

GRAVELLY HILL
DESERT GRASSLAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area: Trans-Pecos
Location _____
Date: 1/78

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site consists of gravelly hills with slopes ranging from gently rolling to moderately steep, 5 to 30 percent. Elevations range from 3,000 to 4,500 feet.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils of this site are shallow to very shallow, gravelly clay loams, the gravel being somewhat rounded waterworn stones, to 10 inches in diameter, with the majority being 3 to 5 inches. This is underlain by indurated to weakly cemented caliche. Soils have a good plant-soil-air-moisture relationship and are moderately permeable. Water holding capacity is low.

b. Some taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Mierhill association, hilly

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The climax vegetation is strongly dominated by mid and short grasses of both bunch and stoloniferous types with occasional shrubs and forbs.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>93%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>
Sideoats grama	45	Catclaw		Menodora	2
Cane bluestem		Whitethorn acacia	1	Bladderpod	
Black grama	15	Whitebrush		Snake cotton	T
Arizona cottontop		Mariola	T	Plains black-	
Bush muhly	15	Feather dalea	1	foot	
Fall witchgrass	3	Creosote	T	Mentzelia	1
Perennial threeawn	5	Sacahuista	T	Plains zennia	
Sand dropseed	5	Lechuguilla	T	Noseburn	T
Hairy grama	5	Cholla	T	Croton	2
Slim tridens					
Fluffgrass	T				
Hairy tridens	T				

b. As retrogression occurs through overgrazing, cane bluestem, sideoats grama, black grama, decrease and threeawns, fluffgrass, slim tridens, sand dropseed increase. Creosotebush, sacahuista, cholla, catclaw and lechuguilla either invade or increase on deteriorated sites.

c. Approximate total annual herbage yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1200 pounds per acre air-dry herbage in good years and 550 pounds per acre in poor years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site used by antelope, quail, dove, and deer.
5. ESTHETICS AND RELATED VALUES: This site appears as open, rolling, grass covered hills with occasional woody shrubs along draws and base of hills. A few colorful forbs decorate the hillsides following summer showers.
6. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: The gently rolling to moderately steep slopes cause medium to rapid runoff from high intensity rain storms. However, in excellent range condition with good cover conditions, this site yields very little sediment due to inherent soil characteristics.

7. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a. Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>	<u>AU/SEC/YL</u>
Excellent	76-100	29-35	18-22
Good	51-75	36-59	13-22
Fair	26-50	50-80	8-13
Poor	0-25	80+	< 8

b. This site is not applicable to range reseeding.

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

A. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Arizona cottontop	Threeawns
Cane bluestem	Bush muhly	Fluffgrass
Black grama	Fall witchgrass	Lechuguilla
Menodora	Slim tridens	Sacahuista
	Feather dalea	Croton
		Bladderpod

B. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Black grama	Threeawns
Bladderpod	Feather dalea	Creosote
Sideoats grama	Slim tridens	Broomweed
Plains blackfoot	Cane bluestem	Mariola
Most annual forbs		

C. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Whitebrush	Creosote
Feather dalea	Catclaw	Broomweed
Perennial bladderpod	Mariola	Most grasses
Most annual forbs	Lechuguilla	

D. Quail and Dove

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Bladderpod	Creosote	Fluffy seeded grasses
Menodora	Sand dropseed	
Most annual forbs	Fall witchgrass	
Mentzelea		

E. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Most annual forbs	Sideoats grama	Creosote
Menodora	Catclaw	Broomweed
Feather dalea	Most grasses	
Gldemallow		
Perennial bladderpod		
Plains blackfoot		

1/ Definition 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.