

**Allotment Assessment and Evaluation Report for  
New Mexico Standards and Guidelines for Public Land Health  
New Mexico Producer (#876) – July 6, 2010**

<b>Permittee/Lessee</b>		<u>Authorization Number</u> 3001552		
<b>Livestock Use</b>	Preference AUMs	<u>Allotment</u> 00876	<u>Active</u> 10	<u>Suspended</u> 0
	Period of Use / Kind of livestock	<u>Allotment</u> New Mexico Producer	<u>Number/Kind</u> 1 Cattle	<u>Season of Use</u> 03/01 – 02/28
	Percent Public Land	AUMs are authorized at 100% public land		
<b>Allotment Profile</b>	Physical Description	<p>Allotment 876 is located approximately ½ mile southwest of Ribera in San Miguel county, New Mexico. New Mexico Producer allotment is comprised of an arroyo with seasonal available water and some cottonwoods, a riparian area from the flow of an artesian well on the adjacent private lands, and uplands with warm season grass species and scattered pinyon-juniper trees. A small community cemetery also lies just inside the northern allotment boundary.</p> <p>Four soil types are identified within the BLM parcels. Soils within the parcels are:</p> <p>GB – Gullied land-Manzano complex, gently sloping. This soil is on fans and valley sides. Vegetation is mainly grass. Average annual precipitation is 15 inches and hazard for water erosion is high. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches. Potential plant vegetation is blue grama, western wheatgrass, gallets, and alkali sacaton.</p> <p>TR - 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>TS - 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>		

		VB - 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	<u>BLM</u> <u>State</u> <u>Private</u> 114                                      0                                      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	little bluestem, pinyon ricegrass, sideoats grama, bluegrama, galleta, alkali sacaton, hairy grama																								
	Grazing System	Rotation with private lands																								
<b>Current Conditions / Management</b>	Actual Use	Actual use reports were not submitted. Use was determined by billed AUMs.  <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>AUMs</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Year</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">2010</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">2009</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">2008</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">2007</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">2006</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">2005</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">2004</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">2003</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">2002</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">2001</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">2000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Year</u>	12	2010	12	2009	12	2008	12	2007	0	2006	0	2005	10	2004	10	2003	10	2002	10	2001	10	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 utilization.																								
	Climate	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 (0 to 3 inches below average). The winter was slightly drier (0 to 1.5 inches below normal) and was colder (3 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit below average). The spring was drier (0.75 to 1.5 inches below normal) and was warmer (0 to 1 degrees Fahrenheit above average). This should provide below average plant growth for cool season plants. The summer precipitation was below average (0 to 1.5 below normal) and slightly warmer (2 to 3 above normal) which should provide below normal growth for warm season plants.  Global climate change resulting from increasing atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> 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.																																		
	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" data-bbox="878 464 1284 1272"> <thead> <tr> <th>Plot #1</th> <th>2010</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Ground Cover</b> (%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bare Ground</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>criptogams</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>gravel</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>rock</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>litter</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOGR (Blue Grama)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARPU (Purple Threawn)</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Species Composition</b> (%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOGR (Blue Grama)</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ARPU (Purple Threawn)</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?PF1 (Unknown Forb)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JUMO (Juniper)</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YUBA (Yucca)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?PF2 (Unknown Forb)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHMA (Spotted Sandmat)</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Plot #1	2010	<b>Ground Cover</b> (%)		Bare Ground	68	criptogams	0	gravel	4	rock	6	litter	12	BOGR (Blue Grama)	6	ARPU (Purple Threawn)	4	<b>Species Composition</b> (%)		BOGR (Blue Grama)	25	ARPU (Purple Threawn)	25	?PF1 (Unknown Forb)	6	JUMO (Juniper)	25	YUBA (Yucca)	6	?PF2 (Unknown Forb)	6	CHMA (Spotted Sandmat)	6
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	Riparian	<p>There is one riparian area within the allotment. The source is from an artesian well located on the adjacent private land. Cattails, willows, and cottonwoods are found at the site. Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>) was also noted at the site. Water from the well runs through the BLM lands and drains into an arroyo. Some livestock use of the riparian vegetation was noticed, but use was very light. Also, a frog of unknown identification was seen during the evaluation. Some surface water is present.</p>																																		
	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>
<p><b>Findings / Rationale for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health</b></p>		<p>A Rangeland Health Evaluation Matrix was completed on July 6, 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. 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.</p> <p><b>Soil and Site Stability</b> Two indicators were deemed None to Slight, three were deemed Slight to Moderate, five were deemed Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate to Extreme, and zero were deemed Extreme to Total. Rating: 74%</p> <p><b>Hydrologic Function</b> Two indicators were deemed None to Slight, three were deemed Slight to Moderate, five were deemed Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate to Extreme, and zero were deemed Extreme to Total. Rating: 74%</p> <p><b>Biotic Integrity</b> Four indicators were deemed None to Slight, three were deemed Slight to Moderate, two were deemed Moderate, zero were deemed Moderate to Extreme, and zero were deemed Extreme to Total. Rating: 84%</p> <p><b>Overall Rating: 77%</b></p>
	Upland Standard	<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</i></p>

