

USDA-SCS
Section II-E
Area 25

CLAYPAN PRAIRIE
~~HARDLAND~~

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 19-31

Land Resource Area Rio Grande Plain

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs in the nearly level lower lying areas. Drainage in this site varies from well defined to rather indistinct with small areas standing water for short periods. Elevations are 100-500 feet approximately.
2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils of this site are deep, heavy, clay and clay loam soils that often have a thin layer of fine sandy loam topsoil. These soils become very hard when dry; they take up water very slowly and often form a crust which seals the soil when denuded. Fertility and water storage capacity is high; however, due to low intake rate, slow root growth, and low percent of available moisture, this site tends to be droughty.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
 - Orelia clay loam
 - Orelia fine sandy loam
 - Banquete clay
 - Edroy clay
 - c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The potential plant community is an open grassland of mid and short grasses. Plant communities vary due to small variation in surface drainage.

<u>RELATIVE PERCENTAGE</u>					
<u>Grasses</u>	<u>95%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>
Two & four-flower trichloris	10	Spiny hackberry		Bundleflower	
Arizona cottontop		Kidneywood		Sensitivebriar	
Whiplash & pink pappusgrass		Amargosa		Yellow neptunia	
Sideoats grama (North part of RG)	40	Condalia sp.		Snoutbean	
Vine-mesquite				Bushsunflower	3
Pinhole bluestem				Western indigo	
				Englemann daisy	
				Gaura	
				Ruellia	
Texas bristlegrass	15			Annual forbs	2
Plains bristlegrass					
Buffalograss	15				
Curlymesquite					
Hooded windmillgrass					
Nash windmillgrass					
Fall witchgrass					
Lovegrass tridens	10				
Texas wintergrass					
Slim tridens					
White tridens					
Sedges	T				
Whorled dropseed	5				

- b. As retrogression occurs, Texas bristlegrass, buffalograss, plains bristlegrass, hooded and Nash windmillgrass and fall witchgrass are strong increasers. In addition to the climax plants, likely occupants of the site under continued heavy grazing use are red threeawn, tumblegrass, whorled dropseed, mourning lovegrass, red grama, and tumble windmillgrass. Woody invaders on the site include mesquite, spiny hackberry, lote, Amargosa and huisache.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds per acre in poor years to 3000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Quail and dove frequent this site. Deer utilize the site on the fringes adjacent to drains and brush areas.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a. Condition Class</u>	<u>Percent Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yearlong</u>
Excellent	76 - 100	13 - 17
Good	51 - 75	15 - 20
Fair	26 - 50	18 - 25
Poor	0 - 25	25+

<u>b. Introduced Species</u>	<u>Percent of the Area Established</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Introduced grasses	12-14	13-18	17-22	22 +

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. For Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Arizona cottontop	Texas bristlegrass	Spiny hackberry
Sideoats grama	Plains bristlegrass	Amargosa
Trichloris sp.	Buffalograss	Kidneywood
Lovegrass tridens	Curlymesquite	Threeawn
Vine-mesquite	Texas wintergrass	Mesquite
Cane bluestem	Pink pappusgrass	Annual forbs
White tridens	Slim tridens	Annual grasses
	White tridens	
	Bushsunflower	
	Yellow neptunia	
	Bundleflower	
	Fall witchgrass	

b. For Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bundleflower	Spiny hackberry	Most grasses
Sensitivebriar	Amargosa	Other woody plants
Yellow neptunia	Texas wintergrass	
Snoutbean		
Bushsunflower		
Annual forbs		
Kidneywood		

c. For Quail and Dove

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Croton seed	Most grass seed	Most woody plants
Ragweed seed	Mature grasses and	
Sunflower seed	forbs(quail)	
Bristlegrass seed		
Perennial legume seed		
Most annual forb seed		
Tender grasses and		
forbs(quail)		

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.