

CLAYEY RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on nearly level to gently sloping glacial till plains, lake plains, and terraces of large streams. Slopes are commonly from one to six percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, well and moderately well drained, moderately fine and fine textured soils. Permeability is slow or very slow. Available water capacity is high.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Aberdeen silt loam and silty clay loam  
Nutley clay and silty clay  
Peever clay loam and silty clay loam  
Wahpeton clay and silty clay

Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. This site is dominated by cool-season midgrasses. Principal plants are western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, porcupinegrass, and bearded wheatgrass. Other species are blue grama, prairie junegrass, needleandthread, plains reedgrass, prairie dropseed, and Kentucky bluegrass. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Shrubs such as fringed sagebrush, prairie rose, and western snowberry occur in smaller amounts.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of green needlegrass, needleandthread, porcupinegrass, bearded wheatgrass, and prairie dropseed. Species such as western wheatgrass increases initially and then decreases under this grazing regime. Species that increase are blue grama, Kentucky bluegrass, upland sedges, and fringed sagebrush.

Further deterioration of the site results in a dominance of short grasses, upland sedges, fringed sagebrush, and undesirable forbs.

2--Clayey Range Site

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 2200 to 2900 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.
- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
<b>Grasses</b>		
Western wheatgrass	765	30
Green needlegrass	510	20
Porcupinegrass	128	5
Bearded wheatgrass	128	5
Blue grama	127	5
Prairie junegrass	255	10
Needleandthread		
Plains reedgrass		
Prairie dropseed		
Smooth brome		
<del>Kentucky bluegrass</del>	255	10
Other grasses		
<b>Grasslikes</b>		
Penn sedge	T*	-
Needleleaf sedge		
Other sedges		
<b>Forbs</b>		
Scarlet globemallow	255	10
Western yarrow		
Prairie coneflower		
Large goatsbeard		
Silverleaf scurfpea		
Gray sagewort		
Other forbs		
<b>Shrubs and half-shrubs</b>		
Fringed sagebrush	127	5
Western snowberry		
Prairie rose		
Other shrubs		
Total	2550	100

\* T refers to trace amounts, 2½ percent weight or less.

3--Clayey Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep. The best season of grazing is summer, although the site has spring and fall grazing value. Clayey range sites grazed during the spring need a periodic rest from grazing to improve and maintain the plant composition.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. Big game animals such as the white-tailed deer and antelope obtain forage from this site. Small mammals that use this site are the jackrabbit, red fox, and pocket gopher. Upland birds that are common to this site are the sharp-tailed grouse and mourning dove. Songbirds such as the red-winged blackbird, meadowlark, lark bunting, and chestnut-collared longspur are found on this site. Sites traversed by channels with water attract waterfowl species such as the mallard, pintail, and blue-winged teal.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This range site is associated with the spacious rolling prairies. Recreational activities common to this site are hunting, hiking, and winter sports.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff on good to excellent condition properly grazed range is slow. Water transmission rate of the soil is very slow.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS

