

SUBIRRIGATED RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on low lying lands of depressions and drainage-ways in glacial till plains, lake plains, and outwash plains. Slopes are commonly less than two percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, somewhat poorly drained soils having medium to moderately fine textured surface soils and moderately coarse textured subsoils. These soils have a high water table which keeps the rooting zone moist for most of the growing season. Permeability is moderately slow and available water capacity is high.

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

Bearden silt loam and silty clay loam
Hamerly loam, silt loam, and clay loam
Lamoure silty clay loam and silt loam
Vallers clay 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. Tall grasses dominate the general appearance of this site. Principal plants are big bluestem, switchgrass, little bluestem, and prairie cordgrass. Other species are slender wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, northern reedgrass, indiagrass, tall dropseed, and Kentucky bluegrass. Small amounts of sedges and rushes may occur on this site. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of big bluestem, switchgrass, prairie cordgrass, northern reedgrass, indiagrass, and little bluestem. Species that increase are mat muhly, fowl bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, rushes, and undesirable forbs.

Further deterioration of this site results in a dominance of short grasses, low stature grasslikes, and undesirable forbs.

- c. Total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 3900 to 4750 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre depending on growing conditions.

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- 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	1760	40
Switchgrass	890	20
Little bluestem	220	5
Prairie cordgrass	220	5
Slender wheatgrass	220	5
Northern reedgrass		
Western wheatgrass		
Indiangrass		
Tall dropseed	220	5
Canada wildrye		
Kentucky bluegrass		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Slim sedge	220	5
Woolly sedge		
Fescue sedge		
Baltic rush	220	5
Common spikerush		
Other grasslikes		
Forbs		
Maxmillian sunflower	440	10
Tall goldenrod		
Tall white aster		
Common wild mint		
Rough cinquefoil		
Heath aster		
Other forbs		
Total	4400	100

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is highly suited for both cattle and sheep due to the variety of forage plants available. The best season of grazing is summer when the warm-season grasses are making good growth. The site also provides fall grazing; however, nutrient levels of warm-season grasses are low in the fall and protein supplements are usually necessary.

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5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site provides forage for the white-tailed deer and antelope. Small mammals such as the red fox and jackrabbit use this site for food and cover. Upland birds commonly found are the sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, red-winged blackbird, and horned lark.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site is especially colorful during spring and summer when its flowering plants are developing. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, plant study, and bird watching.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. This site commonly receives additional run-in from the adjacent watershed. Runoff from the site is slow and water transmission rate of the soil is slow.

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

