File: ecosites\_revised.xls

Ecosites\_revised.xls refers to Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) on selected

long-term transects based on determinations made by Dan Robinett

(NRCS, retired) during visits to all transects in winter 2009. Soil pits were

dug at each transect during this campaign.

The revision was performed in November 2017 to account for a change in the assignment of eco-sites for four transects from “sandyloam upland, deep” to “sandyloam upland”. All are within the MLRA 41-3. The four transect are: transect 7 in Pasture 8, and transects 3E, 56 and 57 in Pasture 6B. Those changes are reflected in the spreadsheet “ecosite\_revised.xls”.

Dan Robinett justified the changes because the transects were on Diaspar soils with an AB or weak Bt horizon. Based on recent surveys of vegetation and ecological state on the Santa Rita, he feels that the Diaspar with an AB or weak Bt horizon seemed to fit better with sandyloam upland ecological site.

Criteria for distinguishing ecological sites include soil traits,

geomorphic position on the landscape, and climate variables. Ecological

sites are used to organize information about plant species abundance and

productivity, as well as expectations about response to management and

weather conditions. That information is included in the Ecological Site

Description, which is described below. More information about ecological

sites is available in Brown, J.R. 2010. Ecological sites: their history,

status, and future. Rangelands 32(6):5-8.

The selected long-term transects were established in USFS Studies FSRM

1706-09, FSRM 1706-12, FSRM 1706-15, and FSRM 1706-25. This file includes

the Ecological Site determination by Robinett, the Major Land Resource

Area (MLRA), and any additional notes for each transect.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed and

manages the Ecological Site Information System (ESIS), accessible via the

following website: https://edit.jornada.nmsu.edu. The ESIS is the

repository for the data associated with the collection of forestland and

rangeland plot data and the development of ecological site descriptions

(ESD). The ESD format in ESIS is web based and was developed to store

basic ecological site description information.

The Ecological Site Description (ESD) application provides the capability

to produce automated ecological site descriptions from the data stored in

its database. ESD is the official repository for all data associated with

the development of forestland and rangeland ecological site descriptions

by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Ecological Site Description (ESD) application also provides the

capability to enter, edit, and view reports of rangeland and forest land

ecological site descriptions. Anyone may view reports of approved

Ecological Site Descriptions. Data entry, edit, download, and viewing

draft reports is for authorized users only.

The ESIS User Guide, containing information on protocols and contact

information for Ecological Site Descriptions, can be found at the

following website: https://edit.jornada.nmsu.edu.

13 January 2022