

Ecological site R083BY012TX Ramadero

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General information

Provisional. A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

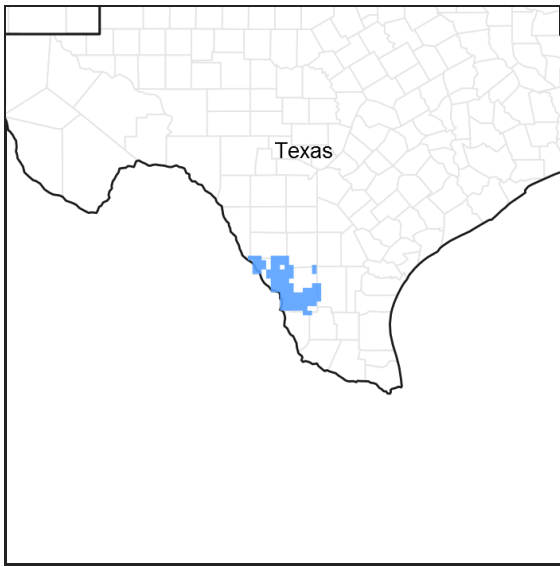


Figure 1. Mapped extent

Areas shown in blue indicate the maximum mapped extent of this ecological site. Other ecological sites likely occur within the highlighted areas. It is also possible for this ecological site to occur outside of highlighted areas if detailed soil survey has not been completed or recently updated.

MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 083B–Western Rio Grande Plain

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 83B It makes up about 9,285 square miles (24,060 square kilometers). The border towns of Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, and Zapata are in this MLRA. Interstate 35 crosses the area just north of Laredo. The Amistad National Recreation Area is just outside this MLRA, northwest of Del Rio, and the Falcon State Recreation Area is southeast of Laredo. Laughlin Air Force Base is just east of Del Rio. This area is comprised of inland, dissected coastal plains.

Classification relationships

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2006.
-Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 83B

Ecological site concept

The Ramadero site is very deep with loamy soils. The sites are on upland drains and are in a water receiving position. This typically allows better moisture availability than nearby uplands.

Associated sites

R083BY002TX	Shallow Ridge
R083BY015TX	Saline Clay
R083BY019TX	Gray Sandy Loam
R083BY009TX	Clayey Bottomland
R083BY023TX	Sandy Loam

Similar sites

R083AY012TX	Loamy Draw
R083CY012TX	Ramadero
R083DY012TX	Ramadero

Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	Not specified
Shrub	(1) <i>Celtis ehrenbergiana</i> (2) <i>Prosopis</i>
Herbaceous	(1) <i>Setaria vulpiseta</i> (2) <i>Digitaria californica</i>

Physiographic features

These nearly level, frequently flooded soils occur along drainageways. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This area is comprised of inland, dissected coastal plains.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Coastal plain > Drainageway
Runoff class	Negligible to low
Flooding duration	Very brief (4 to 48 hours) to brief (2 to 7 days)
Flooding frequency	Frequent
Ponding frequency	None
Elevation	61–183 m
Slope	0–1%
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

Climatic features

MLRA 83B mainly has a subtropical steppe climate along the Rio Grande River and subtropical subhumid climates in La Salle and McMullen counties. Winters are dry and mild and the summers are hot. Tropical maritime air masses predominate throughout spring, summer and fall. Modified polar air masses exert considerable influence during winter, creating a continental climate characterized by large variations in temperature. Peak rainfall occurs late in spring and a secondary peak occurs early in fall. Most heavy thunderstorm activities occur during the summer months. July is hot and dry with little weather variations. Rainfall increases again in late August and September as tropical disturbances increase and become more frequent as the storms dissipate. Tropical air masses from the Gulf of Mexico dominate during the spring, summer and fall. Prevailing winds are southerly to southeasterly throughout the year except in December when winds are predominately northerly.

