USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Technical Guide
Area _____

83A
83D > Cakehed

LAGUNA
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 19-44

Land Resource Area RIO GRANDE PLAIN

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs in depressional areas ranging in size from 1 to 10 acres, 1 to 3 feet lower than the surrounding nearly level terraces. Slopes are usually less than 0.5 percent.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils are deep noncalcareous clays. They are somewhat poorly drained, runoff is ponded and permeability is very slow. These soils crack when dry and have high shrink-swell properties. The site receives extra water from the surrounding area and will stand water for varying lengths of time.

b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Tiocano clay
Willamar clay variant and depressed

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The climax plant community is an open grassland with varying degrees of wetness. These shallow depressed sites vary from one to ten acres in size with Hartweg paspalum and spike lovegrass near the edges. Buffalograss will occur in lagunas when dry for long periods of time.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	95%	Woody	Forbs	5%
Hartweg paspalum	40		Annual forbs	5
Spike lovegrass	10			
White tridens	10			
Buffalograss	5	Drummond Sesbania T		
Switchgrass	10			
Knotroot bristlegrass	5			
Sedges and rushes	10			
Knotgrass paspalum	5			
Creeping lovegrass	T			

b. As retrogression occurs, mesquite huisache and retama invade and form dense stands. Other common invaders on this site are common bermudagrass, and annual forbs. Rushes and sedges may increase.

c. Approximate total annual yield of the site in excellent condition ranges from 3000 pounds per acre in low production years to 5000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in high production years. Production varies greatly from site to site. Stocking rates should generally be determined based on individual sites.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer, dove, quail and javelina. Several of the forbs and grasses which grow on the site provide good cover and feed for birds and animals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

Condition Class	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/Yr.L.
Excellent	76-100	9-13
Good	51-75	12-18
Fair	26-50	17-21
Poor	0-25	19+

b. Introduced Species

Species	Percent Ground Cover			
	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
Common bermudagrass	11-15	14-19	18-23	23+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES

a. Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Hartweg paspalum	Knotroot bristlegrass	annual forbs
White tridens	Spike lovegrass	Huisache
Switchgrass	sedges	Retama
	Buffalograss	Drummond sesbania

b. Deer

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
sedges	White tridens	most other grasses
Annual forbs	Knotroot bristlegrass	Huisache
	Hartweg paspalum	mesquite
		Drummond sesbania

c. Dove and Quail

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Seed of:	Seed of:	other grasses
Knotroot bristlegrass	Spike lovegrass	
Switchgrass	White tridens	
most annual forbs	sedges	
	Hartweg paspalum	

d. Javelina

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
sedges	Senna	Huisache
White tridens	other grasses	mesquite
Knotroot bristlegrass		
Knotroot panicum		
Hartweg paspalum		

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, peceary 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.