

Attachment 3

Current Land Health Reporting Categories and New Land Health Reporting and Mapping Categories with Explanation

Current Land Health Reporting Categories	New Land Health Reporting and Mapping Categories
<u>Category A.</u> Rangelands meeting all standards or making significant progress toward meeting the standards.	Category 1. Public Land Achieving^a
<u>Category B.</u> Rangelands not meeting all standards or making significant progress toward meeting the standards but appropriate action has been taken to ensure significant progress toward meeting the standards (livestock grazing is a significant factor).	Category 2a. Public Land Not Achieving—Significant Factor is Undetermined^b
<u>Category C.</u> Rangelands not meeting all standards or making significant progress toward meeting the standards, and no appropriate action has been taken to ensure significant progress toward meeting the standards (livestock grazing is a significant factor).	Category 2b. Public Land Not Achieving—Significant Factor is Non-BLM, or Not BLM Authorized^c
<u>Category D.</u> Rangelands are not meeting all standards or making significant progress toward meeting the standards due to causes other than livestock grazing.	Category 2c. Public Land Not Achieving—Current Management or Disturbances Affect Land Health^d
	Category 2d. Public Land Not Achieving—Current Management or Disturbances Affect Land Health but Ways to Achieve Significant Progress are Unknown^e
	Category 2e. Public Land Not Achieving—Current Management or Disturbances Changed—Significant Factors Addressed—To Result in Significant Progress Toward Achieving^f
	Category 2f. Public Land Not Achieving—Current Management or Disturbances are Appropriate—Monitoring Data Indicate Making Significant Progress Toward Achieving^g
	Category 3. Public Land Where Land Health Standard Does Not Apply^h
	Category 4. Public Land Unevaluatedⁱ

^a This reporting category would be used for areas that have been identified as achieving a land health standard. An evaluation phase has to be completed for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

^b This subcategory identifies where a land health evaluation has been completed to ascertain if each land health standard has been achieved or not, and in the areas identified as non-achieving, the significant factor(s) has (have) not yet been determined. A reason for this could be a lack of data sufficient to identify a significant factor(s). The intent is not to keep areas in this subcategory for perpetuity. An evaluation phase has to be completed for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

^c This subcategory identifies where a land health evaluation has been completed to ascertain if each land health standard has been achieved or not, and in the areas identified as non-achieving, the significant factor(s) is (are) attributable to landowners other than the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (for example, private-land owners, the State, U.S. Forest Service or the BIA), or the significant factor(s) is (are) not authorized by BLM. If there is more than one significant factor operating, every significant factor must be non-BLM or not authorized by BLM, in order for the areas to be placed in this subcategory. An example is a land health evaluation for a water quality land health standard in which stream segments are listed as 303d, because of water temperature non-compliance. Timber management (silvicultural practices) up-stream from the BLM, on land otherwise owned, is causing lack of shade sufficient to create exceedance of the water temperature water quality parameter. In this case, waters flowing across BLM-managed land exceed the temperature parameter but the significant factor is non-BLM. Unauthorized livestock use in an allotment, or unauthorized OHV activity in a designated wilderness area are examples of factors not authorized by BLM. A determination phase has to be completed for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

The following significant factors can be selected as spatial attributes associated with areas mapped to this land health category:

- Drought
- Fluid/gas mineral development
- Introduced seeding
- Lack of fire
- Livestock grazing
- Mining
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use

- Prescribed fire
- Recreation
- Regulated flow
- Roads
- Timber management (silvicultural practices)
- Tree or shrub encroachment
- Upstream or downstream channel conditions
- Weeds
- Wildfire
- Wild horse/burro
- Wildlife
- Other

More than one significant factor can be selected for any given area mapped to this land health category.

^dThis subcategory identifies where a land health evaluation has been completed to ascertain that each land health standard has been achieved, and whether in the areas identified as non-achieving, the significant factor(s) is (are) known and is (are) attributable to current management by BLM or disturbances that are operating outside the natural range of variability. “Current management” typically is defined as management that is currently authorized by the BLM. An example of a disturbance would be a situation where vegetation treatment is needed to improve land health but has yet to be implemented—such as in the case of tree encroachment by Western Juniper, Pinon Pine or Douglas-Fir into a shrubland or grassland that is not caused by any activity or use, but could be caused by lack of fire. A determination phase has to be completed for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

The following significant factors can be selected as spatial attributes associated with areas mapped to this land health category:

- Drought
- Fluid/gas mineral development
- Introduced seeding
- Lack of fire

- Livestock grazing
- Mining
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Prescribed fire
- Recreation
- Regulated flow
- Roads
- Timber management (silvicultural practices)
- Tree or shrub encroachment
- Upstream or downstream channel conditions
- Weeds
- Wildfire
- Wild horse/burro
- Wildlife
- Exempt from achieving land health in land use plan
- Other

More than one significant factor can be selected for any given area mapped to this land health category.