Table 3. Representative climatic features

Frost-free period (characteristic range)	231-321 days
Freeze-free period (characteristic range)	313-365 days
Precipitation total (characteristic range)	508 mm
Frost-free period (actual range)	214-365 days
Freeze-free period (actual range)	260-365 days
Precipitation total (actual range)	483-533 mm
Frost-free period (average)	270 days
Freeze-free period (average)	340 days
Precipitation total (average)	508 mm

Climate stations used

- (1) FALCON DAM [USC00413060], Roma, TX
- (2) LAREDO 2 [USC00415060], Laredo, TX
- (3) CATARINA [USC00411528], Asherton, TX
- (4) CRYSTAL CITY [USC00412160], Crystal City, TX
- (5) DEL RIO 2 NW [USC00412361], Del Rio, TX
- (6) EAGLE PASS 3N [USC00412679], Eagle Pass, TX
- (7) ZAPATA 1 S [USC00419976], Zapata, TX
- (8) DEL RIO INTL AP [USW00022010], Del Rio, TX

Influencing water features

This site is in a water receiving position on the landscape. It provides an avenue in which to transport water from the uplands to the bottomlands.

Wetland description

N/A.

Soil features

The Ramadero site is very deep, well drained and moderately permeable. These soils formed in alkaline loamy alluvium. The surface layer is brown to very dark grayish brown sandy clay loam. The surface alkalinity ranges from neutral to moderately alkaline. The representative soil series for the Ramadero ecological site is Tela.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Parent material	(1) Alluvium–sedimentary rock
Surface texture	(1) Sandy clay loam
Family particle size	(1) Fine-loamy
Drainage class	Well drained
Permeability class	Moderate
Soil depth	203 cm
Surface fragment cover ≤3"	0%
Surface fragment cover >3"	0%
Available water capacity (0-101.6cm)	15.24–17.78 cm
Calcium carbonate equivalent (0-101.6cm)	0–15%

Electrical conductivity (0-101.6cm)	0–2 mmhos/cm
Sodium adsorption ratio (0-101.6cm)	0–2
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (0-101.6cm)	6.6–8.4
Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified)	2–4%
Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified)	0%

Ecological dynamics

The accounts of early explorers and settlers suggest that the Rio Grande Plains was likely a vast mosaic of open grassland, savannah, and shrubland. While moving in 1691 out of Maverick County and into Zavala County, Don Domingo de Teran found after crossing the Nueces River “the country was level and covered with mesquites and cats’ claw.” In 1849, Michler described south Texas as “concerning the land both on the Frio and the Leona, from these rivers back, that it may be divided into four parallel strips-the first, next to the river, consisting of heavy timber, and a heavy black soil, the second, a mesquite flat, of small width, and the soil of a lighter nature, and very fertile; the third, a range of low hills, covered with loose stones, and thick chaparral; the fourth, a wide-open prairie.” Lehman indicates, “thus while it is quite true that the Rio Grande Plains once had fewer woody plants and more grass than now, it is also true that an ample seed stock of shrubs and trees has been widely distributed for as long as man has known.” The vegetation structure likely varied from place-to-place depending on topography, soil properties, and time since the last major disturbance.

Large numbers of domestic livestock grazed South Texas as early as the mid-1700’s. Formal deeds to properties from the Spanish and Mexican governments came in the late 1760’s with much larger blocks granted in the decades to follow. Lehman indicated, “in 1757, the official Spanish census showed residents of Camargo and Reynosa in the lower Rio Grande owning over 90,000 sheep and goats. By way of contrast, combined numbers of cattle, oxen, horses, mules and burros were less than 16,000.” By the mid-1800’s, according to Lehman’s figures from the U. S. Census of 1889, “there were a minimum of 1,644,268 sheep-fully 45 percent of Texas total population, grazing south of the Nueces River.” According to Inglis, “the Rio Grande Plains had the four-leading sheep producing counties in the state and ten of the top fifteen sheep producing counties were in South Texas. The peak decade was 1880 to 1890, at times exceeding two million head.” These domestic animals were in addition to bison, antelope, deer, and large herds of wild horses. It is obvious from early accounts, that much of the Rio Grande Plains was periodically grazed hard by both domestic animals and wild populations as early as the early to mid-1700’s. It may be that overgrazing by sheep and goats could have suppressed the many shrubs, reduced shrub canopy, and arrested shrub seedlings.

