

800

LOAMY SAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 19-31

Land Resource Area: Rio Grande
Plains

Location: _____

Date: 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on level to gently undulating uplands. Elevation ranges from 300 to 600 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. The soils are deep, with neutral, loamy fine sand surfaces and fine sandy loam, sandy clay loam or sandy clay subsoils. The loamy fine sand surface ranges from 15 to 30 inches thick. The soils are well drained and runoff is slow to medium and permeability ranges from very slow to moderately rapid in the subsoil. Because of the sandy surfaces, the available water and fertility holding capacities are low to moderate.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Comitas loamy fine sand	Webb loamy fine sand
Delfina loamy fine sand	Wilco loamy fine sand
Miguel loamy fine sand	
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community is an open grassland. Some mesquite trees break the monotony of the landscape. The site supports an abundance of climax forbs.

<u>Grass</u>	<u>90%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>
Little & seacoast)		Liveoak)		Bushsunflower)	
bluestem)	20	Mesquite)		Orange zexmenia)	
Crinkleawn)		Pricklypear)		Snoutbean)	
Sideoats grama)	5	Tasajillo)		Western indigo)	3
Brownseed paspalum)		Hackberry)	5	Sensitivebriar)	
Tanglehead)		Lantana)		Milkpea)	
Trichloris sp.)	40	Spiny hackberry)		Gayfeather)	
Arizona cottontop)		Texas calubrina)		Verbena)	
Pinhole bluestem)		Wolfberry)		Sida)	2
Knotroot panicum)				Croton)	
Hooded windmill-)				Annual forbs)	
grass)	15				
Plains bristle-)					
grass)					
Fall witchgrass)					
Slender grama)	5				
Fringeleaf)					
paspalum)					
Wright threeawn)	5				
Balsamscale)					

- b. As retrogression occurs, the taller grass species disappear and are replaced with many annual forbs, red lovegrass, hairy grama, signalgrass, threeawns, and grassbur. Mesquite, spiny hackberry, lantana, and pricklypear also increase, but the site remains relatively open even in poor condition.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from about 1800 pounds per acre in low production years to 4000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in high production years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by dove (whitewing and mourning), quail, and several species of nongame birds. As the brush density increases, the site becomes more suitable for deer.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>
Excellent	76-100	11-14
Good	51-75	15-20
Fair	26-50	21-25
Poor	0-25	25 +

b. Seeded Areas

	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Introduced species	12-16	15-18	16-24	23 +

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Little bluestem	Brownseed paspalum	Fringed signalgrass
Crinkleawn	Hooded windmillgrass	Red lovegrass
Arizona cottontop	Knotroot panicum	Hairy grama
Switchgrass	Fall witchgrass	Perennial threeawn
Tanglehead	Spike and plains	Mesquite
Trichloris	bristlegrass	Cactus
Bushsunflower	Perennial legumes	Annual forbs
	Fringeleaf paspalum	Lantana
	Orange zexmenia	

b. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Most annual forbs	Orange zexmenia	Mesquite
Bushsunflower	Mallow sp.	Cactus
Daleas	Cactus fruit	Lantana
Western indigo	Spiny hackberry	Most grasses
Snoutbean	Texas colubrina	
Milkpea		
Sensitivebriar		
Hackberry		

c. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
(Seed of the following:)		
Western ragweed	Sand dropseed	Most grasses
Gaillardia	Dayflower	Condalias
Croton	Verbena	Forestiera
Perennial legume	Lantana fruit	Most woody plants
Panicums	Tasajillo fruit	
Bristlegrass	Mesquite bean	
Hackberry berries		

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.

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.