

THIN SANDS RANGES SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site is on nearly level to rolling glacial outwash plains and wind worked lake plains. Slopes are commonly from one to 15 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are deep, excessively drained, coarse textured soils having a thin A horizon. Permeability is rapid and available water capacity is low. These soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion and require careful management.

- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Claire loamy sand and loamy fine sand
Serden fine sand and 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 this site. Principal species are needleandthread, prairie sandreed, and sand bluestem. Other species are blue grama, prairie junegrass, green needlegrass, sand dropseed, Canada wildrye, and Kentucky bluegrass. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. An equal amount of woody plants may occur on the site.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of prairie sandreed, sand bluestem, prairie junegrass, green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, and little bluestem. Needleandthread initially increases and then decreases under heavy grazing. Species that increase are blue grama, sand dropseed, Kentucky bluegrass, upland sedges, and undesirable forbs.

Further deterioration of this site results in a dominance of short grasses, upland sedges, and undesirable forbs. "Blowouts" commonly occur on steeper slopes.

- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1550 to 2150 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Thin 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	463	25
Prairie sandreed	462	25
Prairie junegrass	93	5
Sand bluestem	93	5
Blue grama	93	5
Green needlegrass		
Western wheatgrass		
Little bluestem	92	5
Sand dropseed		
Canada wildrye		
Kentucky bluegrass	92	5
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge		
Needleleaf sedge	92	5
Other sedges		
Forbs		
Green sagewort		
Lemon scurfpea		
Hairy goldaster		
Rush skeletonplant	185	10
Ground cherry		
Missouri goldenrod		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush		
Woods rose		
Leadplant amorpha	185	10
Sandcherry		
Other shrubs		
Total	1850	100

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for cattle and sheep due to the variety of plants produced on it. The best season of grazing is summer; however, the site has spring and fall grazing value. Adequate plant cover must be maintained since the soils are easily eroded by wind under barren conditions.

3--Thin Sands Range Site

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site is used by antelope and white-tailed deer for forage. Small mammals include the skunk, badger, jackrabbit, and red fox. Upland birds commonly found on this site are sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, and meadowlark. Songbirds that use this site are the lark bunting, Brewer's sparrow, and chestnut-collared longspur.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site is part of the rolling prairie and produces many species of flowering plants in spring and summer. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, plant study, and hiking.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. Runoff from this site in good to excellent condition is slow. Rate of water transmission is high.

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

