

USDA-SCS
Section II-E
Area 7

Deep Hardland

~~CLAY LOAM~~

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

PE 25-31

scanned
3/29/05

Land Resource Area: High Plains

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on nearly level to gently sloping upland areas. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent. Elevation ranges from 2600 to 3800 feet.
2. SOILS:
4400
 - a. These are deep loam and clay loam soils with subsoils that absorb water at moderate to moderately slow rates. Wind erosion hazards are slight.
 - b. The soil taxonomic units which characterize this soil are: Olton clay loam, Olton loam, Lofton clay loam, Zita loam, Acuff loam, Lea loam, Lubbock clay loam, Slaughter loam, Stegal loam, Roscoe clay, and Abilene clay loam, Pullman clay loam.
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMATE - See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is dominated by mid and short grass prairie. Woody species are all but non-existent. Forbs comprise only a minor part of the climax composition.

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Relative Percentage

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>95%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>
Sideoats grama	5	Prairie clover	5
Blue grama	40	Dotted gayfeather	
Feathery bluestem	5	Heath aster	
Vine-mesquite	5	Prairie clover	
Sand dropseed	5	Gaura species	
Perennial threewms	5	Wild alfalfa	
Tobosagrass	10		
Buffalograss	25		
Black grama	T		
Arizona cottontop	T		

- b. Sideoats grama, blue grama and feathery bluestems are replaced by buffalograss and tobosagrass following continuous heavy grazing. With further regression, buffalograss gives way to sand dropseed and threewms with mesquite and cacti invading the site. Mesquite increases as heavy use continues. Tobosagrass may increase to as much as 25 - 30 percent.
- c. Approximate total annual air dry yield of the site in excellent condition ranges from 1300 to 2400 pounds per acre, depending on rainfall.
5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The only wildlife found in any abundance on this site is dove and quail. Vegetation produced by the site provides some food and cover for these species. Antelope probably are present in some areas in limited numbers, utilizing several grasses and forbs grown on the site. The absence of woody species other than mesquite produces an unfavorable habitat for deer.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: Due to lack of forbs and trees and shrubs, the aesthetic values of the site is limited. It almost total grassland vegetation.
7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: These are well drained soils with slight to medium runoff. Unvegetated areas are subject to moderate water erosion when slopes exceed about 1.0 percent.

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8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

Percentage

a. <u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>AC/AU/YR</u>
Excellent	76 - 100	18 - 26
Good	51 - 75	22 - 34
Fair	26 - 50	30 - 43
Poor	0 - 25	46 ⁺

b. <u>Seeded Areas:</u>	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	100 - 76	75 - 51	50 - 26	25 - 0
All seedings AC/AU/YR	18 - 24	20 - 30	26 - 40	40 ⁺

9. RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES:

a. <u>Cattle:</u>		
<u>PRIMARY*</u>	<u>SECONDARY*</u>	<u>LOW VALUE*</u>
Sideoats grama	Sand dropseed	Tobosagrass
Blue grama	Feathery bluestem	Perennial threeawn
Vine-mesquite		
Buffalograss		
b. <u>Antelope:</u>		
Prairie clover	Blue grama	Other grasses
Heath aster	Sideoats grama	
Dotted gayfeather		
Annual forbs		
c. <u>Dove and Quail:</u>		
<u>PRIMARY**</u>	<u>SECONDARY**</u>	<u>LOW VALUE**</u>
Croton	Dropseeds	Other grasses
Ragweed	Vine-mesquite	
Annual forbs		

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY: _____

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