

MIXEDLAND SLOPES  
 Range Site Descriptions  
 PE: 26-32

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as a transition area between the High Plains and the Rolling Plains. Slopes generally range from 3 to 5 percent, but occasionally slopes may go to 10 percent. The site is characterized by low rolling hills and ridges which form the upper reaches of drainage tributaries.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils of this site are fine sandy loams which are calcareous to the surface. They have an excellent plant-soil-moisture relationship. This trait, plus the high lime content in the upper part of the soil profile, favors the growth of sideoats grama over blue grama. These soils are highly erosive unless protected by vegetative cover.

b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:  
 Berda fine sandy loam

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The climax plant community is a mid to tall grass site dominated by sideoats grama. The site produces a good variety of forbs. Shin oak and yucca are the dominant woody species.

<u>Grasses (80%)</u>		<u>Forbs (10%)</u>	<u>Woody (10%)</u>
Sideoats grama	30	Englemann daisy	Shin oak
Blue grama	15	Heath aster	Yucca
Big or sand bluestem	] 15	Prairie clover	Sand sage
Indiangrass		Dotted gayfeather	Vine ephedra
Little bluestem	] 15	Rockdaisy	Catclaw acacia
Arizona cottontop		Gaura sp.	Dalea sp.
Vine-mesquite	] 10	Verbena sp.	
Cane and silver bluestem		Wild alfalfa	
Canada wildrye	] 10	Trailing ratany	
Needle and threadgrass		Groundcherry	
Hairy grama	] 10	Catclaw sensitivebriar	
Buffalograss			
Hooded windmillgrass			
Fall witchgrass			
Sand dropseed			
Purple & Wright's Threeawn			

- b. As regression occurs, sideoats grama is replaced by blue grama and buffalograss. Further deterioration causes an increase in sand dropseed, fall witchgrass, and threeawns along with an invasion of Hall's panicum, gummy lovegrass, tumble windmillgrass, and tumblegrass. Yucca and cat-claw increase, mesquite invades, and low quality forbs such as buckwheat, buffalobur, croton, and spurges invade the site.
- c. Approximate total annual air dry herbage yield in excellent condition ranges from 1500 to 300 pounds per acre depending upon rainfall.

## INTERPRETATIVE DATA

1. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This is a bob white and blue quail site. Occasionally antelope may frequent the area. Deer use the site for a food supply but not for cover and resting areas.
2. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: The soils of this site are well drained and moderately permeable. Surface runoff is medium.
3. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: Purple, white, pink, and yellow blooms in the early spring add color to this site. Motts of shin oak and a large number of yuccas usually dot the landscape.

4. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. <u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Percent Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>AC/AU/YR</u>
Excellent	76-100	13-18
Good	51-75	16-24
Fair	26-50	22-34
Poor	0-25	32+

b. Introduced Species:

	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Weeping lovegrass	8-10	10-14	14-20	20+
Seeded Natives:	12-16	16-20	20-28	28+

5. RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES:a. Cattle:

<u>PRIMARY*</u>	<u>SECONDARY*</u>	<u>LOW-VALUE*</u>
Sideoats grama	Little bluestem	Sand dropseed
Blue grama	Plains bristlegrass	Threeawns
Sand bluestem	Hairy grama	Hairy tridens
Buffalograss	Silver bluestem	Dotted gayfeather
Canada wildrye	Vine-mesquite	Dalea species
Needle and threadgrass	Fall witchgrass	Shin oak
Hooded windmillgrass	Gaura species	Sand sagebrush
Heath aster		
Englemann daisy		
Ephedra		

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b. Antelope:

Prairie clover  
Wild alfalfa  
Dalea species  
Catclaw sensitivebriar  
Heath aster  
Englemann daisy  
Sideoats grama  
Blue grama

Dotted gayfeather  
Verbena species  
Rockdaisy  
Buffalograss  
Paperflower  
Yucca blooms

Silver bluestem  
Western ragweed  
Groundcherry

c. Dove and Quail:

PRIMARY\*

Western ragweed  
Croton species  
Annual sunflower  
Annual broomweed

SECONDARY\*

Sand dropseed  
Vine-mesquite  
Flax

LOW-VALUE\*

Other grasses

APPROVAL:

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8-15-79  
Date

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8/16/79  
Date