

SHALLOWLAND  
MIXED PRAIRIE  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as fans, ridges, and terraces in broad intermountain valleys at the base of volcanic hills and mountains. Slopes range from 0 to 5 percent and the elevation ranges from 4500 to 6000 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. Soils are shallow, 7 to 15 inches, gravelly loam and underlain by hard indurated caliche. The permeability is moderate and the available water holding capacity is low to medium. Plant-soil-water-air relationships are generally good. The site may receive runoff water from higher surrounding terrain. The site is well drained and runoff is moderate. The gravelly surface retards water erosion but the soils, if unprotected by plant cover, may erode severely.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
    - Boracho gravelly loam
    - Kokernot gravelly sandy loam
    - Espy loam
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax vegetation is predominantly short grasses of both the bunch and stoloniferous types including black grama and blue grama. Mid grasses including sideoats grama and cane bluestem occur infrequently as stands in more favorable "micro-sites". Occasional forbs and woody shrubs also occur in association with the grasses.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	94%	<u>Woody</u>	2%	<u>Forbs</u>	4%
Black grama	50	Graves oak		Menodora	
Blue grama		Gray oak	2	Bushsunflower	
Sideoats grama	20	Feather and		Globemallow	3
Cane bluestem		black daleas		Perennial	
Tobosa	5			bladderpod	
Green sprangletop		Javelinabush			
Plains bristlegrass	12	Catclaw		Grassland	
Perennial threeawns		Whitethorn acacia	T	croton	1
Plains lovegrass	7	Winterfat			
Hairy grama		Ephedra			
Annual grasses	T			Annual forbs	T

b. As retrogression occurs, species including black grama, blue grama, sideoats grama, and cane bluestem decrease. A corresponding increase of species such as tobosa, hairy grama, perennial threeawns and annuals occurs. Catclaw, whitethorn acacia, and javelinabush are primary increasing invading woody species with deterioration of the climax plant community.

c. This site in excellent condition produces approximately 1200 pounds air-dry total annual yield per acre in years with favorable growing conditions and about 600 pounds in years with poor growing conditions.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by deer, Several of the woody plants and forbs which grow on the site provide desirable foods.

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	32-43	15-20
Good	51-75	38-53	12-17
Fair	26-50	53-80	8-12
Poor	0-25	80-160	4-8

RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES 1/

## a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Black grama	Tobosa	Annual grasses
Blue grama	Hairy grama	Grassland croton
Sideoats grama	Perennial threeawns	Javelinabush
Cane bluestem	Bushsunflower	Catclaw
Green sprangletop	Globemallow	Whitethorn acacia
Plains bristlegrass	Daleas	
Plains lovegrass	Oaks	
Winterfat	Ephedra	
Menodora		

## b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Grassland croton	Javelinabush
Bushsunflower	Oak	Catclaw
Globemallow	Blue grama	Whitethorn acacia
Perennial bladderpod	Black grama	Perennial threeawns
Winterfat	Plains lovegrass	Tobosa
Daleas	Hairy grama	
Sideoats grama	Cane bluestem	
Green sprangletop		
Plains bristlegrass		

## c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Oaks	Catclaw	Grassland croton
Ephedra	Whitethorn acacia	Javelinabush
Daleas		
Winterfat		
Bushsunflower		
Perennial bladderpod		
Menodora		
Sideoats grama		
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.

## d. Deer

Primary

Menodora  
Bladderpod  
Globemallow  
Bushsunflower  
Some annual forbs  
Winterfat  
Daleas  
Graves oak  
Gray oak  
Vine ephedra

Secondary

Catclaw  
Whitethorn acacia  
Sideoats grama  
Plains bristlegrass  
Green sprangletop  
Cane bluestem  
Blue grama  
Black grama

Low Value

Perennial threeawn  
Tobosa  
Annual grasses  
Javelinabush