

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Ecological Site Description

Site name: DRY SANDYLAND
Site number: R-272ZY020PR
Major Land Resource Area: 272 Humid Coastal Plains
Interstate correlation: NONE

Physiographic features: Elevation of this site ranges from sea level to 2100 ft rising gradually from the beaches on the Atlantic Ocean to the hilly karst area to the south. The area is divided in two distinct zones; the flat alluvial plains and terraces along the coast and the irregular features of the karst limestone inland.

Climatic features

Frost-free period: 365 DAYS
Freeze-free period: 365 DAYS
Mean annual precipitation: 33 INCHES
Mean annual air temperature: 79°F
Mean annual soil temperature:
Monthly moisture and temperature distribution:

	Mean Precipitation (inches)	Percent Precipitation (%)	Mean Temperature (°F)
January	.78	2.36	76
February	.72	2.18	76
March	.86	2.60	77
April	1.92	5.81	78
May	2.92	8.84	80
June	3.13	9.48	81
July	2.91	8.81	82
August	4.45	13.48	82
September	5.26	15.93	81
October	5.63	17.06	81
November	3.18	9.63	79
December	1.20	3.33	77
Mean annual	33		79°F

Other climatic features: A rainy season prevails from July to November and a pronounced dry season occurs during the remainder of the year. Hurricanes are most

likely to occur August through November, and are characterized by strong winds and torrential rains.

Associated water features: Surface and ground water are plentiful. Surface water consists of runoff from rainfall in the humid uplands.

Elevation Aspect: 0 to 20 ft.

Percent Slope: 0 to 2

Soils: Soils of this site consist of deep sand and areas of hummock tropopsamment.

Major Soil Taxonomic Units correlated to this site include:

Coastal Beaches, Cg, Ch, Cm, Co
Tropopsamments, Tp, Ts

Plant communities:

This site occurs as active or younger dunes. Only plants that can withstand partial burial and grow rapidly while the sand is begin deposited survive. Grasses constitute approximately 85% of the vegetative composition, forbs 5% and shrubs 10%.

Major plant species composition

Generally introduced forage species are not planted on this site. It is very fragile and subject to wind erosion.

GRASSES AND GRASSLIKES

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For Group
CAMA14	Beach sedge	1			
CEEC	Sandbur	1			
PECI	Buffel grass	1			
SPVI3	Beach grass	1			
URMA	Guinea grass	1			

FORBS

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
IPPE	Bay hops	2			
	Barilla	2			
	Sea purslane	2			

Shrubs and Trees

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
SUMA	Suarian maritima	3			

Ground Cover and Structure

	Height Above the Ground											
	Not applicable		6 to 12 inches		12 to 24 inches		24 to 60 inches		60 to 80 inches		180 to 240 inches	
	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover
Trees												
Shrubs							1	10				
Grasses and grasslikes							10	50				
Forbs					1	15						
Cryptogams												
Coarse fragments												
Bare ground												
Litter												

Transition Pathways:

This site is very fragile and critical for wildlife habitat. Any disturbance to the vegetation results in loss of cover and subsequent wind erosion. **Great care needs to be taken to protect this site from any grazing pressure so that the sand is stabilized by natural process of revegetation.** Introduction of any species into this site should be done with extreme care and proper precaution taken.

Total annual production: 550 lbs/acre

Plant Growth Curves:

Growth curve number: 001

Growth curve name: PR PLANT GROWTH CURVE

Growth curve description: Native and naturalized grasslands.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	5	4	7	12	10	9	10	11	10	9	7

Animal Community:

This site is important for several wildlife species. Major species using the site include:

American oystercatcher
Ruddy turnstone
Sanderling

Associated sites:

Similar sites

Plant communities, production, and vigor of this site is not similar enough to other sites in the region to cause a problem or concern.

Site documentation

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Revised: 05/2002, E. Más, J. Lugo, S. Ríos

Supporting data for site development: Supporting data include clipping studies, and historical writing of the area. More documentation and study are needed to fully understand this site and the transitions that occur.

Sampling techniques

SCS-Range 417

Type locality: Playa Combate, Bahía Salinas Beach, F&W Refuge, Cabo Rojo, PR

Field Offices: ALL except UTUADO

References:

USDA, NRCS. 1997. National Range and Pasture Handbook.

USDA, SCS. Soil Survey's

Site Approval:

This site has been reviewed and approved for use:

USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist

Date