

USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Area

SCHIST
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 31-44

Land Resource Area Central Basin

Location Brady & San Gaba

Date JUL 25-1978

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: The site occurs on gently sloping to undulating upland position, with slopes ranging from three to eight percent. The elevation is from 900 to 1200 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils are sandy loam and sandy clay loam less than 20 inches deep underlain by partially weathered shist often black or blue in color. Surface 0 - 10 inches usually reddish brown color with a pH of about 6.5. These soils absorb moisture at a slow to moderately slow rate. The soil-plant moisture relationship is poor. The amount of water that may be stored for plant growth is limited and moisture is released slowly to plants. This site is usually found in close association with Tight Sandy Loam Site which is similar but better and deeper.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are.

Ligon fine sandy loam
Katency loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax vegetation is a grassland with a few scattered live oak trees. Mid and short grasses along with forbs and a few small shrubs are present.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	90%	Woody	5%	Forbs	5%
Sideoats grama	20	Live oak	5	Engelmann daisy	3
Texas and Arizona cotton top	10	Kidneywood		Orange zexmenia	
Vine-mesquite	15	Hackberry			
Texas tridens	5			Annuals	2
Pinhole bluestem	10				
Plains bristlegoass	5				
Buffalograss	10				
Curlymesquite					
Texas wintergrass	10				
Canada wildrye					
Fall witchgrass	2				
Hairy grama					

b. As retrogression starts, Texas wintergrass, fall witchgrass, buffalograss and curlymesquite increase. When it continues to decline, red grama, hairy tridens, purple threeawn, Ozarkgrass and other annuals invade. Common forbs that come in are filaree, Texas croton and coneflower species. Woody and other invaders are Texas colubrina, Texas persimmon, whitebrush, catclaw acacia, mesquite, pricklypear, tasajillo and lotebush which will dominate the site. The site can deteriorate to an annual type and recovery is very slow when seed source is gone; cover is absent and surface crusting has occurred.

This site warms up early, but is very droughty in the summer months and summer grasses grow very little after June even when it rains. Drought plans are extremely important on this site.

c. Aproximate total annual yield per acre on this site in excellent condition ranges from 1000 pounds in poor years to 3400 pounds in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is used by deer, turkey, dove, quail and several species of non-game birds and small mammals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. <u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yearlong</u>
Excellent	76 - 100	14 - 17
Good	51 - 75	16 - 20
Fair	26 - 50	18 - 25
Poor	0 - 25	25 ^f

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

Primary

Sideoats grama
Pinhole bluestem
Texas cottontop
Arizona cottontop
Vine-mesquite
Engelmannndaisy

Secondary

Buffalograss
Curlymesquite
Fall witchgrass
Orange zexmenia
Texas wintergrass

Low Value

Texas grama
Red grama
Ozarkgrass
Hairy tridens
Texas persimmon
Mesquite
Pricklypear
Tasajillo

b. Sheep

Primary

Engelmannndaisy
Texas wintergrass
Sideoats grama
Texas tridens
Arizona cottontop
Fall witchgrass
Selected annuals
Kidneywood

Secondary

Buffalograss
Curlymesquite
Vine-mesquite
Live oak

Low Value

Threawn
Red grama
Hairy tridens
Whitebrush
Texas persimmon
Texas croton
Coneflower
Pricklypear
Mesquite
Broomweed

c. Goats

Primary

Texas wintergrass
Sideoats grama
Texas tridens
Engelmannndaisy
Kidneywood
Live oak

Secondary

Whitebrush
Tasajillo
Texas persimmon
Pinhole bluestem
Vine-mesquite

Low Value

Texas croton
Coneflower spp.
Pricklypear
Agarita
Mesquite
Tasajillo
Red grama
Texas grama
Threawn

1/ See legend on separate page for definitions of interpretations made for each animal.

d. Deer

Primary

Engelmann daisy
Orange zexmenia
Hackberry
Elm
Kidneywood
Oak (mast)

Secondary

Live oak
Whitebrush
Catclaw acacia
Ozarkgrass
Rescuegrass
Texas wintergrass

Low Value

Tasajillo
Texas colubrina
Agarita
Texas croton
Pricklypear
Most other grasses

e. Quail and Dove

Primary

(seed of)
Texas croton
Hackberry
Bursage ragweed
Annual grass
Annual forb
Oak (acorns)

Secondary

(seed of)
Filly panicum
Vine-mesquite
Texas tridens
Plains bristlegrass
Texas bluebonnet
Texas colubrina

Low Value

(seed of)
Other grasses
Basin sneezeweed
Coneflower spp.

Legend and Definitions for Range Site Descriptions.

1/ This rating system provides general guidance as to animal preference for plant species. It also indicates possible competition between kinds of animals for the various plants. Grazing preference changes from time to time and place to place depending upon the animals, upon plant palatability and nutritive value, stage of growth and season of use, relative abundance, and associated plants. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect a plant's ecological place in the climax plant community.

The following definitions apply to cattle, sheep, goats, deer and antelope grazing.

Primary: These species generally decrease when the climax plant community is subjected to continuous heavy grazing pressure by the animals listed.

Secondary: These plants usually increase initially, then decrease when the site is subjected to continuous heavy grazing use by the animals listed.

Low Value: These plants continue to increase or invade with heavy continuous grazing use of the site.

For squirrel, peccary and birds the terms primary, secondary, and low value indicate species preference only. They do not indicate plant response to feeding pressure, nor do they have any ecological significance.