

LOAMY SAND

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Desert Grassland - PE 10-19

Land Resource Area: Trans-Pecos

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occupies gently undulating to gently rolling areas. Slopes range from 1 to 8 percent. Elevations range from 2300 to 3000 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. These soils are deep, with brown to reddish brown fine sand to loamy fine sand surfaces and reddish brown to yellowish red sandy clay loams to loamy fine sand subsoils. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid. Wind erosion susceptibility is high.
  - b. Soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
    - Kinco-Ima Association
    - Triomas
    - Wickett Association
  - c. Specific type site location:
    - Williams Ranch - Pasture 9
    - 2 miles east of headquarters
3. CLIMATE: See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax plant community is a mid-grass prairie. This is a rolling seas of grass, green in spring and light brown in summer. Most of the vegetation is grass. Most common species are black grama, sideoats grama, mesa dropseed, and plains bristlegrass. Small percentages of other grasses and forbs such as sand dropseed, hooded windmillgrass, and evening primrose are seen scattered among the clumps of catclaw or Havard oak.

<u>Relative Percentage</u>			
<u>Grasses</u>	<u>85%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>10%</u>
Giant dropseed	10	Catclaw	Forbs
Black grama	10	Yucca	Primrose
Hooded windmillgrass	5	Sand sagebrush	Halfshrub primrose
Sideoats grama	5	Havard oak	Gaura
Plains bristlegrass	10	Four-winged saltbush	Range ratany
Arizona cottontop	10		
Mesa dropseed	10		
Cane bluestem	5		
Sand dropseed	5		
Threeawn	5		
Fall witchgrass	5		
Reverchon panic	1		
Little bluestem	5		

- b. As retrogression occurs, little bluestem and sideoats grama give way to mesa dropseed and hooded windmillgrass. Broom snakeweed increases and mesquite begins to invade the entire site. In extreme conditions this site may consist of mesquite, sand dropseed, annuals, broom snakeweed, and grassland croton.
- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition ranges from 650 pounds per acre in low rainfall years to 1850 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in normal rainfall years.
5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by dove and quail. Plains bristlegrass, hooded windmillgrass, and bristle panicum along with the invading croton furnish food for these birds. In excellent condition, prairie chickens could do well.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: The terrain on this sight is flat to gently rolling. The plant community is a mid-grass prairie invaded by mesquite. Yucca blooms along with a few colorful forbs can be seen following spring rains.
7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: These soils are well drained. They take in water rapidly through the sandy surface then at a moderate rate below. When the surface becomes saturated, some runoff occurs. The hazard of water erosion is slight.

8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. Condition Class	Percentage Climax Vegetation	AU/SEC	AC/AU/YR
Excellent	76-100	16-21	30-40
Good	51-75	13-18	35-49
Fair	26-50	6-14	45-106
Poor	0-25	7 or less	91

b. Seeded areas

Lehmann lovegrass and associated species	Percent Ground Cover AC/AU/YR			
	100-76 25-40 16-25	75-51 32-64 10-20	50-26 53-106 6-12	25-0 91+ 7 or less

9. RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES:

a. Cattle

<u>PRIMARY*</u>	<u>SECONDARY*</u>	<u>LOW VALUE*</u>
Black grama	Sand dropseed	Mesquite
Plains bristlegrass	Cane bluestem	Gummy lovegrass
Mesa dropseed	Arizona cottontop	
Hooded windmillgrass	Bristle panicum	
Sideoats grama	Perennial threeawn	
	Evening primrose	

b. Sheep and Goats

Plains bristlegrass	Sand dropseed	Threeawn
Black grama	Sideoats grama	Gummy lovegrass
	Arizona cottontop	Mesquite
	Mesa Dropseed	Fringed signalgrass
	Hooded windmillgrass	
	Bristle panicum	
	Sand muhly	
	Evening primrose	

c. Ouail and Dove

<u>PRIMARY**</u>	<u>SECONDARY**</u>	<u>LOW VALUE**</u>
Plains bristlegrass	Sand dropseed	Gummy lovegrass
Hooded windmillgrass	Sideoats grama	Threeawn
Bristle panicum	Mesa dropseed	Black grama
Croton	Fall witchgrass	Arizona Cottontop
	Mesquite	Cane bluestem
	Evening primrose	
	Gaura	

DATE: 5/11/80

APPROVED BY: Robert N. Johnson

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