

SANDY LOAM
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 gently rolling plains, 0 to 3 percent. Elevations range from 2400 to 3000 feet.

2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils of this site are deep, medium textured fine sandy loams, and loams, usually underlain by a mixture of soil material and caliche gravel fragments, indurated caliche, or gypsiferous caliche. The soils have moderately rapid permeability, high available water holding capacity, and have a good plant-soil-air-moisture relationship. If unprotected by plant cover, the soils are susceptible to wind erosion.

 - b. Some soils taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
 - Hoban /* Monahans fine sandy loam
 - McCarran fs,* Wickett fine sandy loam
 - shallow* Kinco fine sandy loam
 - Ima fine sandy loam
 - ~~Grandfalls fine sandy loam, shallow~~
 - Jal fine sandy loam
 - Pajarito fine sandy loam

 - c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community of this site is an open grassland of mid and short grasses, occasional to frequent forbs, and a few woody shrubs and yucca. Ephemeral forbs are a characteristic component of this site and occasionally appear as aspect dominants.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	85% <u>Woody</u>	5% <u>Forbs</u>	10%	
Black grama	35	Fourwing saltbush	Guara	
Blue grama		Range ratany		4 Globemallow
		Sand sagebrush		Menodora
Mesa dropseed	20	Catclaw	Sundrop	
Sand dropseed		Wolfberry	Wildbuckwheat	
Spike dropseed		Lotebush	Bladderpod	
Plains bristlegrass	15	Javelinabush	1	
Arizona cottontop		Mariola	Croton	
Bush muhly		Ephedra	Cutleaf aplopappus	
		Yucca	Mentzelia	
Perennial threeawns			Annual forbs	
Fall witchgrass			3	
Hooded windmillgrass	15			
Signalgrass				
Slim tridens				
Annual grasses	T			

- b. As retrogression occurs, mesa and sand dropseeds and sometimes hooded windmillgrass increase strongly, while black grama, plains bristlegrass, Arizona cottontop, and bush muhly decrease and eventually lose dominance. Signalgrass, fall witchgrass, perennial threeawns, annual sandbur, and annual forbs continue to increase and gradually replace some of the dropseeds. Woody species such as sand sagebrush, catclaw, javelinabush, wolfberry, and lotebush gain greater prominence in the deteriorated plant community. As retrogression continues, mesquite invades strongly and may eventually become dominant. Broom snakeweed and groundsels also invade the deteriorated plant community.
- c. Approximate total annual herbage yield of this site in excellent condition varies from 700 pounds per acre air-dry weight, in unfavorable years to 900 pounds in favorable years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Dove and quail are the principal wild-life species of this site. Many of the forbs and grasses produce high quality foods for these birds. Most habitat requirements for quail are abundant and ground feeding cover is desirable for both species.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>	<u>AU/Sec/YL</u>
Excellent	75-100	28-40	16-23
Good	51-75	40-53	12-16
Fair	26-50	49-80	8-13
Poor	0-25	80-213	3-8

b. Seeded areas

	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Native mixtures (Ac/AU)	28-40	40-53	49-80	80+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Black grama	Hooded windmillgrass	Signalgrass
Blue grama	Perennial threeawns	Crotons
Mesa dropseed	Sand dropseed	Annual forbs
Plains bristlegrass	Fall witchgrass	Cutleaf aplopappus
Bush muhly	Fourwing saltbush	Mentzelia
Arizona cottontop	Range ratany	Catclaw
Spike dropseed	Sand sage	Mesquite
	Gaura	Wolfberry
	Globemallow	Lotebush
	Menodora	

b. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Annual forbs	Black grama
Plains bristlegrass	Dropseeds	Blue grama
Fall witchgrass	Hooded windmillgrass	Perennial threeawns
Wildbuckwheat	Signalgrass	Bush muhly
Menodora	Mast of woody shrubs	
Bladderpod		
Globemallow		
Gaura		

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 descriptions.