With the arrival of European man, the South Texas area was fenced and, in many instances, stocked beyond its capability to sustain forage. This overstocking led to a reduced fire frequency and intensity, creating an opportunity for woody shrubs to increase across the landscape. As the natural graze-rest cycles were altered and stocking rates continued to exceed the natural carrying capacity of the land, midgrasses were replaced by shortgrasses and the ground cover was opened so additional annual and perennial forbs also increased. Drought certainly enhanced this effect. As prolonged overgrazing continued, shrub cover increased. Shortgrasses became dominant and forage production decreased. This change in plant cover and structure further decreased fire frequency and intensity, favoring shrub establishment and dominance.

The plant communities of this site are dynamic varying in relation to fire, periodic drought, and wet cycles. Periodic fires were set by either Native Americans or started naturally by lightning. Fire did not play as important a role on this site as in deeper more productive sites due to lower production of grasses to burn. Because of large amounts of gravel in the soil, available water holding capacity is greatly reduced. This causes highly variable forage production and minimal grass production during dry years. The historic community of this site was influenced to some extent by periodic grazing by herds of buffalo and wild horses. Herds of buffalo and wild horses would come into an area, graze it down, and then not come back for many months or even years depending upon the availability of water. This long deferment period allowed recovery of the grasses and forbs which served as fuel load. More

than likely, fire occurred following years of good rainfall followed by a dry season. The fire frequency for this area is interpreted to be four to six years (Frost, 1998).

