

MOUNTAIN LOAM
MOUNTAIN SAVANNAH
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occupies foot-slopes, hills, and mountains of stony, rough, igneous formations. Slopes range from one to more than 45 percent with elevations ranging from 6500 to 8000 feet.

2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils are shallow to moderately deep, sandy silt loams. The soils are well drained with moderate to rapid runoff, moderate permeability and medium available waterholding capacity. Plant-soil-air-water relationships are good.

 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
 - Madrone gravelly silt loam
 - Puerta silt loam

 - c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax vegetation consists of intermittent pine-oak-juniper overstory and motts with a herbaceous understory of bunch type mid grasses, occasional tall grasses and forbs. Vegetation structure in the plant community consists of a dominant overstory of Ponderosa pine, with occasional gray oak, Texas oak, maple, Texas madrone, alligator juniper, or pinyon pine occupying parts of the overstory. Ponderosa pine occurs in greater density and has greater canopy coverage at the extreme higher elevations. At lower elevations, Ponderosa pine is more prevalent on north and northwest facing slopes and occurs in somewhat more open stands. Silverleaf oak often dominates the understory mid-layer, with shade-tolerant and cool-season grasses and forbs in the understory ground-layer. Frequent intermittent openings without woody overstory are dominated by warm-season bunchgrasses such as bull muhly, pine muhly, Texas and New Mexico bluestems.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	40% <u>Woody</u>	55% <u>Forbs</u>	5%
Bull muhly	Ponderosa pine	20 Aster	
Texas bluestem		Noseburn	
New Mexico bluestem	24 Silverleaf oak	15 Astragalus	5
Sideoats grama	Gray oak	Menodora	
		Leafflower	
Pine muhly	4 Pinyon pine	5 Dayflower	
Purple muhly	Limber pine	(Ferns)	T
Balsamscale	Alligator juniper	4	
Pinyon ricegrass	Texas madrone	3	
Pine dropseed	6 Mountain mahogany	3	
Plains lovegrass			
Spider threeawn	Graves oak		
	Emory oak	3	
Blue grama	Gambels oak		
Hairy grama			
Sprucetop grama	4 Hard maple		
Wolftail	White ash		
Creeping muhly	Roundleaf snow- berry	2	
Danthonia	Black dalea		
Finestem stipa	2 Catclaw mimosa		
Littleawn needlegrass	Skunkbush		
Wedgescale	Anisacanth		
Indiangrass	T		
Eastern gramagrass			
Annual grasses	T		
Sedges	T		

b. As retrogression occurs in this plant community, a decrease in species composition of bull muhly, Texas and New Mexico bluestems, sideoats grama, Indiangrass, Eastern gramagrass, blue grama, perennial forbs, mountain mahogany, snowberry, and seedlings of oaks, Texas madrone and Ponderosa pine results. Plant species which tend to increase include pine muhly, pinyon ricegrass, wolftail, pinyon pine, junipers, and catclaw mimosa. Reduction in woody overstory increases herbaceous production, especially among the warm-season bunch grasses, and decreases production of "shade-species" and cool-season grasses and forbs.

c. This site in climax condition produces approximately 3000 pounds air-dry total annual herbage yield per acre in years with favorable growing conditions and about 2000 pounds per acre in years with poor growing conditions.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by deer and squirrel. Several of the woody plants and forbs which grow on the site provide good food and cover. The rare mearns quail also inhabit this site.

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	32-53	12-20
Good	51-75	43-84	10-15
Fair	26-50	53-80	8-12
Poor	0-25	71-128	5-9

RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bull muhly	Pine muhly	Creeping muhly
Texas bluestem	Pine dropseed	Pinyon ricegrass
New Mexico bluestem	Spider threeawn	Wolftail
Sideoats grama	Blue grama	Astragalus
Plains lovegrass	Sedges	Pines
Indiangrass	Balsamscale	Juniper
Eastern gramagrass		Oaks

b. Horses and burros

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bull muhly	Spider threeawn	Pines
Pine muhly	Blue grama	Juniper
New Mexico bluestem	Hairy grama	
Texas bluestem	Sprucetop grama	
Sideoats grama	Oaks	
Pine dropseed	Anisacanth	
Plains lovegrass	Black dalea	
	Menodora	
	Annual cool-season grasses	

c. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Spider threeawn	Most woody plants
Blue grama	Pinyon ricegrass	Bull muhly
Most perennial forbs	Bluestems	Pine muhly
Some annual forbs	Annual cool-season	Pines
Mountain mahogany	grasses	Juniper
Black dalea		
Roundleaf snowberry		

d. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Oaks and acorns	Sedges	Junipers
Texas madrone seedlings	Gramas	Pines
Mountain mahogany	Stipa	Bull muhly
Snowberry		Bluestems
Noseburn		
Aster		
Dayflower		
Sideoats grama		

e. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Oak acorns	Sideoats grama	Pines
Aster	Spider threeawn	Juniper
Noseburn	Blue grama	Silverleaf oak
Leafflower	Stipas	Bull muhly
Dayflower	Danthonia	Pine muhly
Black dalea	Cool-season annual	Bluestems
Mountain mahogany	grasses	
Snowberry	Sedges	
Texas madrone	Emory oak	
Gray oak	Gambels oak	
Graves oak	Texas oak	
Some annual forbs		

f. Squirrel

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Oak acorns	Ash and maple achenes	Small or fluffy
Pinyon pine seed	Most other woody	grasses
Ponderosa pine seed	plants	Small seeds of forbs
	Large seeds of	
	grasses and forbs	

g. Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Pinyon pine	Sideoats grama	Bluestems
Ponderosa pine	Pine dropseed	Muhlys
Texas madrone	Danthonias	Threeawns
Oaks	Pinyon ricegrass	Stipas
	Plains lovegrass	
	Mast of other woody	
	plants	

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.