

USDA, SCS
SECTION II-E
AREA 18

ALPINE and SANDERSON

DRAW
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Edwards Plateau

Location _____

Date March 1978

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as long, narrow, low terraces or flood plains along intermittent streams and valley floors. Site receives extra runoff water from adjoining sites. Slopes are usually less than 3 percent. Elevations range from 2000 to 3000 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. The soils of this site are deep alluvial very gravelly clay loams, clay loams, and silty clay loams. The soils are moderately to moderately rapidly permeable and have a good plant-soil-air moisture relationship. Water holding capacity is low on gravelly soils to high on silty clay loams.
 - b. Some taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
 - Dev association
 - Dev gravelly clay loam
 - Iraan silty clay loam
 - Glendale clay loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION: The climax plant community consists of warm season short and mid grasses with a wide variety of woody plants occurring frequently. Annual forbs are common following rains.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	85%	Woody	10%	Forbs	5%
Sideoats grama	25	Butterflybush	3	Bushsunflower	2
Cane bluestem		Fourwing salt-bush		Globemallow	
Plains bristlegrass	15	Littleleaf sumac		2	
Vine-mesquite		Wolfberry	Annuals		3
Green sprangle-top		Tarbrush			
Tobosa	10	Brickellbush	T		T
Sacaton		Foresteria			
Per. Threeawn	15	Creosote	T	T	
Slim tridens		Juniper			
Hairy grama	15	Skeletonleaf goldeneye	3	T	
Buffalograss		Dalea			
Bush muhly		Whitebrush			
Burrograss	5	Acacia	2	T	
Other grasses		Soapberry			
		Hackberry			
		Walnut			
		Clematis			
		Condalia sp			
	Persimmon	T			

- b. As retrogression occurs by overuse with cattle, sideoats grama, cane bluestem, plains bristlegrass, green sprangletop and vine-mesquite decrease. Common increasers are sacaton, perennial threeawn, slim tridens, and annual forbs. Woody species become dominant as site deteriorates with an increase or invasion of mesquite, juniper, whitebrush, and acacia.
- c. Total annual herbage yield in excellent condition varies from approximately 500 pounds of air-dry herbage in unfavorable years to 1,350 pounds in favorable years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer, turkey, quail, dove, and javelina.
5. ESTHETICS AND RELATED VALUES: When sufficient moisture is available during the summer, colorful annual forbs are abundant. This site in climax has a brushy, grassland appearance. In a deteriorated condition, woody plants increase giving site a thick brushy appearance.

6. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: This site is situated to receive high velocity runoff from steeper slopes. These moderately to moderately rapidly permeable soils, if unprotected by a good plant cover, are erosive and gully erosion is evident.

7. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a. Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>	<u>AU/Sec/YL</u>
Excellent	76-100	30-45	14-21
Good	51-75	40-60	10-16
Fair	26-50	55-100	6-10
Poor	0-25	100+	less than 6

b. Seed areas

		<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
		<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
(1) Introduced species					
Johnsongrass	(Ac/AU)	25-35	35-50	50-80	80+
Blue panicum					
(2) Native mixtures					
	(Ac/AU)	30-40	40-60	60-90	90+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Tobosa	Burrograss
Cane bluestem	Sacaton	Slim tridens
Plains bristlegrass	Perennial threeawns	Globemallow
Green sprangletop	Hairy grama	Creosote
Vine-mesquite	Fourwing saltbush	Tarbush
Bushsunflower	Skeletonleaf goldeneye	

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bushsunflower	Hairy grama	Tobosa
Daleas	Cane bluestem	Sacaton
Butterflybush	Vine-mesquite	Mesquite
Fourwing saltbush	Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Creosote
Buffalograss	Tarbush	
Sideoats grama		
Plains bristlegrass		
Littleleaf sumac		
Some annual forbs		

c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Butterflybush	Hairy grama	Tobosa
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Cane bluestem	Sacaton
Littleleaf sumac	Vine-mesquite	Creosote
Daleas	Whitebrush	Tarbrush
Hackberry	Lotebush	Juniper
Fourwing saltbush		Mesquite
Bushsunflower		Perennial threeawn
Buffalograss		
Sideoats grama		
Plains bristlegrass		
Green sprangletop		

d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bushsunflower	Sideoats grama	Creosote
Hackberry	Green sprangletop	Tarbrush
Fourwing saltbush	Whitebrush	Tobosa
Daleas	Mesquite beans	Sacaton
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Acacia	Juniper
Littleleaf sumac		
Verbena		
Forbs		

e. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Mast of woody plants	Some annual forbs	Woody plants
Roots of:	Per. grasses	Annual grasses
Per. Grasses	Per. forbs	Most annual forbs
Per. Forbs		

f. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Plains bristlegrass	Sacaton	Most grasses
Vine-mesquite	Bushsunflower	w/chaffy seed
Annual forbs w/hard seed	Mast of some woody shrubs	

g. Turkey

Primary

Large seed of:
Grasses and forbs
Mast of woody shrubs
Tasajillo fruit

Secondary

Small seed of:
Grasses and forbs

Low Value

Fluffy grass
and forbs seed

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.