

**Allotment Evaluation (AE)
For
Sixty Four (#618)**

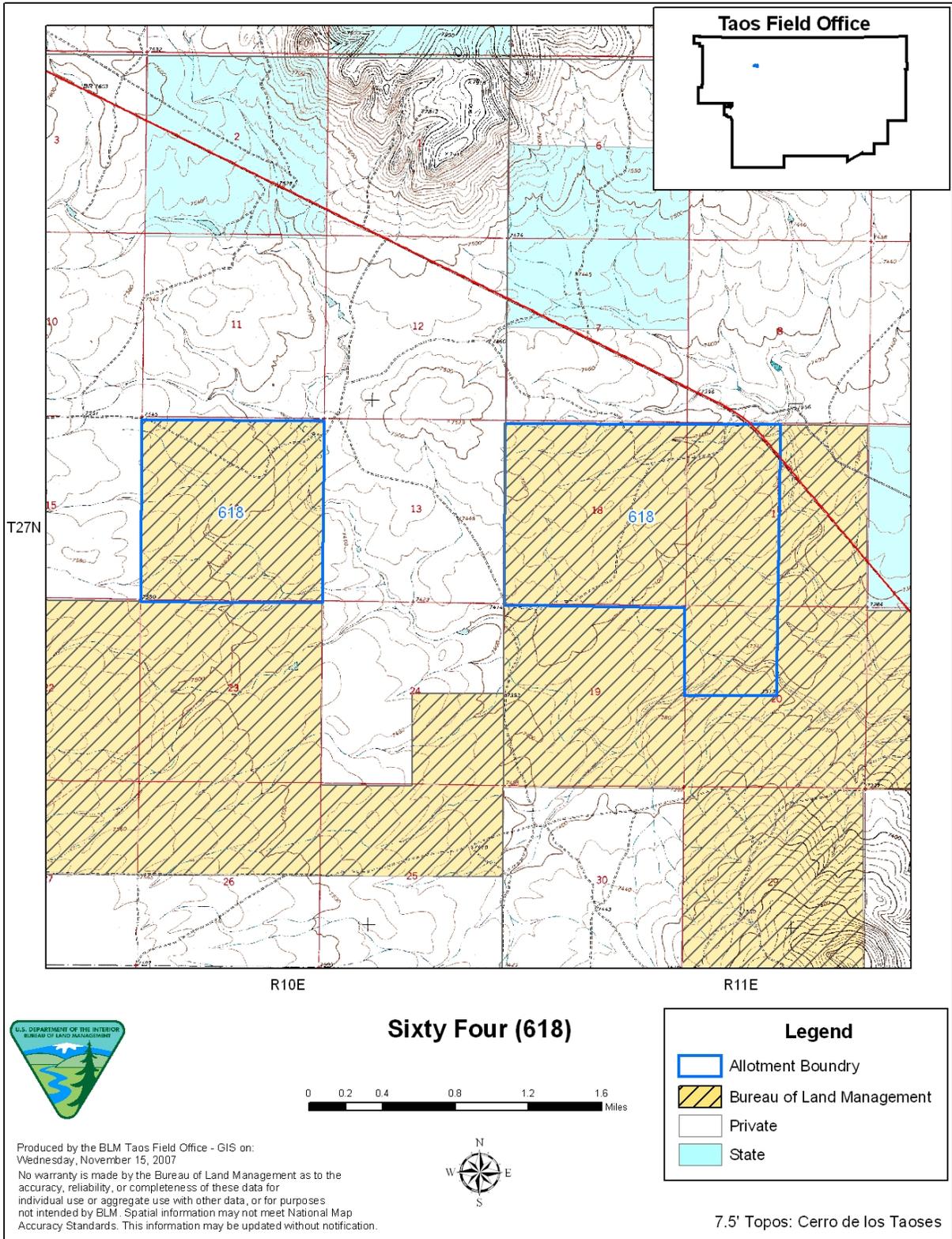
Permittee		<u>Authorization Numbers</u> 3001413		
Livestock Use	Preference AUMs	<u>Allotment</u> 00618	<u>Active</u> 87	<u>Suspended</u> 0
	Period of Use	<u>Allotment</u> Sixty Four	<u>Kind</u> 70 Cattle	<u>Season of Use</u> 06/07 – 07/14
	Kind of Livestock	Cow Calf		
	Percent Public Land	AUMs are authorized at 100% public land		
Allotment Profile	Physical Description	<p>Allotment 618 is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Tres Piedras, in Taos County, New Mexico. Elevation on this allotment is roughly 7,300 to 7,500 feet. Landforms on the allotment include uplands. A seeding of crested wheatgrass occurred on 332 acres of this allotment in 1965.</p> <p>Three soil types are identified within the BLM land of this allotment. They include:</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>Montecito-Rock outcrop complex, moderately steep. The soil consists of loams, with rooting depths over 60 inches. Parent materials of weathered basalt and eolian materials comprise this soil and the rock outcrops consist of folded, broken and exposed basalt flows. Average annual precipitation ranges between 13 and 15 inches. Vegetation is characterized by pinyon, juniper, sideoats grama, galleta,</p>		

		<p>western wheat, and blue grama.</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 squirreltail, blue grama, sagebrush, winter fat, galleta, Indian ricegrass, ring muhly, mustard, and globemallow.</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>1,760</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Private</u>	1,760	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, sideoats grama, Arizona fescue 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 the lack of use, 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 above average plant growth.</p> <p>Climate change is a concern not only in New Mexico but globally. "Effects of increasing</p>																						

		<p>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>One long term trend plot was established on this allotment in 1983 but it has not be read since, due to a lack of staff. A Rangeland Health Matrix was completed on August 8, 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-Downward Trend and Non Functional.</p> <p>Soil and Site Stability Five of ten indicators were deemed None to Slight, and five were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 90%</p>

		<p>Hydrologic Function Four of ten indicators were deemed None to Slight, and six were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 88%</p> <p>Biotic Integrity Six of nine indicators were deemed None to Slight, and three were deemed Slight to Moderate. Rating: 93%</p> <p>Overall Rating: 90%</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, mountain lion, black bear, bobcat, fox, coyote, small mammals, bats, raptors, turkey vulture, songbirds, amphibians, and a variety of insects.</p> <p>Both elk and deer are grazers, however there is little dietary overlap between deer and 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>An important migratory corridor for avian species occurs inside the allotment boundaries.</p>
	Threatened and Endangered Species	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

		<p>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>This allotment is in good condition, with good vegetative diversity. The allotment needs to be monitored to determine changes in vegetation.</p>



Taos Field Office

T27N

R10E

R11E

Sixty Four (618)



Legend

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

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 Wednesday, November 15, 2007
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7.5' Topos: Cerro de los Taoses