USDA-SCS
Section II-E
Area

SHALLOW SANDY LOAM
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 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

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

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.

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

b. Seeded Areas

| | Percent of the Area Established | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 100-76 | 75-51 | 50-26 | 25-0 |
| Introduced grasses | 14-18 | 17-25 | 24-33 | 33+ |

## RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

| Primary | Secondary | Low Value |
|---|---|---|
| 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

| Primary | Secondary | Low Value |
|---|---|---|
| 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

| Primary | Secondary | Low Value |
|---|---|---|
| (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

| Primary | Secondary | Low Value |
|---|---|---|
| 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 seperate 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, 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.