

**Allotment Evaluation (AE)  
For  
Cerrito Dormilon (#619)**

Permittee		<u>Authorization Number</u> 3001618		
Livestock Use	Preference AUMs	<u>Allotment</u> 00619	<u>Active</u> 120	<u>Suspended</u> 0
	Period of Use	<u>Allotment</u> Cerrito Dormilon	<u>Kind</u> 132 Cattle	<u>Season of Use</u> 05/11 – 06/09
	Kind of Livestock	Cow Calf		
	Percent Public Land	AUMs are authorized at 100% public land		
Allotment Profile	Physical Description	<p>Allotment 619 is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Tres Piedras, in Taos County, New Mexico. Elevation on this allotment is roughly 7,400 to 7,600 feet. Landforms on the allotment include uplands. A seeding of crested wheatgrass occurred on 681 acres of this allotment in 1963.</p> <p>Three soil types are identified within the BLM land of this allotment. They include:</p> <p>Fernando-Hernandez association, nearly level. The soil consists of loam and clay loams, with rooting depths over 60 inches. Parent materials of alluvium derived from mixed sources comprise this soil. Average annual precipitation ranges between 10 and 14 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, galleta, blue grama, winter fat, fourwing saltbush and sagebrush.</p> <p>Hernandez-Petaca association, gently sloping. The soil consists of loams, with rooting depths over 60 inches. Parent materials of alluvium derived from mixed sources comprise this soil. Average annual precipitation ranges between 10 and 14 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, needle and thread, galleta, blue grama and sagebrush.</p> <p>Petaca-Prieta complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes.</p>		

		<p>These soils consist of clay loams, with rooting depths between 10 to 20 inches. Parent materials of weathered basalt and eolian sediments comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 10 and 14 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, blue grama, sideoats grama, and winterfat.</p> <p>Servilleta-Prieta complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes. These soils consist of clay loams, with rooting depths between 10 to 40 inches. Parent materials of mixed material derived from weathered basalt and eolian comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation ranges between 10 and 14 inches. Vegetation is characterized by blue grama, western wheat and sagebrush.</p> <p>Vegetation observed during time of review included blue grama, western wheat, snakeweed, prickly pear, sagebrush, rabbitbrush, three awn and squirreltail.</p>																						
	Land Status Acreage	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>BLM</u></th> <th><u>State</u></th> <th><u>Private</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2,400</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Private</u>	2,400	0	0																
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	Management Objectives	The allotment is under a 'Maintain' ('M') management category. 'M' category allotments are managed to maintain current satisfactory ecological condition.																						
	Key Forage Species	blue grama, western wheat, needle and thread, galleta, and winterfat																						
	Grazing System	Unknown																						
Management Evaluation	Actual Use	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>AUMs</u></th> <th><u>Year</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>2006</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>2005</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>2004</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>2003</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>2002</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>2001</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>2000</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>1999</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>1998</td></tr> <tr><td>Non use</td><td>1997</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Year</u>	Non use	2006	Non use	2005	Non use	2004	Non use	2003	Non use	2002	Non use	2001	Non use	2000	Non use	1999	Non use	1998	Non use	1997
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	Utilization	Due to non use, utilization surveys have not been conducted.																						
	Climate	The past water year (Oct. 1, 2006 – Sept. 30, 2007) the temperature and precipitation has																						

		<p>been slightly (+1 to +2 degree Fahrenheit and +3 to +6 inches, respectively) above average. This should provide above average plant growth.</p> <p>Climate change is a concern not only in New Mexico but globally. “Effects of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> 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>Two term trend plots were established on this allotment in 1983 but due to the lack of staff they have not been read since. A Rangeland Health Matrix was completed on July 11, 2007. 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 indicators are relative to a departure from 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-</p>

		<p>Downward Trend and Non Functional.</p> <p><b>Soil and Site Stability</b> Two of ten indicators were deemed None to Slight, five Slight to Moderate, and three Moderate. Rating: 78%</p> <p><b>Hydrologic Function</b> <b>Soil and Site Stability</b> One of ten indicators was deemed None to Slight, six Slight to Moderate and three Moderate. Rating: 76%</p> <p><b>Biotic Integrity</b> Four of nine indicators were deemed Slight to Moderate, and five Moderate. Rating: 68%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 74%</p> <p>Soils were rated at Proper Functioning Condition, Biotic Flora was rated at Functioning at Risk-Downward Trend and Biotic Fauna was rated at Functioning at Risk-Downward Trend.</p> <p>Factors other than current livestock have been attributed to not meeting standards – namely lack of fire and/or possibly historic grazing.</p>
	Wildlife	<p>Seasonal home ranges in the allotment include those for elk, deer, pronghorn, mountain lion, black bear, bobcat, fox, coyote, small mammals, bats, raptors, turkey vulture, songbirds, amphibians, and a variety of insects.</p> <p>Elk, pronghorn and deer are grazers, however there is little dietary overlap between deer and cattle. Best management practices (rotational grazing; enhancement of cool season grasses, fourwing saltbush and winterfat; and promotion of a mixed-aged sagebrush community) would ensure that forage</p>

		<p>production within this area can support both wildlife and livestock on a sustained basis.</p> <p>Critical wildlife areas on the allotment include winter range for elk deer and pronghorn. An important migratory corridor for avian and big-game species also occurs inside the allotment boundaries</p>
	Threatened and Endangered Species	<p>It is determined that there are no state or 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 prairie dogs and burrowing owl.</p>
Conclusions and Recommendations		<p>It is recommended that a treatment to increase herbaceous vegetation be conducted due to sagebrush dominance. Sagebrush and snakeweed are dominating the site and the only grass with any frequency is blue grama – the site has lost western wheat grass and needle and thread. In the past some sagebrush treatments were conducted with in the allotment but non-native seed was used and it is recommended that native seed be used. During the allotment visit the permittee expressed interest in creating 1 or 2 earth dams.</p>

