

USDA*SCS
Section II-E
Area _____

SHALLOW SANDY LOAM
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PB 31-44

Land Resource Area Rio Grande

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION

This site occurs on nearly level to sloping uplands with convex surfaces having gradients dominantly less than three percent but ranging from less than one percent to five percent.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils are shallow, calcareous, and non-calcareous fine sandy loams and loams underlain by beds of caliche at depths of 6-20 inches. The soils are well drained, run-off is medium and permeability is moderate. Fertility and available water holding capacity is low. Due to shallow depth of soil and low moisture holding capacity, this site is rather droughty.

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

Cuevitas fine sandy loam
Dilley fine sandy loam
Nido fine sandy loam
Randado fine sandy loam
Pettus loam
Copita, shallow

c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The climax plant community is an open grassland with a few scattered woody plants and many forbs.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	85%	<u>Woody</u>	5%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%
Feathery bluestems		Guajillo	3%	Orange zexmenia	
Tanglehead	30%	Blackbrush		Catclaw sensitive-	
Cottontop		Elbowbush		briar	
Little Bluestem		Tasajillo		Bushsunflower	
Fall witchgrass	15%	Condalia sp.		Halfshrub-sundrop	
Slim tridens		Range ratany		Dalea sp.	5%
Bristlegrass	10%	Spiny hackberry		Menodora	
Hooded windmill-		Texas kidney-wood	2%	Velvet bundle-	
grass	10%	Leatherstem		flower	
Sand dropseed		Shrubby blue sage		Snoutbean	
Perennial 3-awns	10%	Guayacan		Croton	
Pink pappusgrass		Vine ephedra		Annual forbs	5%
Gummy lovegrass		Desert yaupon			
Texas tridens		Senecia sp.			
Hairy tridens	10%				
Slender grama					
Red grama					

b. As retrogression occurs, the midgrasses are replaced by short grasses. Guajillo, blackbrush, and leatherstem increase. With further deterioration, guajillo may disappear from the site and is replaced by blackbrush. Annual forbs increase greatly with deterioration.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1200 pounds per acre in poor years to 3700 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE:
This site is used by deer, dove, and quail and javelina.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/4L</u>
Excellent	76-100	15-18
Good	51-75	17-25
Fair	26-50	24-33
Poor	0-25	33%

b. Seeded Areas

	<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	14-18	17-25	24-33	33%

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Feathery bluestem	Fall witchgrass	Perennial 3-awns
Cotton top	Slim tridens	Texas tridens
Bristlegrass	Hooded windmill	Slender grama
Tanglehead	Orange zexmenia	Annual forbs
Bushsunflower	Guajillo	
	Pappusgrass	

b. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Texas kidneywood	Orange zexmenia	Condalia sp.
Halfshrub sundrop	Guajillo	Leatherstem
Dalea sp.	Spiny Hackberry	Most grasses
Bushsunflower	Blackbrush	
Most annual forbs	Velvet bundleflower	
Range ratany	Menodora	
	Guayacan	

c. Quail & Dove

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
(Seed of the following):	Most grass seed	Most woody plants
Most annual forbs	Tasajillo fruit	
Bristlegrass	Mature grasses & forbs (quail)	
Leatherstem		
Spiny hackberry fruit		
Tender grasses & forbs (quail)		

d. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Legumes	Perennial forbs	Grasses
Pricklypear roots, pods & fruits	Baackbrush most	Me quite
Other fruits	Annual forbs	Condalia sp.

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.

*For the above wildlife primary, secondary and low value of forage quality relates to palability, abundance on site, nutritive content, and dependability.

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.