		<p><i>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 not meeting the Upland Standard based on the above evaluation and information. Rills and pedestals are common and slightly active. Water-flow patterns nearly match what is expected. Soil surface is somewhat resistant to erosion, but some soil loss has occurred. Bare ground is slightly higher than expected (68% of ground cover). Many of the problems are from infrequent, high intensity, summer rainstorms.</p>
	<b>Biotic Communities Standard</b>	<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, vegetation and wildlife species are as expected for the site. Juniper trees are beginning to encroach into open areas in the allotment. The riparian area promotes allotment use by wildlife.</p>
	<b>Riparian Standard</b>	<p><i>Riparian areas are in a productive, properly functioning and sustainable condition, within the capability of that site.</i></p> <p>This allotment is meeting the Riparian Standard based on the above evaluation and information. The site is productive and stable. A concern is the establishment of saltcedar. Only a few saltcedar are currently present. Other vegetation is what is expected.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>		<p>The New Mexico Standards for public land health are not being met; therefore a Determination Document is warranted. Continued monitoring will help establish future trend. Saltcedar should be treated along the riparian area to prevent further spread. The upland standard not being met is more a result of climate and soil types than slight use from cattle grazing. It is recommended that the grazing lease be renewed for the next ten years without any changes.</p>

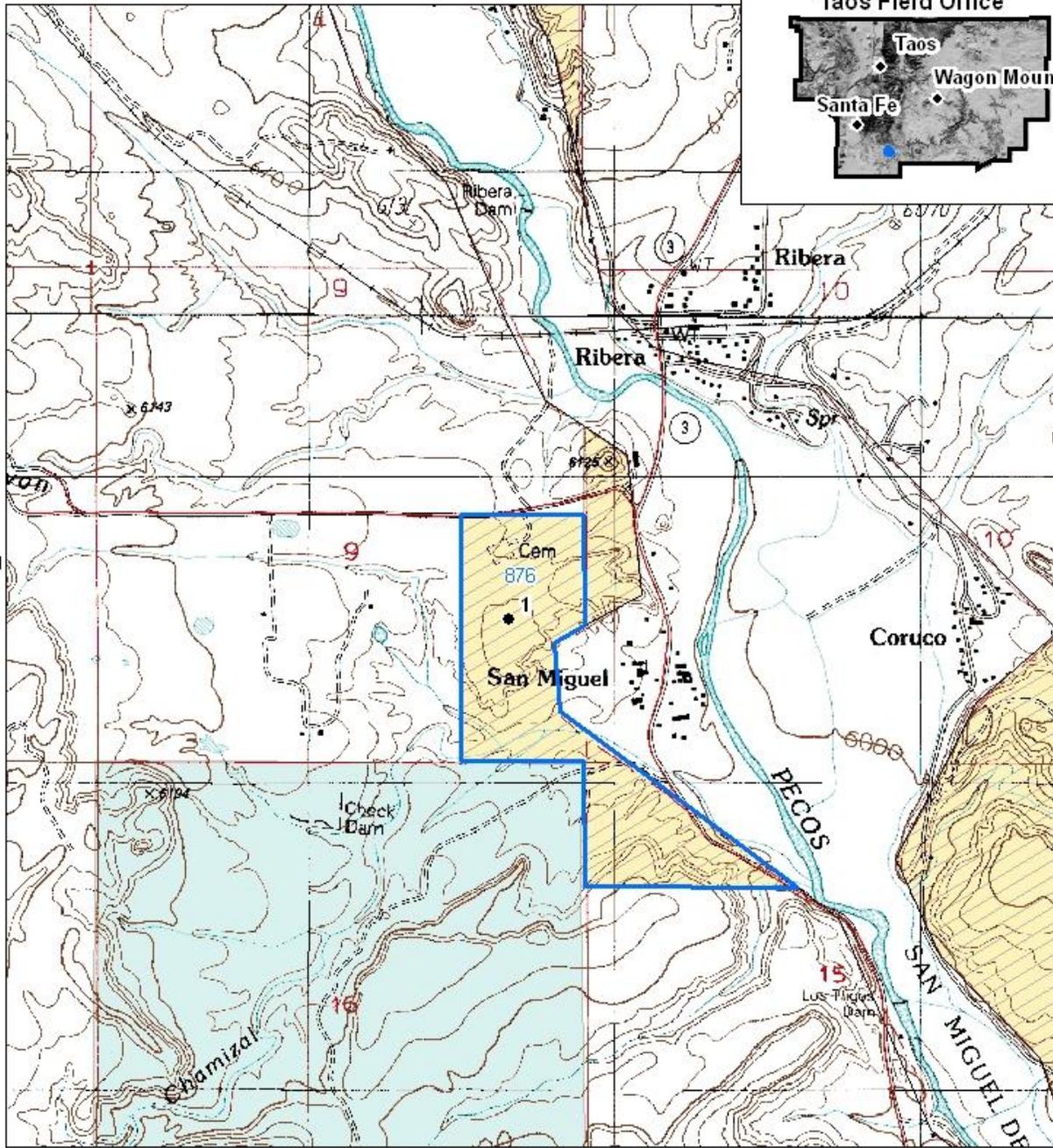
## Consultation and Coordination

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

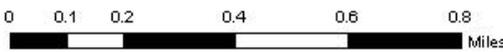


T13N

R14E



### New Mexico Producer (876)



Legend	
●	Monitoring Plots
□ (blue outline)	Allotment Boundary
▨ (yellow hatched)	Bureau of Land Management
□ (light blue)	State
□ (white)	Private

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Monday February 14, 2011

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7.5' Topos: Sena, San Jose