

GYP  
DESERT SHRUB  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site usually occurs as flats or low rolling hills or ridges, 0 to 5 percent, of very shallow soil with numerous outcrops of calcareous gypsiferous materials. Elevations range from 3500 to 4500 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. The soil is very shallow, less than 5 inches in depth. It is underlain by a mixture of soft gypsum and caliche and fine earth. In the lower part of the profile the semi-indurated gypsum and caliche make up about 75 percent of the mass. Outcrops of gypsum are common and may occupy large areas.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site is:  
Gypland
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. Since there is such a variation in depth of soils, there is a variation in vegetative communities. Where there is little or no soil, only rough coldenia may be present. Bare areas are common and may be quite extensive.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	80%	<u>Woody</u>	12%	<u>Forbs</u>	8%
Chino grama	30	Fourwing saltbush	6	Rough coldenia	5
Black grama		Yucca			
		Cacti	2	Croton	
Alkali sacaton	20	Ephedra		Half-shrub	1
Gypgrass	12			primrose	
		Butterflybush			
Mesa dropseed		Littleleaf sumac	4	Goldenrod	
Sand dropseed	10	Javelinabush		Gray coldenia	T
		Allthorn		Nama	
Bush muhly					
Sand muhly	8			Annuals	2
Perennial threeawn					
Blue grama					
Burrograss					
Fluffgrass	T				
Ear muhly					
Annual grasses					

- b. As retrogression occurs, there is a decrease of chino grama, alkali sacaton, black grama, primrose, and mesa dropseed, accompanied by an increase in sand muhly, sand dropseed, and gypgrass. With further retrogression there is an increase in rough coldenia, goldenrod, burrograss, fluffgrass, and annual grasses and forbs.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 200 pounds air-dry herbage per acre in poor years to 400 pounds per acre in good years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is inhabited by dove, quail and several species of non-game birds and mammals. Several of the woody plants, forbs and grasses which grow on the site provide good cover, mast and seeds for game birds and animals.
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	53-71	9-12
Godd	51-75	71-107	6-9
Fair	26-50	128-320	2-5
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	Gypgrass	Ear muhly
Alkali sacaton	Sand muhly	Goldenrod
Black grama	Burrograss	Annuals
Blue grama	Sand dropseed	Yucca
Mesa dropseed	Fourwing saltbush	Rough coldenia
Ephedra	Fluffgrass	Cacti
Butterflybush		Littleleaf sumac
Half-shrub primrose		Allthorn
		Javelinabush

## b. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u> Seed of:	<u>Secondary</u> Seed of:	<u>Low Value</u> Seed of:
Croton	Mesa dropseed	Gramas
Annual forbs	Sand dropseed	Muhlys
Javelinabush (mast)	Alkali sacaton	Fluffgrass
		Threeawns
		Burrograss

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.