

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

Ecological Site Description

Site name: LIMESTONE RIDGE
Site number: R-270ZY027PR
Major Land Resource Area: 270 Humid Mountains and Valleys
Interstate correlation: NONE

Physiographic features: There are three distinct elevation ranges in this area and possess the highest precipitation and lowest temperatures. Surface water from precipitation, perennial streams, and lakes are abundant. Ground water is limited to water that seeps into the soil and is stored in the dense and massive underlying volcanic rock.

Climatic features

Frost-free period: 365 DAYS
Freeze-free period: 365 DAYS
Mean annual precipitation: 35 TO 50 INCHES
Mean annual air temperature: (26°C) 78 to 80°F
Mean annual soil temperature:
Monthly moisture and temperature distribution:

	Mean Precipitation (inches)	Percent Precipitation (%)	Mean Temperature (°F)
January	4.42	8.17	75
February	2.69	4.97	74
March	2.46	4.54	75
April	4.45	8.23	77
May	5.10	9.43	79
June	4.29	7.93	80
July	3.75	6.93	80
August	4.10	7.58	81
September	4.85	8.96	80
October	5.03	9.30	80
November	6.13	11.33	78
December	6.80	12.57	76
Mean annual	54.07		

Other climatic features:

Associated water features:

Elevation Aspect: 50 to 1500 ft.

Percent Slope: 2 to 60

Soils: Soils of this site are very shallow to shallow, well drained, formed in residuum of moderately to fine textured limestone rocks. The soils are sloping to very steep on footslopes, sideslopes, low rolling hills and ridgetops in the karst formation.

Major Soil Taxonomic Units correlated to this site include:

Caracoles, CcD, CcE
Colinas, CmD, CmE
Soller, StE, SoE, SoF, StB, StC, StD, SrD, SrE
Soller, SsD2, SsE2
Soller-Rock Outcrop, SrF
Tanama, TaB, TaC2, TaD2

Plant communities: This site consists primarily of drought tolerant bunch grasses. The site exists on the drier areas and upper slopes.

Major plant species composition: Grasses constitute by 89% of the composition and forbs about 12%.

GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For Group
AXCO	Tropical carpet grass	1			
CEEC	Southern sandbur	1			
DIAR5	Kleberg	1			
DISA	Pendejuelo	1			
PANO3	Bahia	1			
RHRE2	Natal grass	1			
SCGR2	Wiry grass	1			
SEGE	Knotroot bristlegrass	1			
SPIN4	Whorled dropseed	1			
STSE	St. Augustine	1			

FORBS

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed
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			Acre		For group
AESE2	Yerba de cienaga	2			
ALVA2	False moneywort	2			
ATTU2	Duende blanco	2			
BICY	Black manzanilla	2			
BIPI	Sheperd's needle	2			
BOVE	Botoncillo	2			
BRPU13	Conchita	2			
COPO3	Black sage	2			
CRRE4	Rattleweed	2			
ELVI7	Jaboncillo	2			
HYCA12	Wild hops	2			
INSU	Anil	2			
LACA2	Yellow sage	2			
LENE	Lion's ear	2			
MIPU8	Sensitive plant	2			
PHLA6	Habichuela para	2			
PSSP4	Yerba de burro	2			
SICA17	Wireweed	2			
STHA	Stylo	2			
TRVO	Stingin vine	2			
URLO	Bitterbrush	2			
VECI2	Mantilla purpura	2			
ZERO	Duende rojo	2			

Shrubs and Trees

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
LAIN2	Wildsage	3			
PSGU	Guava	3			
RAAc	Christmas tree	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												
Grasses and grasslikes							10	70				
Forbs					5	20						
Cryptogams												
Coarse fragments												
Bare ground												
Litter												

Transition Pathways:

Total annual production: 1800 lbs/acre

Plant Growth Curves:

Growth curve number: PR001

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:

- Black rail
- Cattle egret
- Key west quail dove
- Killdeer
- Lesser golden plover
- Northern bobwhite

Puertorican lizard cuckoo
Red jungle fowl
Smooth billed ani
West indian whistling duck
White rumped sandpiper
Zenaida dove

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

Author: M. Montes, E. Más

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:

Field Offices: Arecibo, San Sebastián

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