

GRAVELLY OUTWASH
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site consists of gravelly outwash material with slopes ranging from gently rolling to moderately steep (5 to 30 percent), occurring along arroyos, alluvial fans, and sloping ridges below higher lying hills. Elevations range from 2500 to 4500 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils of this site are pale brown, gravelly to cobbly loams, gravelly sandy loams, and gravelly sands. They have caliche coated pebbles and stones beneath the surface 2 to 4 inch layers or hard caliche at 4 to 12 inches below the surface. These soils are moderate to rapidly permeable, have low water holding capacity, and moderate to rapid runoff. This is a droughty site with poor plant-soil-water-air relationships. Due to slope and inability of soils to hold much water, runoff and water erosion become a serious problem, unless the site is protected by plant cover.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
 - Canutio cobbly loam
 - Canutio gravelly sandy loam
 - Bluepoint gravelly sand
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax vegetation consists of a sparse cover of xeric grasses, shrubs, desert succulents, and annuals.

<u>RELATIVE PERCENTAGE</u>			
<u>Grasses</u>	70% <u>Woody</u>	20% <u>Forbs</u>	10%
Chino grama	40	Whitethorn acacia	6
Black grama		Blackbrush acacia	
Sideoats grama	25	Catclaw	6
Perennial threeawn		Range & white ratany	
Bush muhly		Guayacan	
Plains bristlegrass		Back feather dalea	
Arizona cottontop			
		Creosotebush	3
Sand dropseed	2	Lechuguilla	5
Mesa dropseed		Ephedra	
Slim & rough tridens		Yucca	
Red grama	3	Pitaya	5
Fluffgrass		Cholla	
Spike pappusgrass		Ocotillo	
Other annual grasses		Pricklypear	

b. As retrogression occurs, chino and black grama decrease while fluffgrass, threeawns and sixweeks grama increase. The site becomes dominated with brush and cacti, such as acacias, ocotillo, creosotebush, mesquite, pricklypear, pitaya, and lechuguilla.

c. Approximate total annual herbage yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 250 pounds per acre, air-dry, in poor years to 450 pounds per acre air dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Deer, javelina, dove, and quail are the principal wildlife species of this site. The limiting factors for deer are the lack of water and limited forage critical periods. The abundance of brush provides adequate cover for all these species, and some of the woody species also provide browse for deer. The forbs and grasses provide seeds and cover for dove and quail.

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	107-160	4-6
Good	51-75	128-213	3-5
Fair	26-50	160-320	2-4
Poor	0-25	213-0	0-3

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Chino grama	Slim & rough tridens	Longleaf ephedra
Arizona cottontop	Red grama	Mesquite
Perennial threeawn	Yucca	Creosotebush
Plains bristlegrass	Vine ephedra	Mast brush and cacti
Sideoats grama		Fluffgrass
Bush muhly		Sixweeks grama
Black grama		
Sand dropseed		
Range ratany		
Yucca (blooms)		

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Chino grama	Perennial threeawn	Mesquite
Sideoats grama	Sixweeks grama	Pricklypear
Arizona cottontop	Red grama	Creosotebush
Plains bristlegrass	Slim & rough tridens	Lechuguilla
Perennial forbs	Guayacan	Fluffgrass
Annual forbs	Ocotillo leaves	Cholla
Bush muhly	Blackbrush acacia	Pitaya
Black grama	Yucca (blooms)	
Sand dropseed	Whitethorn acacia	
Dalea		
White & range ratany		
Menodora		

c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Blackbrush acacia	Chino grama	Creosotebush
Whitethorn acacia	Black grama	Cholla
Ocotillo leaves	Annual forbs	Pricklypear
Guayacan	Four o'clock	Pitaya
Ephedra	Mesquite (mast)	
Dalea	Yucca (blooms)	
White & range ratany		
Menodora		
Sideoats grama		
Plains bristlegrass		

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.

d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Ephedra	Leatherstem
Dalea	Cholla	Mesquite
Range ratany	Some annual grasses	Creosotebush
Blackbrush acacia	Sideoats grama	Most grasses
Whitethorn acacia	Plains bristlegrass	
Ocotillo (leaves)	Yucca (blooms)	
Guayacan	Mesquite (mast)	
Some annual forbs		
Lechuguilla		

e. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Pricklypear	Mesquite (mast)	Annual and
Lechuguilla	Yucca (roots)	perennial forbs
Ocotillo	Perennial grasses	Annual grasses
Roots of perennial grasses and forbs		Creosotebush

f. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Sand dropseed	Chaffy-seeded
Perennial forbs	Sideoats grama	grasses and
Plains bristlegrass	Slim & rough tridens	forbs
Hard-seeded annual for forbs	Yucca	
Hard-seeded perennial forbs	Creosotebush leaves	
	Mast of most woody plants	