

SANDS RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site occurs on nearly level to rolling uplands and stream terraces. Slopes are commonly from 1 to 15 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep and moderately deep, well and somewhat excessively drained, coarse textured soils. Permeability is rapid and available water capacity is low to very low. They are highly susceptible to wind erosion.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Tusler loamy fine sand

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. Both cool and warm-season midgrasses dominate the general appearance of the site. Principal grasses are needleandthread, prairie sandreed, blue grama, sand dropseed, and sand bluestem. Other species are prairie junegrass, green needlegrass, little bluestem, and upland sedges. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the herbage production. Several species of shrubs are present in smaller amounts.
- b. Under continued heavy grazing by cattle, plants that decrease in amounts are prairie sandreed, western wheatgrass, sand bluestem, green needlegrass, little bluestem, and leadplant amorphia. In the early stage of plant change, needleandthread usually increases and then decreases if heavy use is continued. Species that increase are blue grama, sand dropseed, upland sedges, undesirable forbs and shrubs. Further site deterioration results in a dominance of shortgrasses, upland sedges, and undesirable forbs.
- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1500 to 2100 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending upon growing conditions.

2--Sands Range Site

- 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		
Needleandthread	450	25
Prairie sandreed	360	20
Western wheatgrass	90	5
Blue grama	180	10
Prairie junegrass	90	5
Sand bluestem	90	5
Sand dropseed	90	5
Green needlegrass		
Little bluestem	T <u>1/</u>	-
Indian ricegrass		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge		
Threadleaf sedge	180	10
Other sedges		
Forbs		
Gray sagewort		
Green sagewort		
Rush skeletonplant		
Hairy goldaster	180	10
Goldenrod species		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush		
Broom snakeweed		
Prairie rose	90	5
Leadplant amorpha		
Silver sagebrush		
Other shrubs		
Total	1800	100

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

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suited for both cattle and sheep grazing. Proper grazing use is necessary to control wind erosion of these soils. The best season of grazing is summer which is partly due to the amount of warm-season plants available. This site can also be utilized for spring and fall grazing. Periodic resting of pastures grazed during the spring will improve and maintain plant composition.

3--Sands Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site provides forage for big game animals such as the mule deer, white-tailed deer, and antelope. Upland birds such as the sharp-tailed grouse and mourning dove use this site. Several small mammals are commonly found here such as the coyote, jack-rabbit, badger, and skunk. Common upland songbirds are the lark bunting, horned lark, meadowlark, and chestnut-collared longspur.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. The sands range site commonly has a variety of plants and flowering forbs throughout spring and summer. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, hiking, plant study, and bird watching.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff from this site on good to excellent condition, properly grazed range is slow. Water transmission rate of the soil is high.

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

