

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

ROCKY HILLS

P.E. 38-44

LAND RESOURCE AREA: RR, RP & GS

LOCATION: Goldthwaite, Brady, San
Saba, Eden, Brownwood,
Coleman, Rising Star, Baird

DATE: JUL 25 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site is made up of strongly sloping and moderately steep hillsides that are in strips ranging mostly from 300 to 1200 feet wide and from one-half mile to several miles long. Slope gradients are mostly 6 to 20 percent, ranging up to about 45 percent in some places. Slopes are generally east-facing or conform to drainage patterns, forming valley walls of local drains.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils are stony calcareous clays and clay loams underlain by shaly clay or marly earth and in some places by hard rock at depths ranging from about one to three feet below the surface. Typically, the amount of rock fragments is greatest toward the top of the slope where as much as 90 percent of the exposed surface is rock fragments. Down slope the amount of fragments decreases to about 3 percent on the lower part of the slope.

b. Some taxonomic units that characterize this site are:

Throck stony silty clay

Owens stony clay

Commonly included in delineations of this site are narrow strips of rock outcrop or rubble where more than 90 percent of the exposed surface is rock or rock fragments. These strips are at the top of the slope. Lower on the hillside, gullied areas of shaly clay that are too small for separate delineations are included.

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The climax plant community is made up of abundant growth of tall grasses with mid and short grasses mixed in on the gentler slopes and scattered brush and trees.

Grasses (85%)

Little bluestem	15
<i>Big</i> Sand bluestem	5
Texas cupgrass	10
Indiangrass	5
Canada wildrye	5
Sideoats grama	15
Cane bluestem	5
Texas wintergrass	5
Buffalo & curly mesquite	5
Hairy dropseed	10
Rough tridens	5

Woody (5%)

Hackberry	
Elm)
Elbowbush) 5
Skunkbush)
sumac)

Forbs (10%)

Mexican sagewort)
Englemann daisy)
Bundle flower)
Sensitive briar) 10
Daleas)
Dotted gayfeather)
Trailing ratany)

- b. As regression occurs, tall grasses give way to midgrass such as sideoats grama, Texas cupgrass, cane bluestem and hairy dropseed. Following continued heavy grazing, these grasses give way to curly mesquite, hairy tridens, threeawns and Texas grama. Eventually, hackberry, catclaw acacia, prickly pear and queen's delight invade the site.
- c. The total annual yield per acre on this site in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds in low rainfall years to 4200 pounds in good rainfall years. A high rainfall year may produce as much as 5000 pounds of air-dry vegetation per acre.

INTERPRETIVE DATA

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by deer, turkey, and quail. Several of the forbs and grasses which grow on the site provide good cover, browse, mast, and seeds for game birds and animals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a. Condition Class</u>	<u>Percent Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>AC/AU</u>
Excellent	76-100	10-16
Good	51-75	14-26
Fair	26-50	24-36
Poor	0-25	35+

6. RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES IN POTENTIAL PLANT COMMUNITY

a. CATTLE

Primary*

Sand bluestem
Englemann daisy
Indiangrass
Little bluestem
Canada wildrye
Mexican sagewort
Texas cupgrass
Sideoats grama
Elm
Hackberry

Secondary*

Sensitive briar
Hairy dropseed
Cane bluestem
Bundleflower
Texas wintergrass
Buffalograss
Rough tridens
Dotted gayfeather
Daleas

Low-Value*

Hairy tridens
Threawn
Western ragweed
Dotted gayfeather

b. DEER

Hackberry
Annuals
Elm
Englemann daisy
Ephedra
Bundleflower
Skunkbush sumac
Sensitive briar
Dotted gayfeather
Elbowbush
Mexican sagewort
Trailing ratany

Canada wildrye
Catclaw
Flameleaf sumac
Whitebrush
Texas wintergrass

Ragweed
Mesquite
Mast grasses

c. GOATS

Englemann daisy
Sensitive briar
Trailing ratany
Skunkbush sumac
Sideoats grama
Little bluestem
Indiangrass
Hackberry
Elm
Elbowbush

Vine mesquite
Buffalograss
Annual forbs
Mexican sagewort
Bundleflower
Daleas

Western ragweed
White tridens
Meadow dropseed

d. QUAIL AND DOVE

Primary**

Croton
Western ragweed
Annuals
Paspalums
Bundleflower
Panicums
Condalia
Hackberry
Skunkbush sumac
Elm

Secondary**

Sensitive briar
Dropseeds

Low-Value**

Other grasses

e. TURKEY

Hackberry
Skunkbush sumac
Croton
Annuals
Bundleflower
Sensitive briar
Panicums
Paspalums

Bristle grass
Persimmons

Other grasses
Dotted gayfeather