

LIMESTONE HILL AND MOUNTAIN
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1971

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as rolling limestone hills and steep limestone mountains, often associated with escarpments, cliffs and rock outcrop. The slopes are generally 8 to 30 percent but may be less in local areas particularly on the foothills. Elevation is generally 3500 to 4500 feet.

2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils are very shallow stony and gravelly loams having about 50 percent stones or gravel on the surface and in the profile. Available water holding capacity is low, but infiltrates well. Run-off occurs with high intensity rains, or if the soil is unprotected by plant cover. The soils have good plant-soil-moisture relationships.

 - b. A soil taxonomic unit which characterizes this site is:
Lozier gravelly loam

 - c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is a grassland with associated shrubs and forbs. Chino grama is a dominant, particularly on southerly slope exposures. Black grama and sideoats grama may show up more on the north slopes. Lechuguilla often dominates in the thin soil on hard limestone areas, but is generally sparse on the areas of deeper soil. Skeletonleaf goldeneye is the dominant woody shrub, occurring more abundantly in headers and around boulders.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	65%	<u>Woody</u>	20%	<u>Forbs</u>	15%
Chino grama	40	Skeletonleaf		Menodora	
Black grama		goldeneye		Desert rue	
Tanglehead		Feather and black daleas		Bushsunflower	
Cane bluestem	10	Range ratany	10	Sundrop	10
Nealley grama		Southwest bernardia		Globemallow	
Sideoats grama		bernardia		Gaura	
Green sprangleto=		Cliffrose		Bladderpod	
Arizona cottontop		Elbowbush		Gailardia	
Plains bristlegras		Guayacan		Wildbuckwheat	
				Milkwort	
Bush muhly	10	Catclaw	3	Gray coldenia	3
Perennial threeawn		Whitethorn acacia		croton	
Fall witchgrass		Desert ceanothus		Bahia	
Slim & rough tridens		Javelinabush		Cutleaf aplopappus	
Hairy grama	3	Big Bend silverleaf	2	Annual forbs	2
Hairy tridens		Mariola			
Red grama		Texas persimmon			
		Creosotebush			
False grama	2	Pricklypear	5		
Fluffgrass		Cholla			
Spike pappus		Ocotillo			
Annual grasses		Lechuguilla			
		Candelilla			
		Sotol			
		Yucca			
		Ephedra			

b. As retrogression occurs, red grama, false grama and threeawns increase. Lechuguilla, ocotillo, catclaw and sotol become dominant. Creosotebush may increase greatly.

c. Approximate total annual herbage yield on this site in excellent condition ranges from 450 pounds per acre air-dry herbage in poor years to 650 pounds per acre in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Deer, dove, quail, and javelina are the major wildlife species native to this site. Desert bighorn sheep were native here, but are now extinct.
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	75-100	49-107	6-13
Good	51-75	64-128	5-10
Fair	26-50	80-213	3-8
Poor	0-25	160+	0-4

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Chino grama	Slim & rough tridens	False grama
Black grama	Hairy grama	Fluffgrass
Tanglehead	Hairy tridens	Spike pappus
Cane bluestem	Red grama	Annual grasses
Plains bristlegrass	Fall witchgrass	Creosotebush
Green sprangletop	Gaura	Ocotillo
Arizona cottontop	Bladderpod	Lechuguilla
Nealley and sideoats grama	Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Acacias
Bush muhly	Range ratany	Javelinabush
Perennial threeawn	Southwest bernardia	Sotol
Menodora	Feather and black dalea	Gray coldenia
Bushsunflower	Cliffrose	Croton
Globemallow	Ephedra	Cutleaf aplopappus

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Perennial threeawn	False grama
Desert rue	Arizona cottontop	Fluffgrass
Bushsunflower	Slim & rough tridens	Spike pappus
Sundrop	Red grama	Annual grasses
Globemallow	Hairy grama	Whitethorn acacia
Gaura	Fall witchgrass	Javelinabush
Bladderpod	Catclaw	Texas persimmon
Gaillardia	Elbowbush	Creosotebush
Wildbuckwheat	Mariola	Fricklypear
Milkwort	Guayacan	Cholla
Some annual forbs	Desert ceanothus	Lechuguilla
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Ephedra	Ocotillo
Feather & black dalea	Big Bend silverleaf	Candelilla
Range ratany	Croton	Sotol
Southwest bernardia	Cutleaf aplopappus	
Cliffrose	Echia	
Chino grama		
Hairy tridens		
Nealley & sideoats grama		
Green sprangletop		
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.

c. Goats

Primary

Range ratany
 Feather & black daleas
 Southwest bernardia
 Cliffrose
 Skeletonleaf goldeneye
 Elbowbush
 Guayacan
 Ephedra
 Menodora
 Desert rue
 Bushsunflower
 Bladderpod
 Sundrop
 Nealley & sideoats grama
 Arizona cottontop
 Plains bristlegrass
 Green sprangletop
 Bush muhly
 Fall witchgrass

Secondary

Catclaw
 Whitethorn acacia
 Mariola
 Big Bend silverleaf
 Desert ceanothus
 Pricklypear
 Chino grama
 Black grama
 Slim & rough tridens
 Hairy grama

Low Value

Creosotebush
 Texas persimmon
 Javelinabush
 Cholla
 Ocotillo
 Lechuguilla
 Candelilla
 Sotol
 Yucca
 False grama
 Fluffgrass
 Spike pappus
 Perennial threeawn
 Croton
 Gray coldenia
 Bahia
 Cutleaf aplopappus

d. Deer

Primary

Menodora
 Desert rue
 Bushsunflower
 Sundrop
 Globemallow
 Gaura
 Bladderpod
 Gailardia
 Wildbuckwheat
 Milkwort
 Some annual forbs
 Skeletonleaf goldeneye
 Range ratany
 Feather & black daleas
 Southwest bernardia
 Cliffrose
 Elbowbush
 Ephedra
 Guayacan
 Mast of Texas persimmon
 Lechuguilla

Secondary

Catclaw
 Whitethorn acacia
 Desert ceanothus
 Big Bend silverleaf
 Ephedra
 Pricklypear
 Yucca blooms
 Ocotillo leaves
 Croton
 Cutleaf aplopappus
 Chino grama
 Black grama
 Nealley & sideoats
 grama
 Green sprangletop
 Plains bristlegrass
 Hairy tridens

Low Value

Creosotebush
 Javelinabush
 Sotol
 Candelilla
 Threeawns
 Fluffgrass
 Falsegrama
 Spike pappus
 Red grama
 Annual grasses

e. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Pricklypear	Perennial grasses	Annual grasses
Lechuguilla	Perennial forbs	Annual forbs
Roots of some shrubs		Most woody shrubs
Roots of perennial grasses and forbs		
Mast of cacti		
Mast of most woody shrubs		

f. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Bushsunflower	Most gramas
Bladderpod	Gailardia	Muhlys
Menodora	Tridens	Threeawns
Wildbuckwheat	Sideoats grama	Fluffgrass
Globemallow		Falsegrama
Sundrop	Mast of many woody plants	Spike pappus
Plains bristlegrass		Tanglehead
Fall witchgrass		Bluestems
		Creosotebush