

LOAMY

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

PE 25-31

Land Resource Area: High Plains & Rolling Red

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as long slopes and is positioned between the High and Rolling Plains. Slopes range from .5 to 15 percent. Elevation ranges from 2300 to 3800 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. The top 10 to 16 inches is brownish loam that is calcareous to the surface. The subsoils are calcareous clay loams with high amounts of calcium carbonate. Permeability is moderate to moderately slow. Wind erosion is slight.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units that characterize this site are: Estacado loam, Mansker loam, Dorales loam, Posey loam and Veal fine sandy loam, Flomet f.s.l., Tolia loam.
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMATE - See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. Since the soils of this site are calcareous to the surface, sideoats grama is the dominant over blue grama. A good variety of short to mid grasses are produced. A good selection of forbs is also produced.

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<u>Relative Percentage</u>					
<u>Grasses</u>	<u>90%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>T</u>
Sideoats grama	30	Plains blackfoot		Catclaw	
Blue grama	15	Catclaw sensitivebriar		Yucca	
Little bluestem	T	Wild alfalfa		Sand sagebrush	
Buffalograss	10	Englemann daisy		Dalea speciosa	
Feathery bluestem	10	Globe mallow		Sumac	
Vine-mesquite	5	Gaura species			
Plains bristlegrass	5	Heath aster			
Halls panicum	5	Ground Cherry			
Sand dropseed	5	Verbena species			
Black grama	5	Dotted gayfeather			
Slim & rough tridens	5	Prairie clover			

- b. Following continued heavy grazing this site regresses by a decrease in sideoats grama and an increase in blue grama, buffalograss and feathery bluestems. Further deterioration finds threeways and annuals prevalent. Mesquite invades but to a lesser extent than on non-calcareous loamy soils. Broom snakeweed, sand muhly and prickly pear represent vegetation in the lowest condition class.
- c. Approximate total annual yield in excellent condition ranges from 800 to 2200 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation, depending on rainfall.
5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site furnishes a good supply of food stuffs for antelope, quail and song birds. It does not furnish much cover for nesting or escape purposes.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: This site is primarily a mid to short grass prairie. There are relatively few woody plants present. Some colorful forbs appear in the summer months if rainfall is sufficient. Aesthetic value is not that of some of the more diverse sites.
7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: The gentle slopes and moderate permeability of these soils minimize problems with water erosion when a good grass cover is maintained on the site. If soils are left bare, the problem of water erosion is moderate.

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8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. <u>Condition Class</u>	Percentage			
	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>		<u>AC/AU/YR</u>	
Excellent	76 - 100		15 - 22	
Good	51 - 72		18 - 28	
Fair	26 - 50		26 - 40	
Poor	0 - 25		36+	

b. <u>Seeded Natives:</u>	Percent Ground Cover			
	AC/AU/YR		Percent Ground Cover	
	100 - 76	75 - 51	50 - 26	25 - 0
	14 - 20	18 - 24	22 - 34	30+

9. RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES:

a. <u>Cattle:</u>		
<u>PRIMARY*</u>	<u>SECONDARY*</u>	<u>LOW VALUE*</u>
Sideoats grama	Little bluestem	Threavms
Blue grama	Feathery bluestems	Halls panicum
Buffalograss	Vine-mesquite	Hairy tridens
Ephedra	Sand dropseed	Annuals
Heath aster		Dotted gaygeather
Englemandaisy		
b. <u>Antelope:</u>		
Wild alfalfa	Verbena species	Glove mallow
Prairie clover	Dotted gayfeather	Ground cherry
Dalea species	Rockdaisy	Silver bluestem
Catclaw sensitivebriar	Buffalograss	Little bluestem
Heath aster	Paperflower	Western ragweed
Englemandaisy	Yucca blooms	
	Sideoats grama	
	Blue grama	
c. <u>Dove and Quail:</u>		
<u>PRIMARY**</u>	<u>SECONDARY**</u>	<u>LOW VALUE**</u>
Western ragweed	Sand dropseed	Other grass seed
Croton species	Vine-mesquite	
Annual sunflower	Cholla fruit	
Euphorbia species	Buffalobur	
Annual forbs	Panicum species	
	Plains bristlegrass	

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY: _____

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