

GYP
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Desert Grassland PE 10-19

Land Resource Area: Trans-Pecos

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occupies nearly level to gently sloping uplands. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent.
2. SOILS:
 - a. These are grayish brown to brown, calcareous, very shallow soils over light-colored beds of gypsum. Permeability is moderate.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Holloman soils
 - c. Specific type site location:

Connell Ranch - Twin Mills - just west of headquarters on IS 20.
3. CLIMATE: See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community varies with depth of topsoil. In a climax community with soils from 3" to 5" in depth, the vegetation is made up of chino grama and black grama with alkali sacaton in the lower areas. Scattered clumps of four-wing saltbush are seen. Grasses made up about 80 percent of the total yield on the site.

Relative Percentage

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>
Chino grama	20	Four-wing		Nama	
Alkali sacaton	15	saltbush	10	Gray coldenia	
Black grama	10	Allthorn	5	Croton	
Gypgrass	15			Pepper weeds	
Plains bristlegrass) 5			Desert holly	
Cane bluestem					
Perennial threeawn	10				
Sand dropseed	5				
Burrograss	T				

- b. As retrogression occurs, chino grama, alkali sacaton, and black grama almost disappear and are replaced by gypgrass and burrograss on the site. In the low places, mesquite invades and plains bristlegrass may be seen only in the protection of the scrubby mesquite. Low places are occupied by silverleaf nightshade, conyza, scarlet globeberry, buffalogourd, tumble lovegrass, and scattered vine mesquite. In extreme droughty conditions, the site may be only bare ground and namas.
- c. Approximate total yield of the site in excellent condition ranges from 240 pounds per acre in low rainfall years to 600 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in normal rainfall years.
5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by quail and dove. The invading shrubby mesquite and allthorn provide cover and the many weeds such as croton, gourds, and nightshade provide food.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: This site has little aesthetic value. The site is characterized by its white chalky appearance and sparse vegetation.
7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS
Surface runoff is very slow to moderate due to the flat slopes. Where water concentrates on the more sloping areas, some water erosion occurs due to the lack of vegetation. Water intake is moderate and available moisture is low.

8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. <u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Percentage Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>AU/SEC</u>	<u>AC/AU/YR</u>
Excellent	76-100	7-10	64-91
Good	51-75	6-8	80-106
Fair	26-50	4-7	91-160
Poor	0-25	3-5	128-213

b. Seeded Areas

Not normally seeded.

9. RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES:

a. <u>Cattle</u>		
<u>PRIMARY*</u>	<u>SECONDARY*</u>	<u>LOW VALUE*</u>
Chino grama	Gypgrass	Burrograss
Alkali sacaton	Vine mesquite	Croton
Black grama	Threeawn	Conyza
Cane bluestem	Plains bristlegrass	Nightshade
	Pepper weed	Desert holly
		Broom snakeweed
		Tumble lovegrass
b. <u>Sheep</u>		
Chino grama	Cane bluestem	Burrograss
Black grama	Gypgrass	Croton
Pepper weeds	Vine mesquite	Conyza
	Threeawns	Nightshade
	Plains bristlegrass	Desert holly
		Broom snakeweed
c. <u>Quail and Dove</u>		
<u>PRIMARY**</u>	<u>SECONDARY**</u>	<u>LOW VALUE**</u>
Vine mesquite	Chino grama	Gypgrass
Plains bristlegrass	Black grama	Burrograss
Alkali sacaton	Cane bluestem	Conyza
Nightshade		Desert holly
Pepper weeds		Broom snakeweed
Croton		

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