

SALINE LOWLAND RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site occurs on stream terraces, depressions, and seeped areas. Slopes are commonly from 1 to 3 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, poorly drained, fine textured saline soils which receive additional water from seepage and/or run-in. Surface soil commonly has small areas of salts to the surface and are sodium-affected throughout the soil profile. Available water capacity is moderate.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Saline alluvial land (no series identified)

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. Salt-tolerant midgrasses dominate this site. Principal species are Nuttall alkaligrass, inland saltgrass, alkali cordgrass, western wheatgrass, and slender wheatgrass. Other species are foxtail barley, plains bluegrass, alkali sacaton, and mat muhly. A small amount of forbs are common to the site such as silverweed cinquefoil and alkali plintain. Scattered amounts of shrubs such as big sagebrush and greasewood may occur on this site.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of Nuttall alkaligrass, slender wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, and alkali sacaton. Species that increase are inland saltgrass, foxtail barley, mat muhly, and undersirable forbs. Poor quality species dominate the site with further deterioration, such as inland saltgrass, foxtail barley, mat muhly, silverweed cinquefoil, and other undesirable forbs.
- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1850 to 2400 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Saline Lowland 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/acres	% composition
Grasses		
Western wheatgrass	660	30
Nuttall alkaligrass	440	20
Inland saltgrass	550	25
Slender wheatgrass	220	10
Foxtail barley	110	5
Plains bluegrass	110	5
Alkali sacaton		
Alkali cordgrass		
Mat muhly		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Prairie bulrush	T 1/	-
Other grasslikes		
Forbs		
Silverweed cinquefoil	110	5
Pursh seepweed		
Alkali plaintain		
Other forbs		
Shrubs		
Big sagebrush	T 1/	-
Greasewood		
Atriplex species		
Other shrubs		
Total	2200	100

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

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is best suited for cattle grazing and has a secondary use for sheep due to a lack of desirable forb species. The best season of grazing is summer. This site is frequently wet in early spring from snowmelt. The site also has fall grazing value.

3--Saline Lowland Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site is used to some extent by the mule deer, white-tailed deer, and antelope. Small mammals commonly found are the skunk, jackrabbit, and coyote. Several of the forage plants on this site are high in salts and supplement animal diet. Upland song-birds common to this site are the meadowlark, horned lark, and vesper sparrow. Sites adjacent to water provide habitat for puddle ducks such as the mallard and pintail.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. The saline lowland range site has limited esthetic values. Primary recreational uses are for hunting and bird watching.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. This site receives additional water by seepage and/or run-in. Runoff is slow primarily due to low position on the landscape. Rate of water transmission is very slow.

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

