

GYP  
DESERT GRASSLAND  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site usually occurs as flats or low rolling hills, or ridges, 0 to 5 percent, of very shallow soil with numerous outcrops of calcareous gypsiferous materials. Elevations range from 2500 to 3500 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. The soils of this site are very shallow to shallow. They are underlain by a mixture of soft gypsum and caliche and fine earth. In the lower part of the profile the semi-indurated gypsum and caliche make up about 75 percent of the mass. If unprotected by cover, the soils are highly susceptible to water erosion.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
    - McCarran loam
    - Gypland
    - Holloman*
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. Since there is such a variation in the depth of soils, the plant community may vary considerably from one location to another. Where there is little or no soil, only rough coldenia may be present. Bare areas are common and may be quite extensive.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	80% <u>Woody</u>	10% <u>Forbs</u>	10%
Chino grama	50	Fourwing saltbush	Rough coldenia
Black grama		Littleleaf sumac	Gray coldenia
		Butterflybush	Nama
Alkali sacaton	25	Allthorn	Croton
Gypgrass		Javelinabush	Half-shrub
Perennial threeawns		Ephedra	T primrose
Sand dropseed		Yucca	Guara
Mesa dropseed		Cacti	
Sand muhly			Annuals
Annuals	5		2
Plains bristlegrass	T		
Blue grama			
Burrograss			
Ear muhly			
Fluffgrass			

- b. As retrogression occurs, chino grama and black grama decrease and the site becomes dominated by rough coldenia and occasional plants of gypgrass. Mesquite and broom snakeweed invade and allthorn and cacti increases. Annuals seasonally become more prevalent in more favorable soil pockets, and barren gyp outcrops are abundant.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 500 pounds per acre of air-dry herbage in favorable years to 200 pounds per acre in unfavorable years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by dove and quail. The woody plants and grasses which grow on the site provide good cover, mast, and seeds for birds.
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	49-64	10-13
Good	51-75	64-91	7-10
Fair	26-50	107-213	3-6
Poor	0-25	128+	0-5

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

## a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Chino grama	Gypgrass	Rough coldenia
Alkali sacaton	Fourwing saltbush	Nama
Plains bristlegrass		Allthorn
Black grama		
Blue grama		
Mesa dropseed		
Butterflybush		

## b. Quail and Dove

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Fourwing saltbush	Alkali sacaton	Chino grama
Alkali sacaton	Mesa dropseed	Black grama
Croton	Sand dropseed	Burrograss
Plains bristlegrass		Threeawns
Hard seeded annual and perennial forbs		Fluffgrass
Most of most woody plants		

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.