

HOT ROCKY
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area: Trans Pecos

Location: _____

Date: June 1981

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as rolling to steep rough broken rocky hills and mountains on slopes ranging from 2 to 40 percent. Elevations range from 2500 to 4000 feet.

2. SOILS:

The soils are shallow to very shallow and range from very gravelly to cobbly sandy loams and loams, the gravel being angular or subangular 2 mm to 10 inches in diameter. The soils range from 4 to 20 inches deep and averages less than 10 inches. The soils are moderately permeable, with very low water holding capacity and medium plant-soil-air-water relationship. About 40 percent or more of the areas consist of bare rock.

- b. Some taxonomic units which characterize this site area:

Terlingua - Rock Outcrop Complex, hilly

- c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

- a. This site has a climax plant community of drought tolerant woody shrubs and infrequent drought tolerant short and mid-grasses and infrequent perennial forbs. False grama, chino grama and fluffgrass are dominant grasses; rosemallow, dalea spp. and spiderlings are dominant forbs. Woody species of octillo, leatherstem, dog cactus, Lechuguillo, skeleton-leaf goldeneye and range ratany are frequent woody species. Few ephemerals are present because of rocky soil surface.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	20%	<u>Woody</u>	60%	<u>Forbs</u>	20%
Chino grama	10	Ocotillo	25	Spiderlings	10
Tanglehead		Lechuguilla		Wollypod spurge	
Stipa spp	5	Leatherstem		Rosemallow	5
Bush muhly		Range ratany	Dalea spp.		
False grama		Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Cassia spp.		
Rough & Slim tridens	5	Feather dalea	Snake cotton	3	
Fluff grass		Whitethorn acacia	Croton spp.		
		Plume coldenia	10	Annuals	2
	Catclaw				
		Tasajillo			
		Dog cactus	5		
		Pricklypear			
		Other woody	5		

b. When retrogression occurs due to livestock grazing, all grasses except fluffgrass will decrease. Range ratany, feather dalea and skeletonleaf-goldeneye will decrease. Few lower successional plants will replace plants removed. Due to low rainfall, extremely high summer soil temperatures (135^o+), and very shallow rocky soils, recovery of depleted ranges are extremely slow.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from less than 100 pounds per acre in poor years to 200 pounds per acre of air-dry herbage in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE:

Dove, quail and deer inhabit this site, however, numbers are low due to small amounts of food plants and cover. Coyotes and other predatory animals use this site as hunting grounds when ranging out from normal home range.

5. ESTHETICS AND RELATED VALUE: There is little beauty to this site as it is rough rolling rocky land with few showy plants to add color to the landscape.

6. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: The rolling to steep topography in combination with exposed rock cause rapid runoff from the site. Water erosion is reduced because of rock cover and bedrock. Localized fractures and pockets of soil benefit by extra run-in water, however, soils do not have a high moisture holding capacity and moisture is lost through evaporation due to high summer temperatures.

7. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.	<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>AC/AU/YL</u>	<u>AU/SEC/YL</u>
	Excellent	76-100	150-300	2-4
	Good	51-75	200-400	2-3
	Fair	26-50	300-600	1-2
	Poor	0-25	400+	0-2

Site is not adapted for reseeding.

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES

a. Cattle

Primary

Bush Muhly
Tanglehead
Chino grama

Secondary

Three awn
Fluffgrass
Range Ratany
Dalea spp.

Low Value

Catclaw
White thorn
Lechuguilla

b. Deer

Primary

Ratany
Feather dalea
Skeltonleaf goldeneye

Secondary

White thorn acacia
Catclaw
Lechuguilla

Low Value

grasses
Leatherstem
Cenizo

c. Dove and Quail

Primary

Seeds of:
Croton
Leatherstem
Wolly pod Spurge

Secondary

Seeds of:
White thorn acacia
Catclaw

Low Value

Grasses

RANGE SITE LEGEND

Trans Pecos Land Resource Area, Desert Shrub

HOT ROCKY SITE - DS - Rolling to steep, very shallow to shallow, very gravelly to cobbly sandy loams and loams. Chino grama, tanglehead and bush muhly are decreaseers. Fluffgrass and dalea spp. increase. Few plants invade, dog cactus increases.