USDA, SCS
S ction II-E
Technical Guide
Areas 23,24,25

SANDY LOAM
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 19-31

Land Resource Area Rio Grande Plain

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on nearly level to gently sloping areas. Slopes range from 0 to 5 percent.

2. SOILS:

   a. The soils are deep. with noncalcareous fine sandy loam surfaces and sandy clay loam subsoils. The fine sandy loam surface ranges from about 10 to 19 inches deep and averages about 15 inches. Permeability of the subsoil is moderate. The available water and fertility holding capacity are both high, making this a high producing site.

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

      Runge fine sandy loam
      Willacy fine sandy loam
      Brennan fine sandy loam
      Hargill fine sandy loam
      Duval fine sandy loam

   c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

   a. The climax plant community is an open grassland. The site is dominated by mid grasses and usually supports some climax forbs and woody plants.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	90%	Woody	5%	Forbs	5%
Tanglehead	30	Condalias	5	Western indigo	3
Two-flower trichloris		Blackbrush		Gay feather	
Four-flower trichloris		Kidneywood		Bundleflower	
Arizona cottontop	20	Vine ephedra		Englemanndaisy	
Feathery bluestem & Spike		Desert yaupon		Sensitivebriar	
Plains bristlegrass	10	Spiny hackberry		Bush sunflower	
Hooded windmill-grass	10	Wolfberry		Orange zexmenia	
Whiplash & Pink pappus	10	Elbowbush		Milk pea	
Slim tridens	10	Guayacan		Dalea sp.	
Plains lovegrass		Mesquite	T	Annual forbs	2
Knotroot panicum		Prickly pear	T		
Lovegrass tridens					
Perennial threeawn					
Fall witchgrass					
Hairy grama					
Fringeleaf paspalum					

b. As retrogression occurs, mesquite, blackbrush, condalia sp., whitebrush, and spiny hackberry form a dense canopy. Some common invaders on the site are red lovegrass, red grama, red threeawn, halls panicum, tumble windmillgrass, and grassburs. Many annual forbs also invade the site.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 2200 pounds per acre in poor years to 4400 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is used by deer, dove, quail and javelina. Several of the woody plants, forbs and grasses which grow on the site provide good cover, browse, mast and seeds for game birds and animals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

Condition Class	Percent Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/Yearlong
Excellent	76-100	13-16
Good	51-75	15-18
Fair	26-50	18-25
Poor	0-25	25+

b.

Introduced Species	Percent Ground Cover			
	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
Introduced grasses	10-14	12-15	14-19	18+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. For Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Bluestem sp.	Hooded & Nash windmill grasses	Most annual forbs
Two & Four-flowered trichloris	Slim tridens	Red lovegrass
Arizona cottontop	Fall witchgrqas	Blackbrush
Lovegrass tridens	Pink pappusgrass	Condalias sp.
Plains & Spike bristlegrass	Threeawn	Mesquite
Englemann daisy	Desert yaupon	Cacti sp.
Bush sunflower	Vine ephedra	Signalgrass
	Spiny hackberry	
	Gay feather	
	Sensitivebriar	
	Kidneywood	

b. For Deer

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Most annual forbs	Sensitivebriar	Most grasses
Desert yaupon	Sedges	Wolfberry
Spiny hackberry	Orange zexmenia	Condalias sp.
Kidneywood	Blackbrush	Mesquite
Low panicums		Cacti sp.
Bundleflower		
Vine ephedra		
Bush sunflower		
Gay feather		
Guayacan		

c. Quail and Dove

Primary	SEcondary	Low Value
Bush sunflower seed	Sensitivebriar	Mesquite
Croton seed	Snoutbean	Condaliea sp.
Orange zexmenia seed	Most grass seed	Most grasses
Bundleflower seed		
Panicum seed		
Bristlegrass seed		
Most annual forb seed		

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.

d. For Javelina

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Agarita berries	Perennial forbs	Mesquite
Cacti fruit	Blackbrush	Condalia sp.
Roots & tubors	Spanish dagger	
	Whitebrush	
	Most grasses	

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.