

USDA, SCS  
Section II-E  
Technical Guide  
Area 18

IGNEOUS DIVIDE  
MOUNTAIN SAVANNAH  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as nearly level divides and tablelands of hills and mountain tops. Slopes range from 0 to 5 percent. Elevations range from 6500 to 7500 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. Soils of this site are deep to moderately deep, well drained, slowly permeable clay loams, silty clay loams, and silty clay, with a few coarse fragments on the surface and throughout the profile. Runoff is slow and water holding capacity is high. Plant-soil-water-air relationships are good.
  - b. A soil taxonomic unit which characterizes this site is:  
    Sproul clay loam
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax vegetation is dominated by mid and short grasses of the bunch grass form with occasional shrubs and trees.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	80% <u>Woody</u>	15% <u>Forbs</u>	5%
Blue grama	30	Gray oak	Perennial croton
		Graves oak	Bundleflower
Bull muhly		Gambels oak	10
Cane bluestem		Emory oak	5
Texas bluestem			
New Mexico bluestem	30	Mountain mahogany	
		Butterflybush	
Sideoats grama	8	Apacheplume	5
Spider threeawn	4	Skunkbush	
Wolftail		Pinyon pine	
Woolspike balsamscale		Alligator juniper	T
Pinyon ricegrass		5	
Other perennial grasses	3		

- b. As retrogression occurs the bluestems, traces of tall grasses, sideoats grama, bundleflower, and snoutbean decrease, and are replaced by increases in blue grama, threeawns, pinyon rice-grasses, wolftail, and balsamscale. Continued retrogression results in increase or invasion of juniper, oaks, catclaw, and other woody plants and cacti.
  - c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre in poor years to about 2500 pounds per acre in good years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by deer. Many of the woody plants and forbs which grow on the site provide good food and cover for deer, as well as for species of non-game birds and animals.
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	26-32	20-25
Good	51-75	29-40	16-22
Fair	26-50	40-64	10-16
Poor	0-25	64-128	5-10

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

## a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bull muhly	Blue grama	Wolftail
Cane bluestem	Spider threeawn	Pinyon ricegrass
Texas bluestem	Butterflybush	Croton
New Mexico bluestem	Apacheplume	Pinyon pine
Sideoats grama	Bundleflower	Juniper
Indiangrass		Oaks

## b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Mountain mahogany	Spider threeawn	Alligator juniper
Butterflybush	Wolftail	Pinyon pine
Bundleflower	Pinyon ricegrass	Muhlys
Sagewort	Apacheplume	<b>Balsamscale</b>
Milkwort	Oaks	
Snoutbean	Skunkbush	
Some annual forbs	Croton	
Sideoats grama		

## c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Oaks	Blue grama	Pinyon pine
Mountain mahogany	Spider threeawn	Alligator juniper
Apacheplume	Pinyon ricegrass	Coarse grasses
Butterflybush	Wolftail	Bluestems
Skunkbush		Muhlys
Bundleflower		Croton
Snoutbean		
Sagewort		
Sideoats grama		

## d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Mountain mahogany	Blue grama	Alligator juniper
Butterflybush	Sideoats grama	Gray oak
Bundleflower		Pinyon pine
Sagewort		Croton
Milkwort		Bluestems
Snoutbean		Muhlys
Some 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.