

CHERT HILL
DESERT GRASSLAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs in the Marathon Basin as gently sloping to steep broken chert hills, with slopes of 8 to 30 percent. Elevations range from 3500 to 4500 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. a. The soils of this site are dark brown, weakly calcareous stony loams, with frequent outcrops of metamorphic stone and chert. They are shallow to very shallow and underlain by soft caliche coated shale and hard chert. Outcrops of chert may comprise 10 to 20 percent of the surface. Runoff is high when unprotected by plant cover but erosion is only moderate, because of the rock formations. Plant-soil-moisture-air relations are good.
 - b. A soil taxonomic unit which characterizes this site is:
Catto stony loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is dominated by short and mid grasses of both bunch and stoloniferous forms. Woody shrubs occur frequently in association with the grasses and occasional perennial forbs.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	75%	<u>Woody</u>	15%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%
Sideoats grama	25	Skeletonleaf	10	Menodora	5
Tanglehead		goldeneye		Hairy tubetongue	
Cane bluestem		Feather dalea		Bundleflower	
Green sprangletop	25	Black dalea	3	Bushsunflower	3
Arizona cottontop		Bernardia		Bladderpod	
Plains bristlegrass		Range ratany		Silktop dalea	
Plains lovegrass	15	Whitethorn acacia	2	Purple dalea	T
Blue grama		Catclaw acacia		Bahia	
Black grama		Catclaw mimosa		Wildbuckwheat	
Chino grama	15	Yucca	2	Perennial croton	2
Slim tridens		Sotol		Broom snakeweed	
Rough tridens		Lechuguilla			
Hairy grama	10	Pricklypear	T		
Sand dropseed		Tasajillo			
Fall witchgrass		Guayacan foresteria			
Perennial threeawns	T	Apacheplume	T		
Southwestern stipa		Skunkbush			
Hairy tridens		Butterflybush			
Fluffgrass	T	Ceniza			
Red grama		Mariola			

b. As retrogression occurs, black grama and hairy grama increase and tend to dominate the plant community. Chino grama may initially become more prevalent on south-facing slopes. With continued retrogression, vegetative cover decreases sharply and red grama, hairy tridens, fluffgrass and annuals become prevalent. Skeletonleaf goldeneye, feather and black daleas, bernardia, and range ratany are replaced by other woody plants such as catclaw, whitethorn, mesquite, whitebrush, mariola and creosotebush which increase or invade. Lechuguilla, sotol, and cacti also become more prevalent in the deteriorated plant community.

c. Approximate total annual herbage yields of this site in excellent condition varies from 800 pounds per acre, air-dry, in good years to 600 pounds per acre or less in poor years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used primarily by desert mule deer, javelina, quail and mourning dove, with some intermittent use by antelope in winter.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Y.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec/Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	76-100	36-43	15-20
Good	51-75	43-58	12-18
Fair	26-50	53-80	8-12
Poor	0-25	80-160	4-8

DEFINITIONS OF QUALITY OF SPECIES1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Perennial threeawns	Broom snakeweed
Green sprangletop	Hairy grama	Catclaw
Tanglehead	Sundropseed	Yucca
Cane bluestem	Fall witchgrass	Cacti
Plains bristlegrass	Halsl panicum	Lechuguilla
Blue grama	Menodora	
Black grama	Bushsunflower	
Arizona cottontop	Bundleflower	
Plains lovegrass	Bernardia	
	Range ratany	

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Black grama	Lechuguilla
Bushsunflower	Hairy grama	Whitethorn
Hairy tubetongue	Plains lovegrass	Catclaw
Bundleflower	Fall witchgrass	Sotol
Wildbuckwheat	Arizona cottontop	Cacti
Bladderpod	Slim & rough tridens	Threeawns
Bernardia	Bahia	Fluffgrass
Daleas	Croton	
Some annual forbs		
Skeletonleaf goldeneye		
Sideoats grama		
Chino grama		
Blue grama		
Green sprangletop		
Plains bristlegrass		
Hairy tridens		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.

c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Catclaw	Lechuguilla
Daleas	Whitethorn	Sotol
Bernardia	Mariola	Croton
Range ratany	Ceniza	Fluffgrass
Guayacan	Pricklypear	
Foresteria	Tanglehead	
Skunkbush	Arizona cottontop	
Butterflybush	Chino grama	
Apacheplume	Blue grama	
Menodora	Black grama	
Hairy tubetongue	Cane bluestem	
Bushsunflower	Plains lovegrass	
Bundleflower	Wildbuckwheat	
Bladderpod		
Sideoats grama		
Green sprangletop		
Plains bristlegrass		
Fall witchgrass		

d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Sideoats grama	Perennial threeawns
Bushsunflower	Green sprangletop	Fluffgrass
Wildbuckwheat	Plains bristlegrass	Slim & rough tridens
Hairy tubetongue	Fall witchgrass	Tanglehead
Bundleflower	Chino grama	Cane bluestem
Bladderpod	Whitethorn	
Silktop dalea	Catclaw	
Purple dalea	Mariola	
Some annual forbs	Ceniza	
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Yucca blooms	
Black and feather daleas	Pricklypear	
Bernardia		
Range ratany		
Guayacan		
Apacheplume		
Butterflybush		
Foresteria		
Lechuguilla		

e. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Bahia	Lechuguilla
Bushsunflower	Croton	Sotol
Hairy tubetongue	Skeletonleaf	Broom snakeweed
Bundleflower	goldeneye	Whitethorn
Bladderpod	Sideoats grama	Catclaw
Daleas	Plains bristlegrass	Yucca
Wildbuckwheat	Green sprangletop	
Butterflybush	Cane bluestem	
Range ratany		
Some annual forbs		

f. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Lechuguilla	Some perennial grasses	Catclaw
Pricklypear	Some perennial forbs	Whitethorn
Tasajillo	Sotol	Most other woody shrubs
Mast of most woody plants	Yucca roots	Annual grass and forbs
Roots of perennial grasses and forbs		

g. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Bushsunflower	Black grama
Menodora	Bladderpod	Blue grama
Daleas	Sideoats grama	Tanglehead
Wildbuckwheatq	Plains lovegrass	Cane bluestem
Plains bristlegrass	Sand dropseed	Chino grama
Fall witchgrass		Threeawns
Hard-seeded annual forbs		Other chaffy or fluffy seeded grasses
Mast of woody plants and cacti		