

CLAYEY RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site occurs on nearly level to rolling uplands. Slopes are commonly from 0 to 15 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, well drained, fine textured soils. Surface soils vary from moderately fine to fine textures. Permeability is slow and available water capacity is high.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Moreau clay, silty clay, and clay loam

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. This site has a dominance of cool-season midgrasses with scattered amounts of shrubs. Principal species are western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, prairie junegrass, blue grama, and Sandberg bluegrass. Other species are plains reedgrass, buffalograss, needleandthread, and thickspike wheatgrass. Minor amounts of forbs and shrubs occur on the site. Common shrubs are western snowberry and prairie rose.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle initially results in a decrease of green needlegrass, needleandthread, prairie junegrass, plains reedgrass, and an increase of western wheatgrass. With further deterioration of the site, western wheatgrass decreases and species such as blue grama, buffalograss, Sandberg bluegrass, and upland sedges increase. Poor condition results in short-grasses, upland sedges, fringed sagebrush, and unpalatable forbs.
- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1250 to 1750 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.
- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

2--Clayey Range Site

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
<b>Grasses</b>		
Western wheatgrass	675	45
Green needlegrass	75	5
Prairie junegrass	75	5
Blue grama	225	15
Plains reedgrass	75	5
Buffalograss	75	5
Sandberg bluegrass	75	5
Needleandthread	T <u>1/</u>	-
Slender wheatgrass		
Thickspike wheatgrass		
Other grasses		
<b>Grasslikes</b>		
Needleleaf sedge	75	5
Penn sedge		
Other sedges		
<b>Forbs</b>		
Western yarrow	75	5
Scarlet globemallow		
Large goatsbeard		
Prairie coneflower		
Other forbs		
<b>Shrubs and half-shrubs</b>		
Western snowberry	75	5
Prairie rose		
Fringed sagebrush		
Winterfat		
Other shrubs		
Total	1500	100

1/ T refers to trace amounts, less than 2½ percent

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for cattle and sheep grazing. The best season of grazing is during summer. The site also has spring and fall grazing value. Clayey range sites grazed during the spring should be periodically rested from grazing to improve and maintain the plant composition.

3--Clayey Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. Big game animals such as antelope, mule deer, and white-tailed deer use this site for forage. Upland birds such as the sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, and mourning dove use this site as part of their habitat. Small mammals commonly found are the jackrabbit, coyote, and pocket gopher. Common songbirds are the meadowlark, lark bunting, and chestnut-collared longspur.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This range site is associated with the spacious rolling grasslands. Flowering forbs are common in spring and summer. Recreational uses are primarily hunting and hiking.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff is medium on good and excellent condition, properly used range. Water transmission rate of the soil is very slow.

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