State and transition model

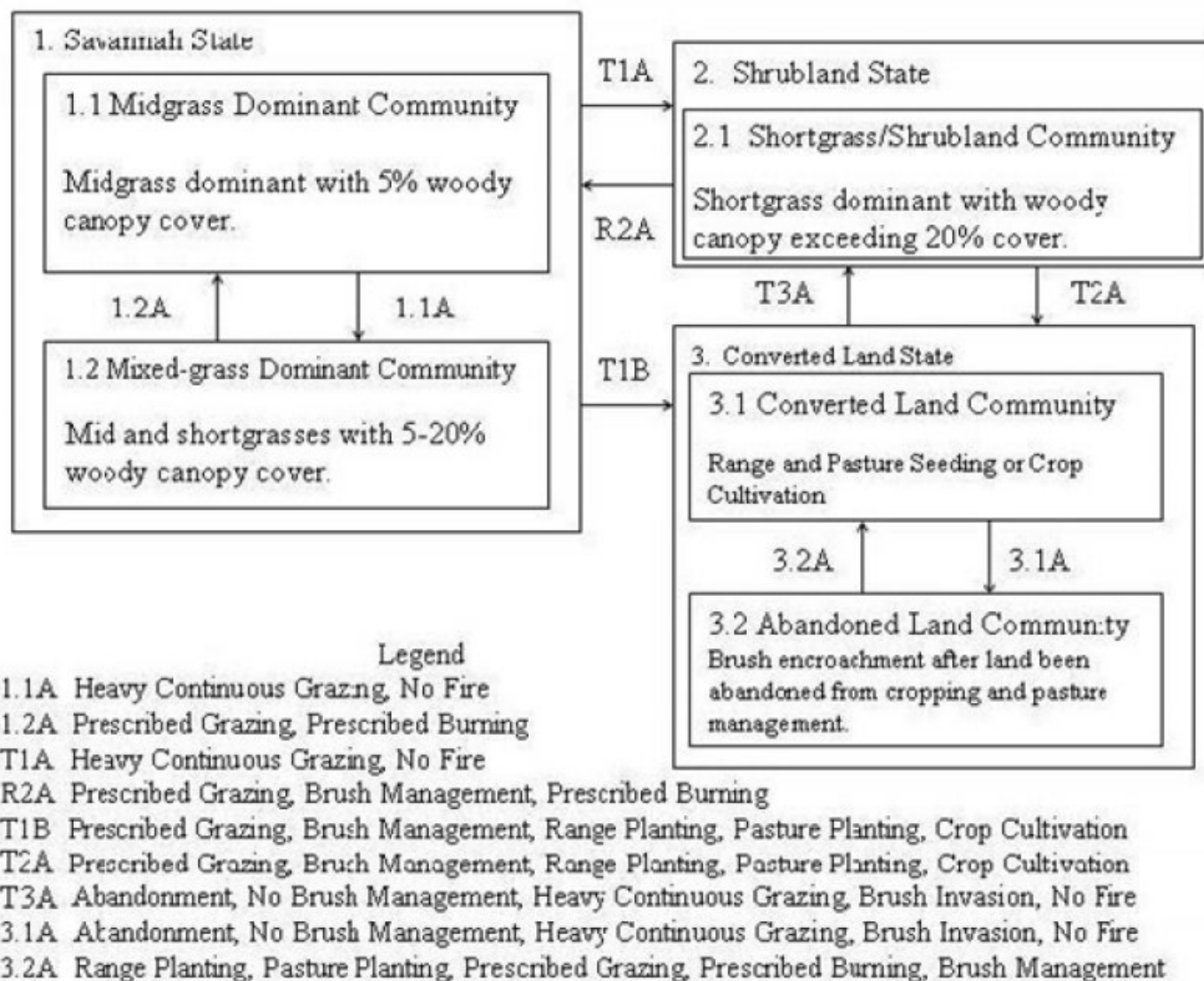


Figure 8. STM

State 1 Savannah

Dominant plant species

- plains bristlegrass (*Setaria vulpiseta*), grass
- false Rhodes grass (*Trichloris*), grass

Community 1.1 Midgrass Dominant

This community represents the reference plant community. The community is a fire climax, midgrass plant community that has less than a five percent canopy of woody plants. The grasses are multi-flowered false Rhodesgrass, plains bristlegrass, Southwestern bristlegrass, Arizona cottontop, sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), silver bluestem, lovegrass tridens (*Tridens eragrostoides*), big cenchrus, hooded windmillgrass, vine mesquite (*Panicum obtusum*), pappusgrass, buffalograss, and curlymesquite. The woody plants are mesquite, spiny hackberry, sugar hackberry, and elm. Forbs are Engelmann's daisy, bushesunflower, yellow neptunia,

sensitivebriar, and numerous annuals. Recurrent fire and occasional grazing by small herds of bison (*Bos bison*) and other wildlife were natural components of the ecosystem.

Table 5. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Kg/Hectare)	Representative Value (Kg/Hectare)	High (Kg/Hectare)
Grass/Grasslike	2438	4539	6053
Shrub/Vine	224	252	336
Forb	140	252	336
Tree	–	–	–
Total	2802	5043	6725

Figure 10. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). TX4525, Midgrass Dominant, 5% woodies. Midgrass plant community with less than a 5 percent canopy of woody plants. Growth occurs with peak in spring and fall seasons..

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	5	10	18	15	5	9	15	9	5	5

Community 1.2 Mixed-grass Dominant

This phase of the Savannah State still exhibits a savannah plant structure with the woody species canopy being as high as 20 percent. This is a result of fire being removed as a component of the site. Heavy continuous grazing takes many of the midgrasses out of the site and they are replaced by shortgrasses such as hooded windmillgrass, pappusgrass, buffalograss, and curly-mesquite. If heavy continuous grazing occurs, tumble windmillgrass, whorled dropseed, Hall’s panicum, perennial three-awn, and tumblegrass increase on the site. Other common woody increasers and invaders to the site are mesquite, whitebrush, huisache, lotebush, and spiny hackberry.

