

Area 7

SANDY LOAM

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

PE 25-31

Land Resource Area: High Plains

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This range site occurs on level to gently sloping plains, interspersed with playa lake basins. Slopes range from level to 5 percent, with the majority of the slopes toward playas of shallow draws. Elevation ranges from 2500 to 3800 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. These soils are mostly deep fine sandy loams that take in water at a moderately rapid rate. A small part of these soils have layers of hardened caliche at depths less than 20 inches. They are moderately susceptible to wind erosion when unvegetated.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are: Amarillo fine sandy loam, Zita fine sandy loam, Arvana fine sandy loam, Sharvana fine sandy loam, Lubbock fine sandy loam, Lofton fine sandy loam, Midessa fine sandy loam, Springer fine sandy loam, and Miles fine sandy loam.
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMATE - See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is a mid and short grass prairie. The site produces very little woody vegetation. A good variety of forbs presents a desirable balance of native vegetation.

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Relative Percentage

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>95%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>T</u>
Black grama	35	Gaura species		Ephedra	
Blue grama		Dotted gayfeather		Catclaw	
Sideoats grama	15	Dalea species		Yucca	
Arizona cottontop	10	Catclaw sensitivebriar		Sand sagebrush	
Plains bristlegrass	5	Trailing ratany			
Buffalograss	10	Oenothera species			
Feathery bluestem	5				
Sand dropseed	10				
Hooded windmillgrass					
Threeawns	5				
Vine-mesquite	5				

- b. Under continuous heavy grazing use, blue grama, sideoats grama, Arizona cottontop, and plains bristlegrass are replaced by buffalograss, silver bluestem, sand dropseed, threeawns and hooded windmillgrass. As further deterioration occurs, catclaw, broom snakeweed, gummy lovegrass and various annuals invade this site. Mesquite invades the site quickly in lower condition and can form a dense canopy.
- c. Total annual air-dry forage yield in excellent condition varies from 1400 to 2800 pounds per acre, depending on rainfall.
5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by dove, quail, rabbits and antelope. The site is favored by prairie chicken for booming grounds. Several of the grasses, such as sideoats grama, plains bristlegrass, provide good cover and food for game birds and animals. Escape cover for deer is inadequate since the site produces little woody vegetation. There are a limited number of climax forbs on the site also which are used by birds and small game.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: This mid and short grass prairie is almost totally grassland vegetation climax. It is well suited to livestock grazing but has little aesthetic benefit. A few colorful forbs can be seen in summer if good rains are received.
7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: Surface runoff is slow to medium depending on slope and moisture content of the soil. The surface 5 to 11 inches take in water quite rapidly but the subsoil is moderately permeable. When the surface is wet, runoff occurs. They are subject to moderate water erosion damage when overgrazed or cultivated.

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8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

		Percentage			
a.	<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>		<u>AC/AU/YL</u>	
	Excellent	76 - 100		16 - 22	
	Good	51 - 75		20 - 30	
	Fair	26 - 50		26 - 40	
	Poor	0 - 25		30+	
b.	<u>Seeded Areas:</u>	Percent Ground Cover			
		100 - 76	75 - 51	50 - 26	25 - 0
	All seedings AC/AU/YL	14 - 13	18 - 26	26 - 35	35+

9. RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES:

a.	<u>Cattle:</u>		
	<u>PRIMARY*</u>	<u>SECONDARY*</u>	<u>LOW VALUE*</u>
	Blue grama.	Black grama	Red threeawn
	Sideoats grama	Sand dropseed	Annuals
	Plains bristlegrass	Silver bluestem	
	Arizona cottontop		
	Hooded windmillgrass		
	Buffalograss		
b.	<u>Antelope:</u>		
	Gaura species	Hooded windmillgrass	Mesquite
	Dotted gayfeather	Black grama	Other grasses
	Ephedra	Ragweed	
	Annual forbs		
c.	<u>Dove, Quail, and Prairie Chicken:</u>		
	<u>PRIMARY**</u>	<u>SECONDARY**</u>	<u>LOW VALUE**</u>
	Plains bristlegrass	Dropseeds	Threeawns
	Panicum	Sideoats grama	
	Croton		
	Paspalum		
	Ragweed		

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY: _____

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