

SANDY LOAM  
DESERT SHRUB  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site usually occurs as broad plains below the mountains on nearly level to gently rolling slopes, 0 to 3 percent. Elevation ranges from 3500 to 4500 feet.
  
2. SOILS:
  - a. Soils of this site are deep, fine, sandy loams. They have moderately rapid permeability and a high available water holding capacity. They are usually underlain by waterworn gravel or caliche at 30 to 36 inches. These soils have a good plant-soil-air-moisture relationship. If unprotected by plant cover, these soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion.
  
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
    - Pajarito fine sandy loam
    - Wink fine sandy loam
  
  - c. Specific site location:
  
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. This site is an open grassland with predominantly **drought tolerant** short grasses dominating the plant community. Perennial forbs and occasional woody shrubs occur in association with the grasses. Ephemerals are abundant seasonally in the plant community.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	80%	<u>Woody</u>	10%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%
Black grama	45	Winterfat	5	Globemallow	
Bush muhly		Butterflybush		Gaura	
		Sand sagebrush		Perennial bladder-	
Mesa dropseed	15	Wolfberry	3	pod	5
Spike dropseed		Catclaw		Plains zinnia	
Sand dropseed		Whitethorn acacia		Grassland croton	
Plains bristlegrass	8	Javelinabush	T	Cutleaf aplopappus	
Arizona cottontop		Mariola		Mentzelia	
				Annual forbs	
Perennial threeawns	10	Yucca	2		
Hairy grama		Ephedra			
Slim tridens		Cholla			
Fall witchgrass		Mesquite			
Signalgrass					
Annual grasses	2				

- b. As retrogression occurs, creosotebush invades strongly. Threeawns, dropseeds and mesquite increase. Wind erosion creates mounds around mesquite leaving bare ground accompanied seasonally by annuals. Rodent populations increase and become very active in the deteriorated plant community.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 650 pounds in favorable years to 450 pounds per acre in unfavorable years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Antelope, deer, dove and quail are the principal wildlife species of this site. The intermittent woody plants provide fair cover and some food for deer, and the abundance of forbs make this a desirable site for both deer and antelope. The site is also a good producer of preferred foods 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	46-91	7-14
Good	51-75	53-128	5-12
Fair	26-50	80-213	3-8
Poor	0-25	128+	0-5

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

## a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Plains bristlegrass	Sand dropseed	Short threeawns
Black grama	Perennial threeawns	Mesquite
Bush muhly	Hairy grama	Wolfberry
Spike dropseed	Slim tridens	Annual forbs
Mesa dropseed	Fall witchgrass	
Plains bristlegrass	Fourwing saltbush	
Arizona cottontop	Bladderpod (Perennial)	
Winterfat	Butterflybush	
	Sand sagebrush	
	Ephedra	

## b. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Winterfat	Croton	Wolfberry
Fourwing saltbush	Black grama	Javelinabush
Perennial bladderpod	Plains bristlegrass	Whitethorn
Butterflybush	Arizona cottontop	Cholla
Gaura	Hairy grama	Yucca
Globemallow	Fall witchgrass	Mesquite
Plains zinnia	Dropseeds	
Some annual forbs	Sand sagebrush	

## c. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Fourwing saltbush	Whitethorn	Javelinabush
Winterfat	Catclaw	Mesquite
Butterflybush	Sand sagebrush	Signalgrass
Gaura	Wolfberry	Most annual grasses
Perennial bladderpod	Mariola	Croton
Globemallow	Ephedra	
Plains bristlegrass	Fall witchgrass	
Some annual forbs		

## d. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Dropseeds	Black grama
Bladderpod	Signalgrass	Hairy grama
Globemallow	Mast of most woody	Threeawns
Plains bristlegrass	plants	Bush muhly
Gaura		Mesquite
Fall witchgrass		
Hard seed annual forbs		

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.