USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Technical Guide
Area 18

Loamy Sands

~~SANDYLAND~~
DESERT GRASSLAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as nearly level to rolling, 0 to 3 percent, sandy plains with occasional successions of stabilized dunes. The elevation ranges from 2400 to 3000 feet.

2. SOILS:

   a. The soils which characterize this site are loamy fine sands 20 inches or more in depth that take water rapidly. The soils have a good plant-soil-air-moisture relationship making rainfall highly effective. If unprotected by plant cover, the soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion.

   b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
      Pyote loamy fine sand
      Wink loamy fine sand
      Wickett loamy fine sand

   c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

   a. This site is an open grassland with mid grasses, a few short grasses, and occasional tall grasses dominating the plant community. Perennial forbs and occasional shrubs occur in association with the perennial grasses. Ephemerials are common and may seasonally occur as aspect dominants occupying unstable soil areas within the plant community. Havard oak and sand sage are primary soil stabilizers and often occur on small stabilized dunes throughout the plant community.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses		80% Woody		10% Forbs		10%
Giant dropseed			Sand sagebrush	5	Sundrop	
Sand bluestem			Havard oak		Purple dalea	
Little bluestem		25			Gaura	
Cane bluestem			Fourwing saltbush	3	Bladderpod	5
			Range ratany		Globemallow	
Spike dropseed					Menodora	
Mesa dropseed		25	Catclaw		Grassland croton	
Sand dropseed			Wolfberry	2		
			Yucca		Tansyleaf aster	
Plains bristlegrass			Ephedra		Cutleaf aplopappus	2
Arizona cottontop		15			Mentzelia	
Bush muhly					Heliotrope	
Black grama						
					Cryptantha	
Perennial threeawn					Gromwell	
Hooded windmillgrass					Sand verbena	
Signalgrass		12			Trailing four-o-clock	T
Fall witchgrass					Wildbuckwheat	
Annual grasses	3				Pepperweed	
					Annual forbs	3

b. As retrogression occurs mesa and sand dropseeds quickly increase while giant dropseed and the bluestems are replaced. Further regression results in greatly decreased plant cover with perennial threeawns, signalgrass, and numerous annuals becoming the dominant herbaceous vegetation. Sand sagebrush and Havard oak increase strongly, while mesquite, broom snakeweed, and groundsels invade the site.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 650 pounds per acre in poor years to 850 pounds per acre of air-dry herbage in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Dove and quail are the principal wildlife species of this site. The abundance of forbs and grasses and occasional shrubs provide food items and cover for the birds.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

Condition Class	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/Yr.L.	AU/Sec/Yr.L.
Excellent	76-100	32-43	15-20
Good	51-75	40-53	12-16
Fair	26-50	53-107	6-12
Poor	0-25	107-320	2-6

b. Seeded areas

	Percent Ground Cover			
	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
Native mixtures (Ac/AUO	32-43	40-53	53-107	107+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Giant dropseed	Mesa dropseed	Mesquite
Sand bluestem	Sand dropseed	Catclaw
Little bluestem	Perennial threeawns	Wolfberry
Cane bluestem	Hooded windmill grass	Groundsels
Spike dropseed	Fall witchgrass	Broom snakeweed
Plains bristlegrass	Menodora	Aster
Arizona cottontop	Bladderpod	Aplopappus
Black grama	Globemallow	Mentzelia
Bush muhly	Fourwing saltbush	Signalgrass
Guara	Havard oak	Annual grasses
	Sand sagebrush	Annual forbs
	Range ratany	

b. Dove and Quail

Primary Seed of:	Secondary Seed of:	Low Value Seed of:
Croton	Dropseeds	Threeawns
Plains bristlegrass	Hooded windmillgrass	Black grama
Wildbuckwheat	Sand sagebrush	Mesquite
Gaura	Oak acorns	
Bladderpod		
Globemallow		
Mast of some 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.