Table 6. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Kg/Hectare)	Representative Value (Kg/Hectare)	High (Kg/Hectare)
Grass/Grasslike	1121	2242	3363
Shrub/Vine	673	560	560
Forb	280	560	560
Tree	–	–	–
Total	2074	3362	4483

Figure 12. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). TX4527, Mixed-Grass Savannah with 5-20% Woodies. Mixed-Grass Savannah Community with the woody canopy cover may be as high as 20%..

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	5	10	18	15	5	9	15	9	5	5

Pathway 1.2A Community 1.2 to 1.1

This phase can still be managed back to the Midgrass Dominant Community (1.1) but will take the reintroduction of fire to the ecosystem or some method of brush management that allows selective removal of the plants. A prescribed grazing plan will be essential to reverse the trend toward the Shrubland State. Increasing the midgrasses in the plant community over an extended time will take the application of sound grazing management principles.

State 2 Shrubland

Dominant plant species

- mesquite (*Prosopis*), shrub

Community 2.1 Shortgrass/Shrubland

This plant community is a result of a transition from the Savannah State (1) to the Shrubland State (2). This threshold is passed when the woody canopy restricts herbaceous growth and insufficient fuel is produced to carry a fire that will control the woody canopy. The understory is very limited in production due to the competition for sunlight, water, and nutrients. There is an increase in mesquite, whitebrush, huisache, lotebush, and spiny hackberry to the point that they dominate the site. At this point there is very little understory production. There is much bare ground that has crusted to the point that there is little water infiltration and little seedling emergence. Water infiltration does occur directly under some of the woody species such as mesquite as it moves down the trunk of the tree to the base. During the growing season, light showers are captured in the canopy of the shrubs and evaporate. Energy flow and nutrient capture is predominantly by the shrubs. Winter rains can produce understory forage by the cool-season annual forbs and grasses.

Table 7. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Kg/Hectare)	Representative Value (Kg/Hectare)	High (Kg/Hectare)
Shrub/Vine	757	1345	2522
Grass/Grasslike	224	841	1121
Forb	28	56	280
Tree	–	–	–
Total	1009	2242	3923

Figure 14. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). TX4535, Shortgrass/Shrubland Community, 20-50% woodies. Shortgrasses and Shrubs dominate the plant community..

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	5	10	18	15	5	9	15	9	5	5

State 3 Converted Land

Dominant plant species

- Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), grass

Community 3.1 Converted Land

Any of the prior plant communities can be converted to alternative plants through brush management and seeding. The site can be planted to either native mixtures or to introduced plants depending upon management objective. Introduced grasses commonly seeded on the site include bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and kleingrass (*Panicum coloratum*). The introduced species will require a concerted management effort to keep the stands pure because of the seedbank of woody species. Native plantings will require some form of brush removal such as individual plant treatment, prescribed fire, broadcast treatments, or mechanical treatments to maintain a grassland.

Table 8. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Kg/Hectare)	Representative Value (Kg/Hectare)	High (Kg/Hectare)
Grass/Grasslike	2802	5044	6725
Shrub/Vine	–	–	–
Tree	–	–	–
Forb	–	–	–
Total	2802	5044	6725

Figure 16. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). TX4530, Converted Land Community. Community converted into warm-season grass seed mixtures..

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	5	10	18	15	5	9	15	9	5	5

Figure 17. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). TX4531, Converted Land - Introduced Grass Seeding. Seeding Covered Land into Introduced grass species..

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	5	10	20	15	5	10	15	10	5	5

Community 3.2 Abandoned Land

This plant community develops from agriculture that has been abandoned. Due to the lack of fire or some other method of brush management, shrub seedlings establish and spread. If the seedlings are not controlled, this plant community will transition to the Shrubland State (2) and will require some form of brush management via machinery or herbicides to reduce the canopy. Production on the Abandoned Land Community depends on the grazing management and brush management that has been applied since seeding, and the canopy of the shrubs invading or spreading on the site. As the canopy of the shrubs expands, grasses and forb production will be reduced accordingly.

