro association, steep. These soils consist of stony sandy and stony loams with rooting depths ranging from 8 to 20 inches. Parent materials are primarily derived from sandstone. Average annual precipitation is about 16 inches. Hazards for erosion are slight to moderate. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, blue grama, hairy grama, sideoats grama, little bluestem and pinyon ricegrass.</p>		

		Vibo-Ribera association, undulating. These soils consist of sandy loams, with rooting depths over 60 inches. Parent materials of alluvial and eolian material derived from mixed sources comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 16 and 20 inches. Hazards for erosion are moderate to high. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, blue grama, sideoats grama, little bluestem, pinyon ricegrass and Indian ricegrass.																						
	Land Status Acreage	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>BLM</u></td> <td><u>State</u></td> <td><u>Private</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>80</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Private</u>	80	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, galleta, sideoats grama																						
	Grazing System	Rotaional																						
Management Evaluation	Actual Use	<p>Actual use reports were not submitted. Use was determined by billed AUMs.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>AUMs</u></th> <th><u>Year</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>12</td><td>2009</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2008</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2007</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2006</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2005</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2004</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2003</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2002</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2001</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>2000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Year</u>	12	2009	12	2008	12	2007	12	2006	12	2005	12	2004	12	2003	12	2002	12	2001	12	2000
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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 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 (4 to 6 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 to 1.5 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</p>																						

		<p>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 April 3, 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 $5(\text{score}) * 10(\text{indicators}) = 50 / 50 * 100 = 100\%$ 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, four were deemed Slight to Moderate and four were deemed Moderate. Rating: 76%</p> <p>Hydrologic Function Three indicators were deemed None to Slight, three were deemed Slight to Moderate and four were deemed Moderate. Rating: 78%</p> <p>Biotic Integrity Six indicators were deemed None to Slight, two were deemed</p>

		<p>Slight to Moderate and one was deemed Moderate. Rating: 91%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 82%</p> <p>Soils were rated at Functioning at Risk-Upward Trend, Flora was rated at Functioning at Risk-Upward Trend, and Biotic Fauna was rated at Functioning at Risk-Upward Trend.</p> <p>Riparian was rated as Non Functional.</p> <p>Current livestock use does not appear to be having an adverse affect on rangeland health. In the riparian area livestock grazing is apparent but is not a significant factor in the non functional rating.</p>
	Riparian	<p>The riparian area within the allotment is approximately two tenths of a mile of the Pecos River. Vegetation is limited to grasses and weedy species for the understory and cottonwoods and Russian olive for the overstory. The Pecos River canyon, for the most part, is privately owned once the river leaves Forest Service land 40 or so miles to the north.</p>
	Wildlife	<p>Seasonal home ranges in the allotment include those for antelope, deer, bobcat, fox, coyote, small mammals, bats, raptors, turkey vulture, songbirds, and a variety of insects.</p> <p>Antelope and 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.</p>
	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 fair condition with fair diversity. Since the last assessment the uplands have been visually improving while the riparian area remains the same. 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



El Cerrito (907)



Legend

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

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7.5' Topos: Villannueva