

THIN UPLAND RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on gently sloping to moderately steep glacial till uplands. Slopes are commonly from three to 25 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, well drained, medium and moderately fine textured soils having a thin A horizon. Permeability is moderately slow and available water capacity is high.

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

Buse loam
Esmond silt loam and loam
Zell silt loam and loam

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. A mixture of both cool and warm season midgrasses dominate this site. Principal plants are little bluestem, needleandthread, green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, and plains muhly. Other species are sideoats grama, prairie dropseed, porcupinegrass, bearded wheatgrass, blue grama, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Several shrub species occur in smaller amounts on the site.

- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of little bluestem, green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, plains muhly, prairie dropseed, and porcupinegrass. Needleandthread usually increases initially and then decreases under this grazing regime. Species that increase are blue grama, red threeawn, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges.

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

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 2100 to 2800 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Thin Upland 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		
Little bluestem	613	25
Needleandthread	245	10
Green needlegrass	123	5
Western wheatgrass	123	5
Plains muhly	123	5
Sideoats grama	123	5
Prairie dropseed	122	5
Porcupinegrass	122	5
Bearded wheatgrass	122	5
Prairie junegrass		
Prairie sandreed	T*	-
Blue grama		
Red threeawn		
Kentucky bluegrass		
Other grasses	122	5
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge		
Threadleaf sedge	245	10
Other sedges		
Forbs		
Pasqueflower		
Purple prairieclover		
Purple coneflower		
Dotted gayfeather	245	10
Stiff goldenrod		
Missouri goldenrod		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush		
Silverberry		
Western snowberry	122	5
Other shrubs		
Total	2450	100

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

3--Thin Upland Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing. The best season of grazing is summer; however, the site also has spring, fall, and winter grazing value. Sites grazed during the spring need a periodic rest to improve and maintain plant composition.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site provides forage and cover for the white-tailed deer. Small mammals common to the site are the red fox, skunk, badger, and cottontail rabbit. Upland birds that use this site are the sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, and meadowlark. Songbirds commonly found on this site are the horned lark, chestnut-collared longspur, red-winged blackbird, and vesper sparrow. Sites with trees and shrubs attract other songbirds such as the brown thrasher, robin, eastern kingbird, and yellow-shafted flicker.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site is part of the steep to rolling topography of the prairies that offers a wide range of scenery to the viewer. Colorful flowering plants and grasses add to the scenery during spring, summer, and early fall. Recreational activities that are associated with this site are hunting, hiking, rock hounding, and horseback riding. Indian ruins and artifacts are commonly found on this range site.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff from this site is medium to rapid on good to excellent condition, properly grazed range, depending on steepness of slopes. Water transmission rate of the soil is moderate.

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

