

SANDY MOUND  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION  
PE 25-44

Land Resource Area: Rio Grande  
Plains

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on nearly level to gently undulating eolian plains. The surface is plane to hummocky. Elevation ranges from 100 to 500 feet approximately.
2. SOILS:
  - a. The soils are deep with neutral, fine sand surfaces and fine sand subsoils. The fine sand extends to more than 80 inches deep. The soil is excessively drained, most of the rainfall enters the soil quite rapidly, and permeability is rapid. Water holding capacity is low due to the thick sandy surface. The surface dries quickly making re-establishment of grasses difficult.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Falfurrias fine sand
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax plant community is an open prairie with motts of liveoak or mesquite trees. Tall and mid grasses dominate this site. Perennial legumes and forbs are relatively abundant on this site. Liveoak is more abundant near the coast than further inland.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	85%	<u>Woody</u>	5%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%
Seacoast bluestem)		Liveoak	5	Bundleflower )	
Indiangrass )	50	Pricklypear )		Sensitive- )	
Crinkleawn )		Spiny hackberry)	T	briar )	
Big bluestem )	T	Mesquite )		Yellow )	
Tanglehead )		Condalias )		neptunia )	5
Brownseed paspalum)	10			American )	
Low panicums )	T			snoutbean )	
Balsamscale )	5			Western indigo)	
Fringeleaf paspalum)	5			Gayfeather )	
Knotroot panicum )	5			Annual forbs )	5
Wright threeawn )	5				
Gulfdune paspalum )	10				

b. As retrogression occurs, seacoast bluestem, crinkleawn, Indian-grass, and tanglehead decrease. Liveoak, brownseed paspalum, fringeleaf paspalum, balsamscale, and Wright threeawn increase. The site is invaded by grassbur, red lovegrass, fringe signal-grass, and many annual forbs. Woody plants increase slightly, especially pear, tasajillo, and catclaw acacia.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds per acre in low production years to 4000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in high production years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is particularly good for dove, quail, and turkey. Deer and javelina frequent this site for food, but due to the vast open areas in some places it does not provide good cover for deer or javelina.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a.</u>	<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>
	Excellent	76-100	11-15
	Good	51-75	16-22
	Fair	26-50	23-30
	Poor	0-25	31 +

b. Seeded Areas

	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Introduced species	11-15	14-18	17-25	25 +

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES <sup>1/</sup>

a. Cattle		
<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seacoast bluestem	Brownseed paspalum	Balsamscale
Crinkleawn	Fringeleaf paspalum	Cactus
Indiangrass	Sedges	Red lovegrass
Big bluestem	Low panicums	Wright threeawn
Tanglehead	Knotroot bristlegrass	Annual forbs
	Knotroot panicum	Signalgrass
	Meadow dropseed	Mesquite
	Liveoak	
	Sensitivebriar	
	Bundleflower	
	Snoutbean	
	Gayfeather	
	Yellow neptunia	
	Gulfdune paspalum	
b. Deer		
<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Low panicums	Pricklypear	Other grasses
Sedges	Sensitivebriar	Tasajillo
Bundleflower	Liveoak	Mesquite
Most annual forbs	Knotroot bristlegrass	
Yellow neptunia		
Gayfeather		
Gulfdune paspalum		
c. Javelina		
<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Liveoak acorns	Sedges	Mesquite
Pricklypear	Most grasses	Annual forbs
Tasajillo	Spiny hackberry	
	Snoutbean	
d. Dove and Quail		
<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
(Seed of the following:)		
Bundleflower	Sedges	Seacoast bluestem
Snoutbean	Dropseed	Crinkleawn
Gayfeather		Mesquite
Panicum		Condalia
Paspalum		Pricklypear
Most annual forbs		
e. Turkey		
<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Tasajillo	Sedges	Pricklypear
Liveoak acorns	Most other grasses	Mesquite
Low panicums	Gayfeather	
Bundleflower	Most annual forbs	
Tender grasses		

<sup>1/</sup>Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.

Legend and Definitions for Range Site Descriptions.

1/ This rating system provides general guidance as to animal preference for plant species. It also indicates possible competition between kinds of animals for the various plants. Grazing preference changes from time to time and place to place depending upon the animals, upon plant palatability and nutritive value, stage of growth and season of use, relative abundance, and associated plants. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect a plant's ecological place in the climax plant community.

The following definitions apply to cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and antelope grazing.

Primary: These species generally decrease when the climax plant community is subjected to continuous heavy grazing pressure by the animals listed.

Secondary: These plants usually increase initially, then decrease when the site is subjected to continuous heavy grazing use by the animals listed.

Low Value: These plants continue to increase or invade with heavy continuous grazing use of the site.

For squirrel, peccary, and birds the terms primary, secondary, and low value indicate species preference only. They do not indicate plant response to feeding pressure, nor do they have any ecological significance.