

LOW STONY HILL
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Edwards Plateau

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as limestone hills with gently rolling to steep slopes, 5 to 45 percent. Elevations range from 2000 to 3000 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. The soils are shallow to very shallow stony loams and clay loams underlain by limestone bedrock which occasionally outcrops. Approximately 50 percent of the surface is covered with limestone fragments 3 to 24 inches in diameter. Available water holding capacity is limited by shallowness; but the site has a good plant-soil-water-air relationship. Runoff is high, and if the site is unprotected by plant cover, the site is highly susceptible to water erosion.
 - b. A soil taxonomic unit which characterizes this site is:
Ector stony loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community consists of short grasses and some mid grasses intermixed with woody shrubs and forbs. In more favorable soil pockets the mid grasses occur in greater abundance.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	80% <u>Woody</u>	15% <u>Forbs</u>	5%		
Sideoats grama	10	Skeletonleaf goldeneye Mariola	3		
Cane bluestem				Orange zexmenia Bushsunflower Greenthread	3
Green sprangletop	10	Range ratany Kidneywood Daleas	5		
Arizona cottontop				Plains zinnia	2
Plains bristlegrass				Verbena Globemallow	
Bush muhly	35	Guajillo Guayacan			
Black grama					
Chino grama					
Slim & rough tridens	5	Wolfberry	5		
Hairy tridens	5	Allthorn Littleleaf sumac			
Perennial threeawns	10	Soapweed Sotol	2		
Fall witchgrass		Sacahuista			
Halls panicum	5				
Sand dropseed					

b. As retrogression occurs, this site becomes more xeric in nature and brushy species and annual plants tend to dominate. Lechuguilla invades rapidly along with fluffgrass, dogweed, tasajillo, desert baileya, red grama, pricklypear, gray coldenia, croton, paperflower, senecio, creosotebush, ear muhly, mesquite, catclaw and ocotillo.

c. Approximate total annual yield for this site in excellent condition ranges from 560 pounds per acre air-dry weight, in unfavorable years to 620 pounds per acre in favorable years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THIS SITE: This site is inhabited by deer, dove and quail. The climax plant community provides good food and cover for these species, as well as non-game birds and animals.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec/Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	75-100	49-80	8-13
Good	51-75	64-128	5-10
Fair	25-50	80-213	3-8
Poor	0-25	160-320	2-4

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Threeawns	All annuals
Plains bristlegrass	Slim & rough tridens	Fluffgrass
Bush muhly	Fall witchgrass	Ear muhly
Black grama	Halls panicum	Lechuguilla
Chino grama	Hairy tridens	Cacti
Cane bluestem	Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Senecio
Arizona cottontop	Sotol	Dogweed
		Sacahuista

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Kidneywood	Guajillo	Dogweed
Orange zexmenia	Mariola	Red grama
Bushsunflower	Globemallow	Croton
Skeletonleaf	Sacahuista	Senecio
goldeneye	Most grasses	Ear muhly
Daleas	Theliosperma	Coldenia
Verbena		
Range ratany		

c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Skeletonleaf	Most grasses	Creosotebush
goldeneye	Sacahuista	Lechuguilla
Kidneywood	Guayacan	Dogweed
Daleas	Allthorn	Red grama
Mariola	Guajillo	Croton
Littleleaf sumac	Sotol	Senecio
Range ratany		Coldenia
Orange zexmenia		
Bushsunflower		

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. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Skeletonleaf	Guayacan	Most grasses
goldeneye	Fall witchgrass	Paperflower
Daleas	Lechuguilla	Dogweed
Kidneywood	Allthorn	Cacti
Bushsunflower	Sotol	Coldenia
Orange zexmenia	Ocotillo	
Verbena		
Sumac		
Mariola		

e. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Sideoats grama	Lechuguilla
Plains bristlegrass	Grass	Grass
Weeds		
Halls panicum		