

**Allotment Evaluation (AE)
For
East Rio San Antonio (#583)**

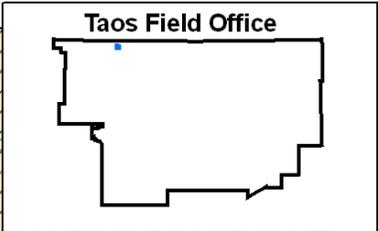
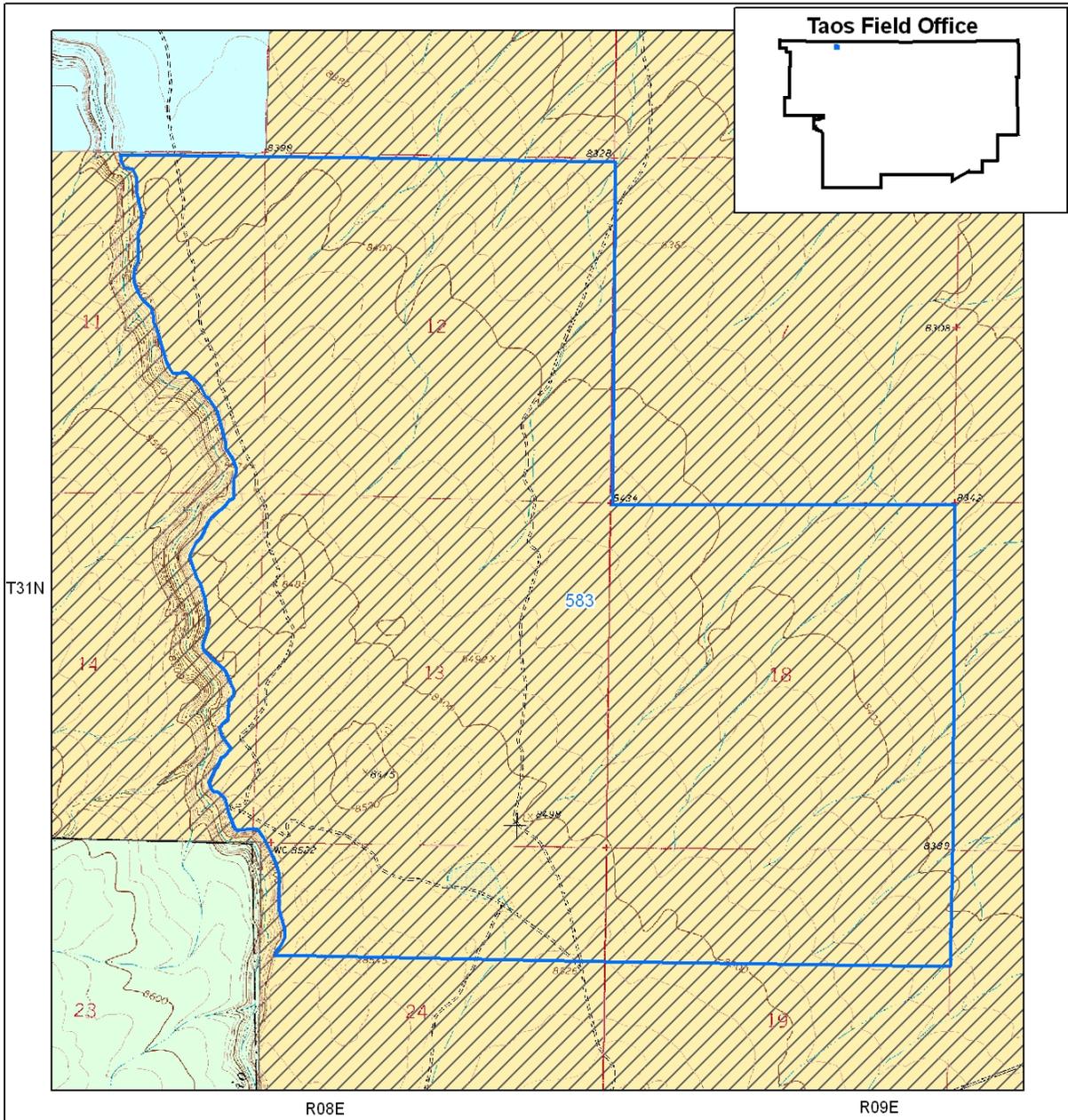
Permittee		<u>Authorization Number</u> 3001050		
Livestock Use	Preference AUMs	<u>Allotment</u> 00583	<u>Active</u> 228	<u>Suspended</u> 0
	Period of Use	<u>Allotment</u> East Rio San Antonio	<u>Kind</u> 53 Cattle	<u>Season of Use</u> 05/10 – 09/17
	Kind of Livestock	Cow Calf		
	Percent Public Land	AUMs are authorized at 100% public land		
Allotment Profile	Physical Description	<p>Allotment 583 is located approximately 16 miles north, northwest of Tres Piedras, in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Elevation on this allotment is roughly 8,350 to 8,500 feet. Landforms on the allotment include uplands and the rim of Rio San Antonio. Part of this allotment is within the San Antonio Gorge ACEC and the San Antonio WSA.</p> <p>Four soil types are identified within the BLM land of this allotment. They include:</p> <p>Antonito-Travelers association, gently sloping. These soils consist of loams to very stony loams, with rooting depths between 20 and 40 inches. Parent material of weathered basalt and eolian material comprises this soil. Average annual precipitation in this area ranges from 10 to 12 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, needle and thread, black sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, blue grama, fringe sage and winter fat.</p> <p>Luhon-Travelers complex, 3 to 7 percent slopes. These soils consist of loams, with rooting depths between 20 to 60 inches. Parent material of residuum of basalt and eolian sediments comprise these soils. Average annual precipitation in this area ranges from 10 to 12 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, Indian</p>		

