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USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Technical Guide
Area 18

LOAMY SAND

~~SANDYLAND~~

DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as nearly level to gently rolling sandy plains, 0 to 3 percent, but may have areas of large sand dunes. The elevation ranges from 3500 to 4500 feet.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils of this area are moderately deep, loamy fine sands that take moisture rapidly. The soils have a good plant-soil-air-moisture relationship, but their ability to hold moisture is limited. If unprotected by plant cover, the soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion and large active dunes occur.

b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Hueco loamy fine sand
Bluepoint loamy fine sand
Wink loamy fine sand

These soils have a layer of weakly to very strongly cemented calcium carbonates at a depth of 20 to 40 inches

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The climax plant community consists of drought tolerant mid and short grasses in association with perennial forbs and scattered shrubs. Ephemerials are abundant seasonally and quickly occupy the broad interspaces among the perennials following infrequent desert rains.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	75%	Woody	15%	Forbs	10%
Giant dropseed		Sand sagebrush	10	Gaura	
Spike dropseed	30	Fourwing saltbush	4	Sundrops	
Mesa dropseed				Globemallow	3
		Yucca	1	Perennial bladderpod	
Black grama	28	Ephedra			
Bush muhly		Mesquite	T	Wildbuckwheat	
Plains bristlegrass				Grassland croton	
Arizona cottontop				Cutleaf aplopappus	
Perennial threeawns	15			Mentzelia	
Fall witchgrass				Gromwell	2
Signalgrass				Sand verbena	
				Trailing four-o-clock	
Annual grasses	2				
				Annual forbs	5

b. As retrogression occurs annuals, mesquite and yucca increase. Wind erosion results in mounds of sand in mesquite, barren areas, and abundance of annuals. Rodents are commonly active in the deteriorated plant community.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 375 pounds per acre in poor years to 500 pounds per acre of air-dry herbage in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Dove and quail are the principal wildlife species of this site. The abundance of grasses and forbs in association with scattered shrubs provide good habitat for these birds, as well as other non-game species.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

Condition Class	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/Yr.L.	AU/Sec/Yr.L.
Excellent	76-100	43-107	6-15
Good	51-75	53-160	4-12
Fair	26-50	64-213	3-10
Poor	0-25	128+	0-5

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Black grama	Perennial threeawns	Mesquite
Bush muhly	Fall witchgrass	Yucca
Arizona cottontop	Sand dropseed	Signalgrass
Giant dropseed	Sand sagebrush	Annuals
Spike dropseed	Fourwing saltbush	
Mesa dropseed	Ephedra	

b. Dove and Quail

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Plains bristlegrass	Dropseeds	Most other chaffy grasses
Fall witchgrass	Fourwing saltbush mast	
Hard-seeded annual forbs		
Crotons		
Gaura		
Bladderpod		
Globemallow		
Wildbuckwheat		

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 sites descriptions.