THIN UPLAND RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

a. This site is on gently sloping to moderately steep glacial till uplands. Slopes are commonly from three to 25 percent.

2. SOILS

a. These are deep, well drained, medium and moderately fine textured soils having a thin A horizon. Permeability is moderately slow and available water capacity is high.

b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Buse loam and clay loam
Esmond silt loam and loam
Zell silt loam and loam

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

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

a. A mixture of both cool and warm season midgrasses dominate this site. Principal species are needleandthread, porcupinegrass, green needlegrass, little bluestem, and plains muhly. Other species are western wheatgrass, blue grama, prairie junegrass, red threeawn, sideoats grama, and Kentucky bluegrass. A variety of forbs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production. Several shrub species may occur on the site in an equal amount.

b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of little bluestem, green needlegrass, western wheatgrass, plains muhly, prairie dropseed, and porcupinegrass. Needleandthread usually increases initially and then decreases under this grazing regime. Species that increase are blue grama, red threeawn, Kentucky bluegrass, and upland sedges.

Further deterioration of the site results in a dominance of blue grama, Kentucky bluegrass, upland sedge, fringed sagebrush, and undesirable forbs.

c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 1800 to 2500 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions.

2--Thin Upland 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/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Needleandthread	538	25
Porcupinegrass	215	10
Green needlegrass	108	5
Western wheatgrass	108	5
Little bluestem	108	5
Blue grama	107	5
Plains muhly	107	5
Prairie junegrass Prairie sandreed Sideoats grama Red threeawn Prairie dropseed	107	5
Bearded wheatgrass ~~Kentucky bluegrass~~ Other grasses	215	10
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge Threadleaf sedge Other sedges	108	5
Forbs		
Western yarrow Western ragweed Yellow owl clover Missouri goldenrod Pasque flower Cudweed sagewort Other forbs	215	10
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush Western snowberry Silverberry Prairie rose Leadplant amorpha Other shrubs	215	10
Total	2150	100

3--Thin Upland Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing. The best season of grazing is summer; however, the site also has spring, fall, and winter grazing value. Sites grazed during the spring need a periodic rest to improve and maintain plant composition.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

a. This site provides forage and cover for the white-tailed deer. Small mammals common to the site are the red fox, skunk, badger, and cottontail rabbit. Upland birds that use this site are the sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, and meadowlark. Songbirds commonly found on this site are the horned lark, chestnut-collared longspur, red-winged blackbird, and vespers sparrow. Sites with trees and shrubs attract other songbirds such as the brown thrasher, robin, eastern kingbird, and yellow-shafted flicker.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

a. This site is part of the steep to rolling topography of the prairies that offer a wide range of scenery to the viewer. Colorful flowering plants and grasses add to the scenery during spring, summer, and early fall. Recreational activities associated with this site are hunting, hiking, rock hounding, and horseback riding. Indian ruins and artifacts are commonly found on this range site.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

a. Runoff from this site is medium to rapid on good to excellent condition, properly grazed range, depending on steepness of slopes. Water transmission rate of the soil is moderate.

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