

SALTY  
DESERT GRASSLAND  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site usually occupies areas within the flood plains of rivers, springs, and intermittent draws on flats to nearly level slopes, 0 to 3 percent. This site occasionally occurs on upland with high water table. Elevations range from 2500 to 3500 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. Soils of this site are moderately to strongly saline loams, clay loams, and silty clay loams, underlain by gypsiferous soil material at 2 to 20 inches. These soils are moderately permeable and have fair plant-soil-air-moisture relationships. Some areas have a high water table which may influence plant growth.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
    - Prewitt clay loam
    - Girvin silty clay loam
    - Rogan, saline*
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax plant community is dominated by alkali sacaton in association with other occasional mid and short grasses, salt tolerant shrubs and halophytic forbs. Species composition and annual production vary with degree of salinity and depth to water tables. Where salinity is extremely high the site may be barren or have only occasional halophytes present.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	75%	<u>Woody</u>	15%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%
Alkali sacaton	50	Fourwing saltbush	12	Pickleweed	5
Cane bluestem	20	Mesquite	3	Purslane	
Two-flower trichloris		Allthorn		Dock	
Perennial threeawns		Catclaw		Perennial bitterweed	
Big sacaton		Wolfberry		Pepperweed	
Sideoats grama	5	Iodinebush		Annuals	5
Blue grama					
Plains bristlegrass					
Sand dropseed					
Sand muhly					
Burrograss					

- b. As retrogression occurs, alkali sacaton, threeawns, sand dropseed, and burrograss initially increase while other perennial grasses decrease. Pickleweed, bitterweed, and annual halophytes increase or invade as the perennial grasses continue to decrease. Fourwing saltbush is replaced by other woody plants such as mesquite, catclaw, wolfberry, iodine-bush, and allthorn.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 500 pounds per acre in poor years to 1100 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. Deer drift into this site occasionally but is not of major significance.
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	26-32	20-26
Good	51-75	32-46	14-20
Fair	26-50	40-64	10-16
Poor	0-25	64-128	5-10

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES1/

## a. Cattle

PrimarySecondaryLow Value

Alkali sacaton  
 Cane bluestem  
 Two-flower trichloris  
 Plains bristlegrass  
 Blue grama  
 Sideoats grama  
 Big sacaton

## b. Dove and Quail

PrimarySecondaryLow Value

Seed of:

Seed of:

Seed of:

Plains bristlegrass	Big sacaton	Cane bluestem
Mast of most wedy plants	Sideoats grama	Two-flower trichloris
	Alkali sacaton	Blue grama
		Burrograss

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.