Table 9. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Kg/Hectare)	Representative Value (Kg/Hectare)	High (Kg/Hectare)
Grass/Grasslike	2438	4539	6053
Shrub/Vine	224	252	336
Forb	140	252	336
Tree	–	–	–
Total	2802	5043	6725

Figure 19. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). TX4534, Converted Land - Woody Seedlings Encroachment. Woody seedling encroachment on converted lands such as abandoned cropland, native seeded land, and introduced seeding lands..

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	5	10	18	15	5	9	15	9	5	5

Pathway 3.2A Community 3.2 to 3.1

Many land managers may want to utilize this site as cropland or pastureland. To achieve this transition land clearing practices such as land clearing, dozing and raking will be necessary. After the land has been cleared and an

appropriate seedbed prepared, the crop or pasture can be planted.

Transition T1A

State 1 to 2

If heavy continuous grazing occurs with the exclusion of fire, the phase will transition to the Shrubland State (2). Drought will hasten the process. Once the woody canopy exceeds approximately 20 percent, a threshold is crossed. In this case, energy in the form of heavy equipment and/or herbicides will be required along with prescribed grazing to shift the plant community back to the Savannah State (1). Once the woody plants pass this threshold, grazing management alone will not reverse the woody plant population.

Transition T1B

State 1 to 3

The Savannah State (1) can be converted to the Converted Land State (3) by controlling the brush and seeding to native or introduced grasses. It may also be plowed and converted to cropland.

Restoration pathway R2A

State 2 to 1

Brush management is the key driver in restoring the Shrubland State (2) back to the Savannah State (1). Reduction in woody canopy below 20 percent will take large energy inputs depending on the canopy cover. A prescribed grazing plan and prescribed burning plan will keep the state functioning.

Transition T2A

State 2 to 3

The Shrubland State (2) can be converted to the Converted Land State (3) by controlling the brush and seeding to native or introduced grasses. It may also be plowed and converted to cropland.

Transition T3A

State 3 to 2

If the Abandoned Land Community (3.2) is left alone, eventually the woody plants will create a moderate to heavy canopy. At this point, the desired understory grasses, forbs, and/or crops will be shaded out and the site will transition into a Shrubland State (2).

Additional community tables

Table 10. Community 1.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production (Kg/Hectare)	Foliar Cover (%)
Grass/Grasslike					
1	Midgrasses			1121–3475	
	plains bristlegrass	SEVU2	<i>Setaria vulpiseta</i>	1121–2802	–
	multiflower false Rhodes grass	TRPL3	<i>Trichloris pluriflora</i>	1121–2242	–
	southwestern bristlegrass	SESC2	<i>Setaria scheelei</i>	560–1681	–
2	Midgrasses			841–1793	
	Arizona cottontop	DICA8	<i>Digitaria californica</i>	560–1345	–
	sideoats grama	BOCU	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	560–1345	–
	silver beardgrass	BOLAT	<i>Bothriochloa laguroides</i> ssp. <i>torreyana</i>	560–1345	–
	vine mesquite	PAOB	<i>Panicum obtusum</i>	280–1121	–
	big sandbur	CEMY	<i>Cenchrus myosuroides</i>	280–841	–
	hooded windmill grass	CHCU2	<i>Chloris cucullata</i>	280–841	–
	lovegrass tridens	TRER	<i>Tridens eragrostoides</i>	112–560	–
	pink pappusgrass	PABI2	<i>Pappophorum bicolor</i>	280–560	–
3	Shortgrasses			140–336	
	buffalograss	BODA2	<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	56–336	–
	curly-mesquite	HIBE	<i>Hilaria belangeri</i>	56–336	–
4	Cool-season grasses			112–448	
	Forb, annual	2FA	<i>Forb, annual</i>	112–448	–
Forb					
5	Forbs			140–336	
	Engelmann's daisy	ENPE4	<i>Engelmannia peristenia</i>	28–140	–
	Nuttall's sensitive-briar	MINU6	<i>Mimosa nuttallii</i>	28–140	–
	yellow puff	NELU2	<i>Neptunia lutea</i>	28–140	–
	awnless bushsunflower	SICA7	<i>Simsia calva</i>	28–140	–
	Forb, annual	2FA	<i>Forb, annual</i>	0–56	–
Shrub/Vine					
6	Shrubs/Vines			224–336	
	spiny hackberry	CEEH	<i>Celtis ehrenbergiana</i>	56–168	–
	netleaf hackberry	CELAR	<i>Celtis laevigata</i> var. <i>reticulata</i>	56–168	–
	mesquite	PROSO	<i>Prosopis</i>	56–168	–
	elm	ULMUS	<i>Ulmus</i>	56–168	–

