

RED SANDY LOAM
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 19-31

Land Resource Area: Rio Grande
Plains

Location: _____

Date: 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on nearly level, nearly featureless upland plains with convex surfaces and gradients dominantly less than 2 percent but ranging up to 3 percent.
2. SOILS:
 - a. The soils are moderately deep, neutral, fine sandy loams with neutral, sandy clay loam subsoils underlain by indurated caliche at a depth ranging from 20 to 48 inches. The soils are well drained, runoff is medium and permeability is moderate. Fertility and available water holding capacity are low. Because of the depth to caliche and low moisture holding capacity, this site tends to be rather droughty.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Delmita fine sandy loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community of this site is grassland with low stunted shrubs and many forbs. Annual plants are common in the climax because perennial plants are limited by soil depth.

RGP-19-31 RSL

1/1/72

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	85%	<u>Woody</u>	5%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%
Arizona cottontop	15	Condalia sp.)		Bushsunflower)	
Fourflower)		Desert yaupon)		Orange zexmenia)	
trichloris)		Guayacan)		Partridgepea)	
Tanglehead)	30	Lime pricklyash)		Sensitivebriar)	
Plains lovegrass)		Vine ephedra)		Bundleflower)	
Pinhole bluestem)		Texas wild olive)	5	Western indigo)	5
Plains bristle-		Elbowbush)		Snoutbean)	
grass)	5	Bumelia)		Englemann daisy)	
Texas bristle-		Texas colubrina)		Dalea sp.)	
grass)		Guajillo)		Menodora)	
Fringeleaf)		Leatherstem)		Knotweed leaf-	
paspalum)	10	Kidneywood)		flower)	
Slender grama)				Annual forbs	5
Slim tridens)					
Nash & hooded	10				
windmillgrass					
Threeawn	5				
Hairy grama)					
Knotroot panicum)	10				
Fall witchgrass)					

b. As retrogression occurs, slim tridens and hooded windmillgrass increase. With further deterioration, fringed signalgrass, annuals, red lovegrass, red threeawn, tumblegrass, tumble windmillgrass, and mat sandbur will invade along with mesquite, catclaw, and pricklypear. Annual forbs increase and dominate as retrogression progresses. Leatherstem becomes common this site.

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

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer, quail, dove, and javelina.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>AC/AU/YL</u>
Excellent	76-100	18-22
Good	51-75	21-24
Fair	26-50	23-28
Poor	0-25	28 +

b. Introduced species

<u>Species</u>	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Bufflegrass	12-19	16-20	19-27	27 +

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES ^{1/}

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Arizona cottontop	Whiplash pappus-	Lime pricklyash
Fourflower trichloris	grass	Partridgepea
Lovegrass tridens	Pink pappusgrass	Elbowbush
Tanglehead	Nash and hooded	Bumelia
Cane bluestem	windmillgrass	Annual forbs
Plains lovegrass	Sensitivebriar	Signalgrass
	Bundleflower	Leatherstem
	Western indigo	Cactus
	Slim tridens	Mesquite
	Plains bristlegrass	
	Hairy grama	

b. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Annual forbs	Lime pricklyash	Most grasses
Bushsunflower	Vine ephedra	
Orange zexmenia	Texas colubrina	
Elbowbush	Bumelia	
Sensitivebriar		
Western indigo		
Bundleflower		
Englemann daisy		
Desert yaupon		
Guayacan		

c. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Pricklypear	Tender grasses	Mature grasses
Pricklypear fruit	and shoots	
Ebony bean	Wild olive	
Mesquite beans	Mast from most	
	woody plants	

d. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
(Seed from the following:)		
Croton	Most grass seed	Most woody plants
Ragweed	Mature grass and	(mast)
Sunflower	forbs (quail)	
Snoutbean		
Annual forbs		
Tender grasses (quail)		
Bristlegrass		

^{1/}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.