

USDA, SCS  
Section II-E  
Technical Guide  
Area \_\_\_\_\_

83A > *Catched*  
83D

LAGUNA  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION  
PE 19-44

Land Resource Area RIO GRANDE PLAIN

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs in depressional areas ranging in size from 1 to 10 acres, 1 to 3 feet lower than the surrounding nearly level terraces. Slopes are usually less than 0.5 percent.
2. SOILS:
  - a. The soils are deep noncalcareous clays. They are somewhat poorly drained, runoff is ponded and permeability is very slow. These soils crack when dry and have high shrink-swell properties. The site receives extra water from the surrounding area and will stand water for varying lengths of time.
  - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Ticcano clay  
Willamar clay variant and depressed
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. The climax plant community is an open grassland with varying degrees of wetness. These shallow depressed sites vary from one to ten acres in size with Hartweg paspalum and spike lovegrass near the edges. Buffalograss will occur in lagunas when dry for long periods of time.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	95%	<u>Woody</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	5%
Hartweg paspalum	40		Annual forbs	5
Spike lovegrass	10			
White tridens	10			
Buffalograss	5	Drummond Sesbania T		
Switchgrass	10			
Knotroot bristlegrass	5			
Sedges and rushes	10			
Knotgrass paspalum	5			
Creeping lovegrass	T			

b. As retrogression occurs, mesquite huisache and retama invade and form dense stands. Other common invaders on this site are common bermudagrass, and annual forbs. Rushes and sedges may increase.

c. Approximate total annual yield of the site in excellent condition ranges from 3000 pounds per acre in low production years to 5000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in high production years. Production varies greatly from site to site. Stocking rates should generally be determined based on individual sites.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer, dove, quail and javalina. Several of the forbs and grasses which grow on the site provide good cover and feed for birds and animals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	76-100	9-13
Good	51-75	12-18
Fair	26-50	17-21
Poor	0-25	19+

b. Introduced Species

<u>Species</u>	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Common bermudagrass	11-15	14-19	18-23	23+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Hartweg paspalum White tridens Switchgrass	Knotroot bristlegrass Spike lovegrass sedges Buffalograss	annual forbs Huisache Retama Drummond sesbania

b. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
sedges Annual forbs	White tridens Knotroot bristlegrass Hartweg paspalum	most other grasses Huisache mesquite Drummond sesbania

c. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of: Knotroot bristlegrass Switchgrass most annual forbs	Seed of: Spike lovegrass White tridens sedges Hartweg paspalum	other grasses

d. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
sedges White tridens Knotroot bristlegrass Knotroot panicum Hartweg paspalum	Senna other grasses	Huisache mesquite

## 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.