

**Allotment Assessment and Evaluation Report for
New Mexico Standards and Guidelines for Public Land Health
Pinon Flat (#801) – August 10, 2010**

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Permittee/Lessee | | <u>Authorization Number</u> 3001477 | | |
| Livestock Use | Preference AUMs | <u>Allotment</u> 00801 | <u>Active</u> 3 | <u>Suspended</u> 0 |
| | Period of Use / Kind of livestock | <u>Allotment</u> Pinon Flat | <u>Number/Kind</u> 1 Cow | <u>Season of Use</u> 03/01 – 02/28 |
| | Percent Public Land | AUMs are authorized at 100% public land | | |
| Allotment Profile | Physical Description | <p>Allotment 801 is located approximately 8.25 miles northeast of Maes in San Miguel County, New Mexico. Pinon Flat is a small allotment with a corner crossing the Mora River. The allotment is mostly a steep rocky hillside with a small portion on top of the rim overlooking the river.</p> <p>Three soil types are identified within the BLM parcels. Soils within the parcels are:</p> <p>Carnero-Patri association, undulating. These soils consist of silt and clay loams, with rooting depths over 20 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. Vegetation is characterized by blue grama, sideoats grama, galleta and western wheatgrass.</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> <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> | | |
| | Land Status Acreage | <u>BLM</u> 40 | <u>State</u> 0 | <u>Private</u> 0 |
| | Management | The allotment is under a 'Custodial' ('C') management | | |

| | Objectives | 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 | little bluestem, pinyon ricegrass, sideoats grama, bluegrama, hairy grama, galleta, western wheatgrass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Grazing System | Year round grazing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current Conditions / Management | Actual Use | Actual use reports were not submitted. Use was determined by billed AUMs. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>AUMs</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>2010</td> </tr> <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>7</td> <td>2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>2000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | AUMs | Year | 12 | 2010 | 12 | 2009 | 12 | 2008 | 12 | 2007 | 12 | 2006 | 7 | 2005 | 7 | 2004 | 7 | 2003 | 7 | 2002 | 7 | 2001 |
| AUMs | Year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 2010 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 2005 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 7 | 2003 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 2002 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 2001 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 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 utilization. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Climate | <p>The past water year (Oct. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2010) the average temperature has been slightly below average (0 to 1 degrees Fahrenheit below average) and precipitation below average (3 to 6 inches below average). The winter was slightly drier (0 to 1.5 inches below normal) and was colder (5 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit below average). The spring was drier (0 to 0.75 inches below normal) and was colder (0 to 1 degrees Fahrenheit below average). This should provide below average plant growth for cool season plants. The summer precipitation was below average (1.5 to 3 inches below normal) and slightly warmer (2 to 3 above normal) which should provide below normal growth for warm season plants.</p> <p>Global climate change resulting from increasing atmospheric CO₂ levels may accelerate rates of plant extinction and result in shifts in ecosystem structure (species diversity) and function. We anticipate that our monitoring efforts will track vegetation shifts allowing for management modifications to address local range impacts resulting from global climate change.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Trend | <p>In 2010 monitoring transects and photo points were placed in the allotment to establish vegetation trend. The full findings are kept in the allotment file at the Taos Field Office, but are summarized below.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>PLOT #1</td> <td>2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ground Cover</td> <td>(%)</td> </tr> </table> | PLOT #1 | 2010 | Ground Cover | (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PLOT #1 | 2010 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ground Cover | (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | <table border="1"> <tr><td>bare ground</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>criptogams</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>gravel</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>rock</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>litter</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>BOGR (Blue Grama)</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>GUSA (Snakeweed)</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>MUTO (Ring Muhly)</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Species Composition (%)</td></tr> <tr><td>BOGR (Blue Grama)</td><td>69</td></tr> <tr><td>GUSA (Snakeweed)</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>MUTO (Ring Muhly)</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Nightshade</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>PLJA (Galleta)</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>SPCR (Sand Dropseed)</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>BOHI (Hairy Grama)</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>JUMO (Juniper)</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> | bare ground | 55 | criptogams | 1 | gravel | 1 | rock | 0 | litter | 20 | BOGR (Blue Grama) | 19 | GUSA (Snakeweed) | 1 | MUTO (Ring Muhly) | 3 | Species Composition (%) | | BOGR (Blue Grama) | 69 | GUSA (Snakeweed) | 11 | MUTO (Ring Muhly) | 5 | Nightshade | 1 | PLJA (Galleta) | 3 | SPCR (Sand Dropseed) | 5 | BOHI (Hairy Grama) | 4 | JUMO (Juniper) | 1 |
| bare ground | 55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| criptogams | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| gravel | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| rock | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| litter | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BOGR (Blue Grama) | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GUSA (Snakeweed) | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MUTO (Ring Muhly) | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Species Composition (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| MUTO (Ring Muhly) | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nightshade | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PLJA (Galleta) | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SPCR (Sand Dropseed) | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BOHI (Hairy Grama) | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JUMO (Juniper) | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Riparian | Approximately 0.13 miles of the Mora River is within the allotment boundaries. The riparian area is functional. No cottonwoods or willows were identified; however, grass species are present along the stream bank. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Wildlife | <p>Seasonal home ranges in the allotment include those for deer, elk, bear, bobcat, fox, coyote, small mammals and reptiles, bats, raptors, turkey vulture, songbirds, and a variety of insects.</p> <p>Some dietary overlap occurs between wildlife and cattle; however, 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 (seasonally) include bald eagle and ferruginous hawk.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Findings / Rationale for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health | | A Rangeland Health Evaluation Matrix was completed on August 10, 2010. This evaluation matrix is from Technical Reference 1734-6 “Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health.” The actual matrix forms are available within the allotment file. Below is a summation of the information gathered by the on site evaluation. Within the Rangeland Health Attributes are three different categories of indicators. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | <p>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.</p> <p>Soil and Site Stability Four indicators were deemed None to Slight, five were deemed Slight to Moderate, one was deemed Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate to Extreme, and zero were deemed Extreme to Total. Rating: 86%</p> <p>Hydrologic Function Four indicators were deemed None to Slight, six were deemed Slight to Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate to Extreme, and zero were deemed Extreme to Total. Rating: 88%</p> <p>Biotic Integrity Five indicators were deemed None to Slight, four were deemed Slight to Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate to Extreme, and zero were deemed Extreme to Total. Rating: 91%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 88%</p> |
| | <p>Upland Standard</p> | <p><i>Upland ecological sites are in productive and sustainable condition within the capability of the site. Upland soils are stabilized and exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate for the soil type, climate, and landform. The kind, amount and/or pattern of vegetation provides protection on a given site to minimize erosion and assist in meeting State and Tribal water quality standards.</i></p> <p>This allotment is meeting the Upland Standard based on the above evaluation and information. Generally, there are no issues with erosion outside of what is expected for this site.</p> |
| | <p>Biotic Communities Standard</p> | <p><i>Ecological processes such as hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow support productive and diverse native biotic communities, including special status, threatened, and endangered species appropriate to site and species.</i></p> <p>This allotment is meeting the Biotic Communities Standard based on the above evaluation and information. Generally,</p> |