^eThis subcategory identifies where a land health evaluation has been completed to ascertain that each land health standard has been achieved, and whether in the areas identified as non-achieving, current management or disturbances operating outside the natural range of variability that have caused the non-achievement are known, but ways to change the current management or disturbances to result in significant progress toward achievement are unknown. An example would be cheatgrass-dominated vegetation on very xeric rangeland —say in a 6 to 8 inch annual precipitation zone; the significant factors are likely to be wildfire and weeds, yet there is not one, or a combination of techniques, that can be used successfully to restore these areas to functioning to a point where they achieve land health standards. A determination phase has to be completed for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

The following significant factors can be selected as spatial attributes associated with areas mapped to this land health category:

- Drought
- Fluid/gas mineral development
- Introduced seeding
- Lack of fire
- Livestock grazing
- Mining
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Prescribed fire
- Recreation
- Regulated flow
- Roads
- Timber management (silvicultural practices)
- Tree or shrub encroachment
- Upstream or downstream channel conditions
- Weeds
- Wildfire
- Wild horse/burro
- Wildlife
- Other

More than one significant factor can be selected for any given area mapped to this land health category.

^fThis subcategory identifies where a land health evaluation has been completed to ascertain that each land health standard has been achieved, and whether in the areas identified as non-achieving, management or disturbances that have caused the non-achievement have been changed, and were done so to result in significant progress toward achieving the land health standard. The BLM does not yet know if actual significant progress toward achieving the land health standard is occurring. Rather, this subcategory reflects that the BLM made management change(s) that is (are) anticipated to result in significant progress toward achieving the land health standard. This subcategory accommodates situations where there are areas that might remain relatively unchanged for relatively long periods of time, for example: 1) rangeland dominated by blue grama that perhaps is not achieving a habitat quality land health

standard, and where livestock grazing management has been a significant factor, but has been changed—many years might be necessary to detect measurable change (significant progress); 2) xeric rangeland dominated by salt desert shrub vegetation that is not achieving an upland watershed function land health standard because of livestock grazing that has removed too much herbaceous vegetation, which has resulted in excessive wind erosion. Current seeding technology is not deemed adequate to result in plant species composition improvement because of the extreme aridity of the area. Livestock grazing management has been changed to result in significant progress toward achieving the land health standard, but there is an unknown likelihood of success. A grazing decision or record of decision that changes authorized activities must have been issued in order for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

The following significant factors can be selected as spatial attributes associated with areas mapped to this land health category:

- Drought
- Fluid/gas mineral development
- Introduced seeding
- Lack of fire
- Livestock grazing
- Mining
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Prescribed fire
- Recreation
- Regulated flow
- Roads
- Timber management (silvicultural practices)
- Tree or shrub encroachment
- Upstream or downstream channel conditions
- Weeds
- Wildfire
- Wild horse/burro
- Wildlife

- Other

More than one significant factor can be selected for any given area mapped to this land health category. In this instance, the significant factors selected will be those that the BLM addressed with management changes.

^gThis subcategory relates to situations where, in the areas identified as non-achieving, management or disturbances that have caused the non-achievement have been changed, and monitoring data actually provide evidence that significant progress is being made toward achieving the land health standard. As soon as monitoring data show achievement of the land health standard, areas identified to this subcategory will be moved to category 1—Public Land Achieving. A grazing decision or record of decision that changes authorized activities must have been issued for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

^hThis reporting category identifies acres or miles within an evaluation area where the land health standard does not apply. For example, an upland soils land health standard may not apply to the riparian areas, in which case the acreage associated with the riparian areas within the evaluation area would be placed into this reporting category. Do not interpret this reporting category to represent areas that are not grazed by livestock—land health standards apply to grazed as well as ungrazed areas. An evaluation phase must be completed for areas to be identified to this reporting category.

ⁱThis reporting category includes allotments, watersheds or other evaluation areas for which an evaluation report has not yet been completed.