		<p>ricegrass, and winter fat.</p> <p>Stunner-Travelers association, gently sloping. These soils consist of stony loams, with rooting depths between 20 and over 60 inches. Parent material of mixed alluvium, residuum of basalt and eolian sediment comprises this soil. Average annual precipitation in this area ranges from 10 to 12 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, blue grama, threeawn and winter fat.</p> <p>Travelers very stony loam, 1 to 8 percent slope. This soil consists of very stony loams, with rooting depths up to 20 inches. Parent material formed of residuum and eolian material on basalt flows comprises this soil. Average annual precipitation in this area ranges from 10 to 12 inches. Vegetation is characterized by western wheat, blue grama, rabbitbrush and winter fat.</p> <p>Vegetation observed during time of review included sedge, blue grama, rabbitbrush, prickly pear, snakeweed, squirreltail, fringe sage, juniper, pingue, sagebrush and western wheat.</p>																						
	Land Status Acreage	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>BLM</u></td> <td><u>State</u></td> <td><u>Private</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,718</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Private</u>	2,718	0	0																
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	Management Objectives	The allotment is under an 'Improve' ('I') management category. 'I' category allotments are managed to achieve satisfactory ecological condition.																						
	Key Forage Species	blue grama, western wheat, needle and thread, Indian ricegrass, 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>225</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>225</td> <td>2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>225</td> <td>2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>132</td> <td>2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non use</td> <td>2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>225</td> <td>2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>225</td> <td>2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>225</td> <td>1999</td> </tr> <tr> <td>225</td> <td>1998</td> </tr> <tr> <td>213</td> <td>1997</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Year</u>	225	2006	225	2005	225	2004	132	2003	Non use	2002	225	2001	225	2000	225	1999	225	1998	213	1997
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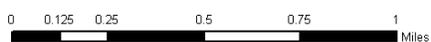
		Actual use has not been routinely submitted for this allotment. Use has been assessed from paid bills and information available within the operator file.
	Utilization	Due to the lack of staff, utilization surveys have not been conducted.
	Climate	<p>The past water year (Oct. 1, 2006 – Sept. 30, 2007) the temperature and precipitation has been slightly (+1 to +2 degree Fahrenheit and +3 to +6 inches, respectively) above average. This should provide average or above plant growth.</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	Two long term trend plots have been established on this allotment, but due to a lack of staff they have not been read since 1991. A Rangeland Health Matrix was completed on August 6, 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

		<p>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-Downward Trend and Non Functional.</p> <p>Soil and Site Stability Eight of ten indicators were deemed None to Slight, while two were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 96%</p> <p>Hydrologic Function Seven of ten indicators were deemed None to Slight, while three were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 94%</p> <p>Biotic Integrity Six of nine indicators were deemed None to Slight, while three were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 93%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 94%</p> <p>Soils were rated at Proper Functioning Condition, Biotic Flora was rated at Proper Functioning Condition and Biotic Fauna was rated at Proper Functioning Condition.</p> <p>Livestock do not appear to be adversely affecting the functionality of this allotment.</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</p>

		<p>cattle. Best management practices (rotational grazing; enhancement of cool season grasses, Indian ricegrass and winterfat; and promotion of a mixed-aged sagebrush community) would ensure that forage 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, pronghorn and deer. An important migratory corridor for avian and big-game species also occurs inside the allotment boundaries. Territories for nesting raptors occur adjacent to the allotment in the Rio San Antonio ACEC.</p>
	<p>Threatened and Endangered Species</p>	<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, burrowing owl, mountain plover and ferruginous hawk.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p>		<p>The allotment is in good condition, with good vegetative diversity. It appears that some species (juniper, rabbitbrush and mustard) may be on the increase. It is recommended that monitoring take place to watch for increases in these species.</p>



East Rio San Antonio (583)



Legend

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

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 Wednesday, November 15, 2007
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7.5' Topos: Los Pinos