

LOAMY
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE-26-38

Land Resource Area High Plains & Rolling Plains

Location All Field Offices

Date February 28, 1975

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on ridges, convex areas, and slopes in the High Plains and Rolling Plains.
2. SOILS:
 - a. The significant soils that characterize this site are deep loams which are limey to the surface. These soils have a prominent layer of calcium carbonate accumulation beginning at 10 to 20 inches below the surface. These soils have a favorable plant soil-moisture relationship due to the lime content. These soils have moderate permeability. The land usually slopes from 0 to 8 percent. If unprotected by vegetation the soil is moderately susceptible to wind and water erosion. This site deteriorates slowly and will maintain a turf under heavy grazing and will respond readily to good grazing management. The soils on the flatter slopes are arable, however these slopes occur only in small acreages.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic unit which characterizes this site are:
 - Conlen loam
 - Mansker loam
 - Veal fine sandy loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is dominated by mid grasses such as little bluestem and sideoats grama. Climax forbs are common and may make up 5% of the vegetation. Since these soils are calcareous to the surface a high percent of sideoats grama is always maintained under good grazing management over and above other loam soils.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	90%	<u>Woody</u>	5%	<u>Forbs</u>	5%
Sideoats grama	35	Yucca	T	Prairie clover)
Little bluestem	5	Black & Feather Dalea	5	Wild alfalfa)
Blue grama	25	Catclaw	T	Dalea)5
Buffalograss	10			Dotted Gay-)
Silver bluestem	5			feather)
Wright's threeawn	5			Catclaw sensi-	
Vine mesquite	5			tivebriar	
Fall witchgrass	T			Prairie clovers	
Sand dropseed	T			Primrose	

- b. As retrogression occurs, sideoats grama and little bluestem will give way to blue grama and buffalograss. As heavy grazing continues these plants will decrease. Site will deteriorate to prickly pear, broom snakeweed, ragweed, sand dropseed and threeawns.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds in poor years to 2400 pounds in good years.

INTERPRETATIVE DATA

1. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is inhabited by antelope, quail and dove. The climax vegetation is excellent for antelope as forbs are in abundance.

2. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a. Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>
Excellent	76-100	15-20
Good	51-75	18-28
Fair	26-50	26-42
Poor	0-25	40+

b. Seeded Areas

<u>Species</u>	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Mid grasses	15-22	22-28	28-40	40+
Short grasses	20-25	25-30	30-40	40+
Mixture	18-24	24-30	30-40	40+

3. RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES

a. Cattle

<u>Primary *</u>	<u>Secondary *</u>	<u>Low Value *</u>
Sideoats grama	Sand dropseed	Threeawns
Blue grama	Silver bluestem	Prickly pear
Buffalograss	Little bluestem	Broom snakeweed
	Prairie clover	Sand muhly
	Wild alfalfa	Dotted gayfeather

b. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Prairie clover	Blue grama	Mesquite
Wild alfalfa	Buffalograss	Silver bluestem
Dotted gayfeather	Yucca blooms	
Dalea		
Catclaw sensitivebriar		
Paper flower		

c. Dove and Quail

Primary **

Western ragweed
Croton
Gaura
Annual sunflower
Annual broomweed

Secondary **

Sand dropseed
Vine mesquite
Cholla seed
Buffalo bur

Low Value **

Buffalograss
Blue grama