

GRAVELLY  
~~DESERT GRASSLAND~~  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

PE 19-25

Land Resource Area Edwards Plateau DG

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site usually occurs as a narrow band at the foot of large limestone hills (Low Stony Hill and Steep Rocky Sites) but may be found adjacent to the intermittent streams as mixed alluvial soils. Slopes usually range from nearly level to gently sloping, 1 to 5 percent. Elevations range from 2000 to 4500 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. These soils are grayish brown clay loams, 10 to 36 inches deep. They consist of approximately 30 percent by volume of gravel up to 1 inch in diameter. Some have a layer of caliche at 10 to 24 inches. Others have no caliche layer but contain caliche pebbles throughout the profile. Also included in this site is mixed alluvial soils adjacent to intermittent streams. Infiltration is moderate, but available water holding capacity is low and runoff is moderate to high. This is a droughty site. If unprotected by plant cover, runoff is high and sheet and gully erosion become severe.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
    - Upton gravelly clay loam
    - Sanderson gravelly loam
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax vegetation of this site is characterized by warm season bunch grasses consisting of both mid and short grasses in about equal proportions on a dry-weight basis. Perennial forbs and woody plants commonly occur in association with the bunch grasses.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	90%	<u>Woody</u>	5%	<u>Forbs</u>	5%
Slim tridens	20	Tarbush		Orange zexmenia	
Black grama	20	Vine ephedra	5	Bushsunflower	
Perennial threeawns	15	Fourwing saltbush		Indianmallow	5
Sideoats grama				Menodora	
Bush muhly	10	Range ratany		Perennial croton	
		Littleleaf sumac			
Plains bristlegrass	10	Rosenbush	T		
		Sacahuista			
Sand dropseed					
Hairy grama	15				
Fall witchgrass					
Cane bluestem					
Arizona cottontop					
Green sprangletop					
Blue grama	T				
Red grama					
Hairy tridens					

- b. As retrogression occurs, creosotebush, mesquite, cacti, and condalia increase or invade the site. Creosotebush is the predominant invader. Other common increasers and invaders on the deteriorated site are red grama, hairy tridens, ear muhly, croton, broom snakeweed, annual bitterweed, fluffgrass, paperflower, groundsels and numerous annual species.
- c. Total annual herbage yield varies from approximately 720 pounds per acre, dry-weight, in unfavorable years to 940 pounds in favorable years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by deer, dove (migratory) and quail. Several of the woody plants, forbs, and grasses which grow on the site provide good food and cover for both game and 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	29-43	15-22
Good	51-75	38-64	10-17
Fair	26-50	53-80	8-12
Poor	0-25	80-150	4-8