

DRAW
DESERT GRASSLAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as narrow, frequently overflowed natural drainage courses which receive runoff water from adjoining sites and remote higher elevations. It is so situated as to overflow from even small rains. Slopes range from flat to nearly level, 0 to 1 percent. Elevations range from 2500 to 4500 feet.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils of this site are deep alluvial clays, loams, clay loams, and silty clay loams. These soils are calcareous, slowly to moderately permeable and have good plant-soil-air-moisture relationships. This, in conjunction with the extra water it receives, contributes to this site being highly productive. If unprotected by plant cover, the soil tends to crust badly and becomes susceptible to severe gully erosion.

b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Toyah loam
Balmorhea clay
Balmorhea clay loam
Hodgins silty clay loam, depressed
Gageby silt loam
Toyah clay loam

Pima s1
Rockhouse 1
Pecos

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The potential vegetation of this site is "post-climax" for the desert grassland climatic zone. It consists of bunch grasses and stoloniferous grasses of the mid and short grass forms. This site also supports some woody shrubs, vines, and forbs. In the past, recurrent fires may have played an important ecological role in suppressing increase or invasion of woody plants on this site.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	90%	<u>Woody</u>	5%	<u>Forbs</u>	5%
Sideoats grama Cane bluestem	25	Fourwing saltbush Butterflybush	3	Globemallow Bushsunflower Gaura	4
Arizona cottontop Plains bristlegrass Green sprangletop	15	Tarbush Whitebrush Elbowbush	2	Verbena Menodora	
Vine-mesquite	10	Wolfberry Catclaw Mesquite		Hairy tubetongue Perennial bladderpod	1
Blue grama Black grama Bush muhly	15	Desert willow Littleleaf sumac Oldman's beard Ephedra	T	Mexican sagewort Grassland croton Texas fillaree	
Tobosa Alkali sacaton Big sacaton	15	Yucca Cholla		Annual forbs	T
Buffalograss Burrograss Mat muhly	5				
Whiplash pappusgrass Pink pappusgrass Two-flower trichlois Sand dropseed Mesa dropseed Spike dropseed	5				
Silver bluestem Perennial threeawn Annual grasses	T				

- b. As retrogression occurs the mid grasses such as sideoats grama and cane bluestem decrease while the short grasses such as blue grama, tobosa, and burrograss initially increase and eventually replace the mid grasses. Meanwhile, other short grasses and weedy forbs such as groundsels, ragweed, sneezeweed, broom snakeweed and paperflower increase or invade the site. Continued site deterioration and suppression of fires enhance increase or invasion of woody plants such as tarbush, whitebrush, mesquite, lotebush, agarito, creosotebush and cacti. Thus, the site may become heavily brush infested with prolonged retrogression.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 2200 pounds per acre of air-dry herbage in years with favorable growing seasons to about 1200 pounds per acre in poor years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Antelope, deer, javelina, dove and quail are the principal wildlife species on this site. The abundance of green grasses and forbs and associated woody species provide excellent habitat for these upland game species, as well as numerous other non-game birds and small mammals.
5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec/Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	76-100	18-26	25-35
Good	51-75	21-32	20-30
Fair	26-50	26-43	15-25
Poor	0-25	40-80	8-16

b. Introduced species:

	<u>Percentage Ground Cover</u>			
	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
Johnsongrass (Ac/AU)	4-6	6-10	10-20	20+

c. Seeded Areas

Mid grasses (Ac/AU)	6-10	10-14	14-18	18+
Short grasses (Ac/AU)	12-14	14-18	18-25	25+
Mixtures (Ac/AU)	10-12	12-16	16-20	20+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Alkali sacaton	Tarbush
Cane bluestem	Blue grama	Broom snakeweed
Arizona cottontop	Tobosa	Groundsels
Plains bristlegrass	Buffalograss	Burrograss
Vine-mesquite	Sacaton	
Bush mahly		
Green sprangletop		

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bushsunflower	Sideoats grama	Groundsels
Guara	Tobosa	Loco
Sagewort	Blue grama	Paperflower
Vine-mesquite	Fourwing saltbush	Croton
Cane bluestem	Butterflybush	
Buffalograss	Tarbush	

c. Goats

Butterflybush	Sideoats grama	Ragweed
Saltbrush	Tobosa	Groundsels
Elbowbush	Sacaton	Croton
Guara	Tarbush	Burrograss
Bushsunflower		
Sagewort		

d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bushsunflower	Sideoats grama	Annuals
Menodora	Vine-mesquite	Most grasses
Guara	Tarbush	
Sagewort	Cholla (fruits)	
Fourwing saltbush		
Butterflybush		
Elbowbush		

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

e. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Perennial bladderpod	Blue grama	Burrograss
Texas fillaree	Cane bluestem	Alkali sacaton
Butterflybush	Green sprangletop	Tobosa
Globemallow	Sideoats grama	
Plains bristlegrass	Vine-mesquite	
Menodora	Oldman's beard	
Guara	Ephedra	
Verbena	Buffalograss	
Bushsunflower	Catclaw	
Vine-mesquite		
Perennial forbs		
Sand dropseed		

f. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Pricklypear	Perennial grasses	Annual and annual grasses
Cholla		Creosotebush
Mesquite beans		
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:
Plains bristlegrass	Alkali sacaton	Other fuzzy
Vine mesquite	Sideoats grama	seeded grasses
Croton	Sagewort	(Blue grama, pappusgrass, etc.)
Butterflybush	Wolfberry (mast)	
	Dropseeds	