

SANDY RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on nearly level to rolling glacial till plains, lake plains, and outwash plains. Slopes are typically from one to 15 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, well drained, moderately coarse textured soils. Permeability is moderately rapid and available water capacity is moderate. These soils are friable and susceptible to wind erosion.

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

Egeland sandy loam and fine sandy loam
Embsen sandy loam and fine sandy loam
Dickey sandy loam and fine sandy loam
Maddock sandy loam and fine sandy loam

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. Midgrasses dominate the general appearance of this site. Principal plants are prairie sandreed, needleandthread, green needlegrass, porcupinegrass, and western wheatgrass. Other species are blue grama, sand dropseed, bearded wheatgrass, prairie junegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges. A variety of forbs make up about 15 percent of the total herbage production. Woody plants such as leadplant amorphia, prairie rose, and western snowberry occur in smaller amounts.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, prairie junegrass, prairie dropseed, and porcupinegrass. Needleandthread initially increases and then decreases under this grazing regime. Species that increase are blue grama, prairie sandreed, sand dropseed, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges.

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

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- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 2450 to 3200 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
Grasses		
Prairie sandreed	713	25
Needleandthread	428	15
Green needlegrass	143	5
Western wheatgrass	142	5
Blue grama	142	5
Porcupinegrass	142	5
Prairie junegrass	285	10
Bearded wheatgrass		
Sand dropseed		
Prairie dropseed		
Kentucky bluegrass		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge	285	10
Threadleaf sedge		
Other sedges		
Forbs		
Heath aster	428	15
Large goatsbeard		
Western yarrow		
Western ragweed		
Soft goldenrod		
Cudweed sagewort		
Green sagewort		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush	142	5
Prairie rose		
Western snowberry		
Leadplant amorpha		
Total	2850	100

3--Sandy Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing. A mixture of cool and warm season plants are available for forage. The best season of grazing is summer. The site also has spring and fall grazing value. Sites grazed during spring need a periodic rest to improve and maintain plant composition. Because of the wind erosion hazard, adequate cover should be maintained at all times.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site is used by the white-tailed deer and antelope. Small mammals found here are the pocket gopher, jackrabbit, and coyote. Upland birds common to this site are the sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, and upland plover. Songbirds using this site are the lark bunting, horned lark, meadowlark, and chestnut-collared longspur.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site offers something to the nature enthusiast and sportsman. It produces a variety of flowering plants during spring and summer. Both big game and upland game bird hunting are found on this range site.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff from good to excellent condition, properly grazed range site is slow. Water transmission rate of the soil is moderate.

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

