

OVERFLOW RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site occurs on nearly level swales and depressions in glacial till plains and on stream terraces and flood plains. Slopes are typically less than three percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, moderately well drained, moderately coarse to moderately fine textured soils that regularly receive additional run-in from higher land or flooding. Permeability is moderate and available water capacity is very high.

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

Emerick loam and silt loam
Fairdale loam and silt loam
LaDelle loam and silt loam
Svea loam and silt loam

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. Both tall and midgrasses dominate the general appearance of this site. Principal plants are big bluestem, switchgrass, green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, and prairie cordgrass. Other species are prairie dropseed, porcupinegrass, bearded wheatgrass, needleandthread, Kentucky bluegrass, and sedges. A variety of forb species make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Small amounts of shrubs may also occur on the site.

- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of big bluestem, switchgrass, green needlegrass, prairie cordgrass, and prairie dropseed. Species that increase are blue grama, mat muhly, Kentucky bluegrass, sedges, and undesirable forbs.

A further deterioration in condition results in a dominance of short grasses, sedges, undesirable forbs, and shrubs.

- c. Total annual production of this site in excellent condition is approximately 3150 to 4000 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Overflow Range Site

- 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
Grasses		
Big bluestem	1080	30
Switchgrass	180	5
Western wheatgrass	180	5
Green needlegrass	180	5
Prairie dropseed	180	5
Porcupinegrass	180	5
Prairie cordgrass	180	5
Bearded wheatgrass	180	5
Northern reedgrass		
Needleandthread	180	5
Canada wildrye		
Tall dropseed		
Indiangrass	180	5
Mat muhly		
Kentucky bluegrass		
Blue grama	180	5
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge		
Fescue sedge	180	5
Other grasslikes		
Forbs		
Maximillian sunflower		
Heath aster		
Soft goldenrod		
Silverleaf scurfpea	360	10
Gray sagewort		
Wild blue lettuce		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush		
Western snowberry		
Chokecherry	180	5
Other shrubs		
Total	3600	100

3--Overflow Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep. The additional moisture added to the site by run-in or flooding increases the stocking rate potential. The best season of grazing is summer when the warm-season grasses are making good growth. The site may also be used for spring, fall, and winter grazing. Sites grazed in the spring need a periodic rest to improve and maintain the plant composition.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site provides forage and cover for white-tailed deer and antelope. Sites with more shrubs are particularly attractive to deer, small mammals and upland birds. Small mammals common to this site are the red fox, cottontail rabbit, and raccoon. Upland birds that use this site are the sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, red-winged blackbird, and horned lark.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site adds to the scenery of the landscape because of the variety of vegetation produced on it. It is particularly attractive to many species of wildlife. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, plant study, and bird watching.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. This is a lowland site that regularly receives additional run-in during the year. Runoff is slow and water transmission rate is moderate.

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

