

CLAYPAN RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

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

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, moderately well drained soils. They have medium and moderately fine textured surface soils underlain by hardpan. The subsoils have similar textures but are high in sodium and are difficult to wet. Permeability is very slow and available water capacity is moderate.

- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Cavour loam and clay loam  
Larson loam  
Nahon silt loam and silty clay loam

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, needleandthread, and blue grama. Other species are prairie junegrass, bearded wheatgrass, inland saltgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges. Forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Woody plants occur in small amounts on this site.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, needleandthread, and bearded wheatgrass. Species that increase are blue grama, inland saltgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges.

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

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1650 to 2250 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Claypan Range Site.

- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	<u>Mean Productivity</u>	
	lbs/acre	% composition
<b>Grasses</b>		
Western wheatgrass	487	25
Green needlegrass	195	10
Needleandthread	195	10
Blue grama	293	15
Prairie junegrass	98	5
Bearded wheatgrass	98	5
Porcupinegrass		
Inland saltgrass		
Tumblegrass	97	5
<del>Kentucky bluegrass</del>		
Other grasses		
<b>Grasslikes</b>		
Penn sedge		
Needleleaf sedge	195	10
Other sedges		
<b>Forbs</b>		
Silverleaf scurfpea		
Rush skeletonplant		
Scarlet globemallow	195	10
Mouseear chickweed		
Western yarrow		
Other forbs		
<b>Shrubs and half-shrubs</b>		
Fringed sagebrush		
Broom snakeweed		
Prairie rose	97	5
Other shrubs		
Total	1950	100

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing; however, it has a low stocking rate potential. Due to the shallow topsoil over hardpan subsoils, this site is easily damaged from overuse. The best seasons of grazing are in the summer and fall.

3--Claypan Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site provides some forage for white-tailed deer and antelope. Small mammals such as the jackrabbit, Richardson's ground squirrel, and prairie dog use and live on this site. Upland birds found on this site are the upland plover, mourning dove, and meadowlark. Songbirds commonly found are the horned lark, lark bunting, eastern kingbird, and goldfinch.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site is part of the upland prairies and the esthetic values are usually enhanced by the surrounding sites that offer more plant variety. Certain species of wildlife such as the prairie dog and burrowing owl are particularly attracted to this site.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff from good to excellent condition, properly grazed range is slow to medium. Rate of water transmission of the soil is very slow.

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

