USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Technical Guide
Area _____

LOAMY BOTTOMLAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 19-44

Land Resource Area Rio Grande Plain

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on nearly level to gently sloping low terraces of old floodplains above streams and on nearly level, active floodplains that receive overflow about twice in every five years. Surfaces are plane to convex with slopes of 1 to 3 percent.

2. SOILS:

   a. The soils are deep noncalcareous and calcareous fine sandy loams, loams, silt loams and silty clay loams. The soils are well drained, runoff is slow and permeability is either moderately rapid, moderate or moderately slow depending on soil type. The soils have a medium to high available water holding capacity. The fertility of these soils is also high. The plant-soil-moisture-air relationship is very favorable for plant growth. These factors together with the natural high fertility of the soils favors high yields of good quality forage on this site.

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

Frio silty clay loam	Reynosa silty clay loam
Lagloria silt loam	Rio Grande silt loam
Odem fine sandy loam	Sinton loam

   c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

   a. The climax plant community is mixture of trees, shrubs, grass and forbs that varies depending on frequency and amount flooding or overflow and position.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	80	Woody	15	Forbs	3
Four-flowered trichloris	30	Liveoak		Spider lilly	
Little bluestem		Pecan		Dayflower	
Big cenchrus		Hackberry		Bundleflower	
Switchgrass	10	Woody vines		Hary ruellia	3
Southwestern bristlegrass		Elm	15	Englemann daisy	
Texas wintergrass	10	Willow		Catclaw sensitivebriar	
Virginia wildrye		Spring hackberry		Yellow neptunia	
White tridens	5	Other woody		Annual forbs	2
Wrights sacaton					
Vine mesquite	10				
Sideoats grama	15				
Buffalograss					
Pink pappus					
Plains bristlegrass					

b. As retrogression occurs, woody vegetation and underbrush tend to increase. Such grasses as bermudagrass, hooded windmillgrass fall witchgrass, whorled dropseed and redgrama tend to increase. With further deterioration red threeawn, tumble windmillgrass, fringed signalgrass, and filly panicum, and huisache will increase or invade.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 4000 pounds per acre in poor years to 7000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

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

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

Condition Class	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/4L
Excellent	76-100	8-11
Good	51-75	9-13
Fair	26-50	12-16
Poor	0-25	16+

b. Introduced Species Seeded

Percent of The Area Established			
100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
6-9	8-11	10-14	13+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES

6.

a. Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Four-flower trichloris	White tridens	Pappusgrass
Little bluestem	Plains bristlegrass	Hooded windmill-grass
Arizona cottontop	Buffalograss	Fringed signal-grass
Vine mesquite	Curly mesquite	Woody plants
Big cenchrus		Annual forbs
Southwestern bristlegrass		
Sideoats grama		

b. Deer

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Englemann daisy	Liveoak	Most mature grasses
American snoutbean	Elm	
Low paspalum	Grape sp.	
Prairie clover	Acacia	
Yellow neptunia	Hackberry	
Most annual forbs		

c. Dove and quail

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Perennial forb seed	Low panicum seed	Fuzzy seeded grasses
Croton seed	Lovegrass seed	
Ragweed seed	Most annual forb seed	
Sunflower seed		
Bristlegrass seed		

d. Squirrel

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Oak mast	Buds, twig, bark	Grasses
Elm mast	Grasses and forb seed	Mature forbs
Pecan mast		

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.