

LOAMY
~~DEEP UPLAND~~
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location VAN HORN WORK UNIT

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as broad plains below the mountains on nearly level to gently rolling slopes, 0 to 3 percent. Elevations range from 3500 to 4500 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils of this site are loams and clay loams, 15 inches or more in depth, that take water moderately fast. These soils are underlain by caliche. The soils have a high water holding capacity and good plant-soil-air-moisture relationships. If unprotected by plant cover, surface crusting becomes severe, infiltration is greatly reduced, runoff becomes excessive, and the site becomes highly susceptible to sheet and gully erosion.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
 - Turney loam
 - Berino loam
 - Reakor clay loam
 - c. Specific site location: Cummins Ranch - 10 miles South of
Prince Louis Sierra Blanca
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax vegetation is dominated by open stands of drought tolerant bunchgrasses, occasional woody shrubs, yucca, cacti, and ephemerals.

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>RELATIVE PERCENTAGE</u>		10% <u>Forbs</u>	10%
	80%	<u>Woody</u>		
Plains bristlegrass	5	Winter fat	2	Perennial
Bush muhly	10	Guayacan		crotons
Blue grama	12			Perennial
Black grama	15	Littleleaf sumac		bladderpod
Tobosa	10	Fourwing saltbush	2	Globemallow
Perennial threeawns	5			Plains zinnia
		Catclaw		Desert holly
Mesa dropseed		Whitethorn acacia	2	Sundrops
Sand dropseed	15			
Spike dropseed		Tarbush		
		Creosotebush	2	Annuals
Burrograss	5			5
		Ephedra		
Sideoats grama		Yucca	2	
Fluffgrass	T	Cacti		
Red grama				
Annuals	3	Javelinabush		
		Condalia	2	
		Allthorn		

b. As retrogression occurs, tobosa, burrograss, threeawns, red grama, creosotebush, tarbush, mesquite and annuals increase or invade, while blue grama, black grama, bush muhly, and plains bristlegrass decrease. Mesa dropseed, sand dropseed, and spike dropseed initially increase, then decrease.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 200 pounds per acre, dry weight, in unfavorable years to 600 pounds in favorable years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Antelope, dove and quail are the principal wildlife species of this site.

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	43-80	8-15
Good	51-75	64-107	6-10
Fair	26-50	80-213	3-8
Poor	0-25	160-0	0-4