CLAYPAN RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

   a. This site occurs on nearly level to gently sloping uplands and terraces. Slopes are commonly from 0 to 6 percent.

2. SOILS

   a. Surface soils are shallow underlain by hardpan at about seven inches below the surface. Subsoils contain high accumulations of sodium and are difficult to wet. Permeability is slow and available water capacity is low.

   b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

      Ladner loamy fine sand and fine sandy loam

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

   a. The general appearance of this site is a dominance of cool-season midgrasses with an understory of shortgrasses. Principal species are western wheatgrass, needleandthread, blue grama, prairie junegrass, and slender wheatgrass. Other species are Sandberg bluegrass, sand dropseed, buffalograss, needleleaf sedge, and other upland sedges. Forbs compose a minor amount of the vegetation. Shrubs species make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production.

   b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of plants such as western wheatgrass, needleandthread, prairie junegrass, and slender wheatgrass. Plants that increase are blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, buffalograss, upland sedges, and undesirable forbs. Further deterioration of the site is shown by a dominance of shortgrasses, upland sedges, low quality forbs, and fringed sagewort.

   c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 900 to 1300 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		
Western wheatgrass	220	20
Needleandthread	165	15
Blue grama	275	25
Prairie junegrass	55	5
Slender wheatgrass	55	5
Green needlegrass	T 1/	-
Inland saltgrass	T 1/	-
Sandberg bluegrass Sand dropseed Buffalograss Other grasses	55	5
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge Needleleaf sedge Other sedges	110	10
Forbs		
Rush skeletonweed Scarlet globemallow Woolly indianwheat Large goatsbeard Small clubmoss Other forbs	55	5
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Silver sagebrush Big sagebrush Fringed sagebrush Broom snakeweed Other shrubs	110	10
Total	1100	100

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

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing. The best seasons of grazing are in the summer and fall. This site has a low stocking rate potential and requires careful management.

3--Claypan Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

a. This site provides some forage for mule deer, antelope, and white-tailed deer. It is used by small mammals such as the jackrabbit, ground squirrel, and prairie dog. Several upland songbirds are commonly found on this site such as the meadowlark, horned lark, lark bunting, and chestnut-collared longspur.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

a. The esthetic values of this range site are commonly enhanced by the surrounding and/or intermingled sites that offer more plant variety. This site is usually in complex with other range sites. Certain species of wildlife such as the prairie dog and burrowing owl are particularly attracted to this site.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

a. Runoff on this site is slow to medium on good and excellent condition, properly grazed range. Water transmission rate of the soil is very slow.

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