

WET MEADOW RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site occurs on swales and depressions in glacial till plains, glacial lake plains, and outwash channels. Slopes are typically less than one percent. This site normally receives additional water from surface runoff and/or under-ground seepage.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, poorly drained, medium and fine textured soils that are briefly flooded in the spring and summer. The soils dry up at surface by mid-summer but have free water in the root zone.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Colvin silt loam or silty clay loam
Fossum silt loam and loamy fine sand
Parnell silt loam, silty clay, and silty clay loam
Tonka loam, silty clay loam, and silt loam

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. This site is typically dominated by mid-sedges which present a lush meadow appearance. Principal plants are slim sedge, woolly sedge, fescue sedge, and prairie cordgrass. Other species are northern reedgrass, fowl bluegrass, Baltic rush, common spikesedge. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Minor amounts of woody plants may occur on this site.
- b. A decline in range condition as a result of continued heavy grazing by cattle is shown by a decrease of slim sedge, woolly sedge, northern reedgrass, prairie cordgrass, and switchgrass. Plants that increase with heavy grazing are fescue sedge, common spikesedge, Baltic rush, mat muhly, and fowl bluegrass.

Further deterioration of the site results in undesirable, low stature sedges, short grasses, and forbs such as dock and thistle.

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- c. Total annual production of this site in excellent condition is about 4000 to 4800 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

	<u>Mean Productivity</u>	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Prairie cordgrass	225	5
Northern reedgrass	225	5
Switchgrass	225	5
Fowl bluegrass		
Mat muhly		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Slim sedge	3150	70
Woolly sedge		
Fescue sedge	225	5
Baltic rush		
Common spikesedge		
Other grasslikes		
Forbs		
Rydberg's sunflower	450	10
Common wild mint		
Tall white aster		
Tall goldenrod		
Indian hemp		
Other forbs		
Shrubs		
Willow species	T*	-
Other shrubs		
Total	4500	100

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

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is highly suited for cattle and fair to good for sheep. The best season of use is summer when the cool-season sedges are growing well and can supplement upland sites. This site also has early fall grazing value. A good management practice is to periodically utilize the site for hay production in lieu of grazing to maintain the site in high range condition.

3--Wet Meadow Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site provides nesting and cover for waterfowl such as the mallard, pintail, and blue-winged teal. Shorebirds such as Wilson's phalarope, killdeer, and the willet are attracted to the site. Upland songbirds that are commonly found are the red-winged blackbird, meadowlark, brown-headed cowbird, and chestnut-collared longspur. White-tailed deer obtain forage from this site. Small mammals which use this site are the pocket gopher, jackrabbit, and red fox.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. A variety of flowering plants that are native to this site add beauty to the landscape during spring and summer. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, plant study, and bird watching.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. This site is usually ponded for a brief period in early spring. Surface runoff is very slow and the soils have a very slow rate of water transmission.

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

