

CLAY FLAT
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site usually occurs as broad flats adjacent to draws or streams which may receive occasional overflow. The slopes range from flat to nearly level, 0 to 1 percent, Elevations range from 2000 to 3500 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. The soil of this site is a deep, silty clay loam. It has high available water holding capacity. Water infiltration and percolation are enhanced by cracking and uneven surface characteristics of this soil. The site has fair plant-soil-moisture relationships. Soils are susceptible to gully erosion if unprotected by plant cover.
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is dominated by rhizomatous and stoloniferous grasses, primarily tobosa and vine-mesquite. White tridens occur in areas of more frequent overflow. Annuals are common but occur more abundantly in years with early spring rains.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	90% <u>Woody</u>	T	<u>Forbs</u>	10%	
Tobosa	55	T	Globemallow	2	
Vine mesquite			Butterflybush		Perennial bladder-
White tridens			Whitebrush		pod
Alkali sacaton	30	T	Rushpea	8	
Cane bluestem			Tarbrush		Groundsel
Sand muhly					Croton
Burrograss	5	T	Annual forbs	8	
Mat muhly					
Ear muhly					
Annual grasses					

b. As retrogression occurs, vegetative cover decreases, and annuals increase to initially occupy the bare areas. Burrograss, mat and ear muhlys increase strongly and eventually dominate the deteriorated plant community, and fluffgrass invades. Perennial forbs such as groundsel, rushpea, and dogweed and some woody plants such as tarbush and mesquite increase or invade.

c. Approximate total annual herbage yield of this site in excellent condition varies from 400 pounds per acre in poor years to 700 pounds air-dry weight, per acre in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by antelope. Other animals and birds are scarce or only transient on the 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	38-43	15-17
Good	51-75	53-71	9-12
Fair	26-50	80-128	5-8
Poor	0-25	107-213	3-6

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Vine-mesquite	Tobosa	Mesquite
White tridens	Alkali sacaton	Tarbush
Cane bluestem	Sand muhly	Groundsels
	Mat muhly	Rushpea
	Burrograss	Croton
	Bladderpod	Fluffgrass
	Globemallow	Annuals
	Fourwing saltbush	
	Butterflybush	

b. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Globemallow	Sacaton	Tobosa
Bladderpod	Vine-mesquite	Burrograss
Croton	White tridens	Alkali sacaton
Rushpea	Cane bluestem	Fluffgrass
Butterflybush	Fourwing saltbush	
Some annual forbs		

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.