USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Area 19

TIGHT SANDY LOAM
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 31-44

Land Resource Area Central Basin

Location

Date 1-1-72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: The site occurs on slopes of one to five percent averaging about three percent. The elevation varies from about 800 feet to 1100 feet.

2. SOILS:

a. The site consists of sandy loam soils with a tight clay to sandy clay subsoil. The plant community is determined partially by the subsoil which permits plants adapted for clay loam to be mixed with species usually present on sandy loam. Available water storage capacity is moderate but permeability is slow which causes the site to be droughty and favor cool season plants to a degree. The soil is usually hard when dry and poorly aerated when wet.

b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize the site are:

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The climax plant community is grassland of mixed prairie with scattered live oak and a few post oak. Some elm and hackberry occur near drainageways.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	85%	Woody	10%	Forbs	5%
Sideoats grama	25	Live oak	5	Orange zexmenia	
Meadow dropseed		Post oak		Bush sunflower	
Pinhole bluestem	15	Elm		Engelmanndaisy	
Arizona cottontop		Hackberry	5	Snoutbean	5
Vine-mesquite	10	Greenbrier		Noseburn	
Little bluestem	15	Kidneywood		Leafflower	
Canada wildrye	10			Annuals	T
Texas wintergrass					
Fall witchgrass					
Hooded windmill-grass					
Plains bristle-grass	10				
Fringeleaf paspalum					
Hairy grama					
Buffalograss					
Indiangrass	T				
Switchgrass	T				
Annual grasses	T				

b. When retrogression occurs, buffalograss, paspalum, hairy grama and hooded windmillgrass will increase while larger grasses decrease. A large variety of woody plants invade. They include lotebush, agrito, pricklyash, persimmon, mesquite, cactus and Texas colubrina. Annuals become abundant.

c. The approximate total annual yield in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds in dry years to 3400 pounds in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer, quail, turkey, dove and several species of non-game birds and small mammals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

Condition Class	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/Yearlong
Excellent	76 - 100	11 - 14
Good	51 - 75	12 - 18
Fair	26 - 50	17 - 23
Poor	0 - 25	23+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Sideoats grama	Hackberry	Texas grama
Texas cottontop	Buffalograss	Red grama
Arizona cottontop	Curlymesquite	Texas persimmon
Vine-mesquite	Fall witchgrass	Mesquite
Pinhole bluestem	Threeawn	Pricklypear
Engelmanndaisy	Fringeleaf paspalum	Annuals
Little bluestem	Texas wintergrass	Oak

b. Sheep

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Engelmanndaisy	Vine-mesquite	Bursage ragweed
Texas wintergrass	Orange zexmenia	Texas croton
Sideoats grama	Annuals	Live oak
Kidneywood	Greenbrier	Texas persimmon
Texas tridens		Pricklypear
Bush sunflower		Tasajillo
Snoutbean		Catclaw acacia
Leafflower		Mesquite
Hackberry		Sneezeweed
		Coneflower

c. Goats

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Texas wintergrass	Vine-mesquite	Texas croton
Sideoats grama	Texas bluebonnet	Bursage ragweed
Engelmanndaisy	Whitebrush	Pricklypear
Kidneywood	Pricklyash	Red grama
Greenbrier	Little bluestem	Texas grama
Live oak	Pinhole bluestem	Sneezeweed
Elm	Annual forbs	Coneflower

1/ See legend on separate page for definitions of interpretations made for each animal.

d. Deer

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Kidneywood	Texas bluebonnet	Bursage ragweed
Greenbrier	Whitebrush	Texas croton
Elm	Pricklyash	Agarita
Hackberry	Texas persimmon	Texas colubrina
Annual forbs	Catclaw acacia	Pricklypear
Live oak	Ozarkgrass	Mesquite
	Rescuegrass	
	Tasajillo	
	Six weeks fescue	
	Texas wintergrass	

e. Quail

Primary (seed of)	Secondary (seed of)	Low Value (seed of)
Texas croton	Other woody plant	Basin sneezeweed
Hackberry mast		Other grasses
Oak mast		
Bursage ragweed		
Plaintain		
Plains bristlegrass		
Hall & Filly panicum		
Annual grass & forb		

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.