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|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | vegetation is as expected for the site. Juniper trees are beginning to encroach into open areas in the allotment and approximately one tenth of the species composition is snakeweed. Although the standard is being met improvements could be made to increase the amount of forage for future livestock grazing and for wintering wildlife. |
| | Riparian Standard | <i>Riparian areas are in a productive, properly functioning and sustainable condition, within the capability of that site.</i> The Riparian Standard is being met. Only a very small portion of the Mora River is within the allotment. Livestock using the allotment are unable to access the river due to the terrain. |
| Conclusion | | The New Mexico Standards for public land health are being met; therefore no Determination Document is warranted. Continued monitoring will help establish future trend. It is recommended that the grazing lease be renewed for the next ten years without any changes. |

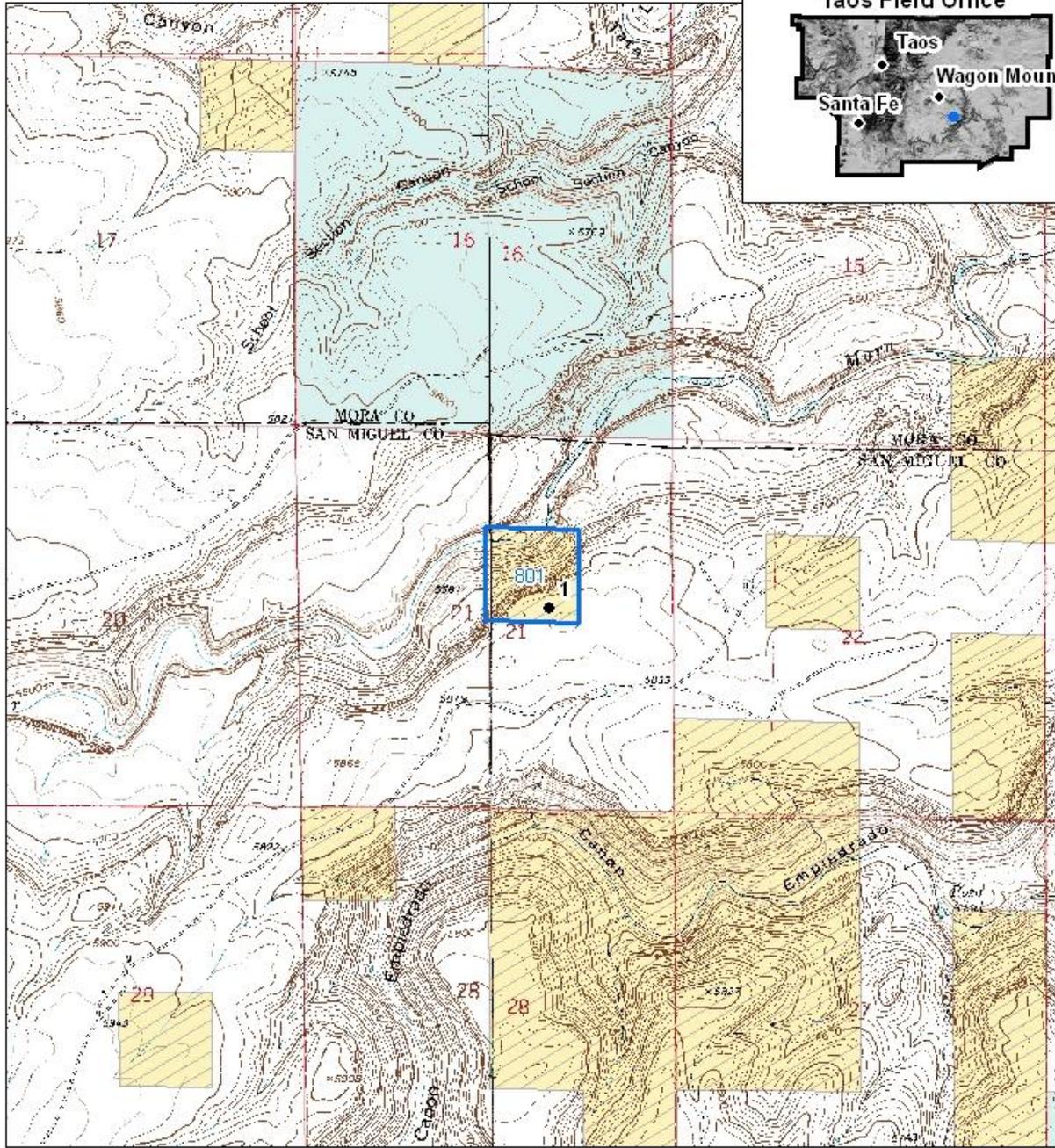
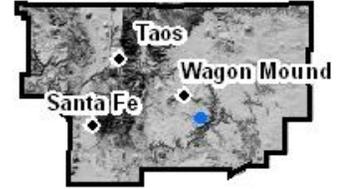
Consultation and Coordination

This Assessment and Evaluation Report has been sent or given to the affected permittee(s) / lessee(s), the interested publics and the following interdisciplinary team members for input and review:

Merril Dicks – Archeologist
 Scott Draney – Department of Game and Fish
 Greg Gustina – Fish Biologist
 Pam Herrera-Olivas – Wildlife Biologist
 Tami Torres – Outdoor Recreation Planner
 Jacob Young – Rangeland Management Specialist
 Paul Williams – Archeologist
 Valerie Williams – Wildlife Biologist

This document was prepared by: Derek Trauntvein – Rangeland Management Specialist

Taos Field Office

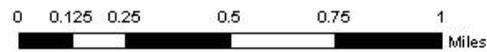


T18N

R23E



Pinon Flat (801)



Legend

- Monitoring Plots
- Allotment Boundary
- ▨ Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private

Produced by the BLM Taos Field Office - GIS on:
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7.5' Topos: Canon Ancho and Alamito