

RAMADERO  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION  
PE 19-31

Land Resource Area RIO GRANDE PLAI

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as long, narrow, shallow valleys that serve as drainage ways for the the surrounding nearly level to undulating landscape. Surfaces are concave and slopes are less than 1 percent. The soils receive some runoff water in the spring or fall of low velocity and short duration.

2. SOILS:

a. The soils are deep, with noncalcareous sandy clay loam surfaces. The subsoil is a friable, calcareous, sandy clay loam. The soils are well drained, runoff is slow and permeability is moderate. The soils are fertile with a high available water holding capacity, making this a high producing site. Extra water received from surrounding slopes provides for good production.

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

Ramadero sandy clay loam  
Tela sandy clay loam

c. Specific site location:

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3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

a. The potential plant community is an open grassland dominated by grasses such as four-flower trichloris, and big cenchrus.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	90	<u>Woody</u>	5	<u>Forbs</u>	5
Four-flowered trichloris	40	Texas colubrina		Englemanns daisy	
Arizona cottontop	10	Vine ephedra		Bush sunflower	
Sideoats grama	10	Spiny hackberry	5	Yellow neptunia	4
Cane bluestem		Sugar hackberry		Sensitive brier	
Lovegrass tridens				Annual forbs	1
Big cenchrus	5				
Nash windmillgrass					
Hooded windmillgrass	5				
Plains bristlegrass					
Southwestern bristlegrass	5				
Buffalograss					
Curly mesquite	5				
Vine mesquite	5				
Pappusgrass	5				

b. As retrogression occurs, nash and hooded windmillgrass, Texas bristlegrass, buffalograss, curly mesquite, and pappusgrass are strong increasers. In addition to climax plants, likely occupants of the site under continuous heavy use are tumble windmillgrass, whorled dropseed, Hall's panicum, perennial threeawn, and tumblegrass. With continued heavy use woody invaders such as mesquite, white brush, huisache, lote, and spiny hackberry may dominate the site.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 2500 pounds per acre in poor years to 6000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer, dove, 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	8-13
Good	51-75	12-16
Fair	26-50	15-10
Poor	0-25	18+

b. Introduced Species

<u>Species</u>	<u>Percent of the Area Established</u>			
	<u>100-76</u> 9-12	<u>75-51</u> 11-14	<u>50-26</u> 13-16	<u>25-0</u> 16+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES

6.

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Four-flower trichloris	Buffalograss	Most other grasses
Arizona cottontop	Nash windmillgrass	Other woody species
Sideoats grama	Curly mesquite	
Cane bluestem	Pappusgrass	
Lovegrass tridens	Texas bristlegrass	
Big cencrus	Southwestern bristlegrass	
Vine mesquite	Vine ephedra	
	Bush sunflower	
	Yellow neptunia	
	Sensitivebriar	
	Annual forbs	

b. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Englemann daisy	Spiny hackberry	Most grasses
New Mexico sagewort	Colubrina	
Bundleflower		
Sensitivebriar		
Vine ephedra		
Bush sunflower		
Annual forbs		
Sugar hackberry		
Kidneywood		

c. Quail and Dove

Primary

Croton seed  
Sunflower seed  
Ragweed seed  
Bristlegrass seed  
Perennial legume seed  
Most annual forb seed  
Tender grasses (quail)

Secondary

Most grass seed  
Mature grasses and  
forbs (quail)

Low Value

Most woody plants  
(mast)

d. Javelina

Primary

Pricklypear  
Pricklypear fruit  
Ebony bean  
Mesquite beans

Secondary

Tender grasses  
Wild olive  
Mast from woody  
plants

Low Value

Mature grasses  
Huisache bean

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.