Animal community

As a historic tall/midgrass prairie, this site was occupied by bison, antelope, deer, quail, turkey, and dove. This site was also used by many species of grassland songbirds, migratory waterfowl, and coyotes. This site now provides forage for livestock and is still used by quail, dove, migratory waterfowl, grassland birds, coyotes, and deer.

Feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) can be found on most ecological sites in Texas. Damage caused by feral hogs each year includes, crop damage by rutting up crops, destroyed fences, livestock watering areas, and predation on native wildlife. Feral hogs have few natural predators, thus allowing their population to grow to high numbers.

Wildlife habitat is a complex of many different plant communities and ecological sites across the landscape. Most animals use the landscape differently to find food, shelter, protection, and mates. Working on a conservation plan for the whole property, with a local professional, will help managers make the decisions that allow them to realize their goals for wildlife and livestock.

Grassland State(1): This state provides the maximum amount of forage for livestock such as cattle. It is also utilized by deer, quail and other birds as a source of food. When a site is in the reference plant community phase (1.1) it will also be used by some birds for nesting, if other habitat requirements like thermal and escape cover are near.

Shrubland State (2): This state can be maintained to meet the habitat requirements of cattle and wildlife. Land managers can find a balance that meets their goals and allows them flexibility to manage for livestock and wildlife. Forbs for deer and birds like quail will be more plentiful in this state. There will also be more trees and shrubs to provide thermal and escape cover for birds as well as cover for deer.

Converted Land State (3): The quality of wildlife habitat this site will produce is extremely variable and is influenced greatly by the timing of rain events. This state is often manipulated to meet landowner goals. If livestock production is the main goal, it can be converted to pastureland. It can also be planted to a mix of grasses and forbs that will benefit both livestock and wildlife. A mix of forbs in the pasture could attract pollinators, birds and other types of wildlife. Food plots can also be planted to provide extra nutrition for deer.

This rating system provides general guidance as to animal preference for plant species. It also indicates possible competition between kinds of herbivores for various plants. Grazing preference changes from time to time, especially between seasons, and between animal kinds and classes. Grazing preference does not necessarily reflect the ecological status of the plant within the plant community. For wildlife, plant preferences for food and plant suitability for cover are rated. Refer to habitat guides for a more complete description of a species habitat needs.

Hydrological functions

This can be described as an upland drainage. The site occupies a position to receive both water and sediment, but rarely ponds water due to being well drained. The runoff water, along with the sediment received, makes this site productive in terms of plant biomass when compared to surrounding sites upslope. When the site is in the Shrubland State (2), much of the small rainfall events are trapped in the canopy only to evaporate before reaching the soil. In higher rainfall events, the rain is channeled down to the ground via the trunks and stems of the woody plants, fostering the development of cool-season plants.

Recreational uses

Hunting and bird watching are common activities.

Inventory data references

Information presented was derived from the revised Range Site, literature, limited NRCS clipping data (417s), field observations, and personal contacts with range-trained personnel.

Other references

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Rangeland health reference sheet

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

Author(s)/participant(s)	
Contact for lead author	
Date	05/06/2024
Approved by	Bryan Christensen
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:**

2. **Presence of water flow patterns:**

3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:**

4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):**

5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:**

-
6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:**
-
7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):**
-
8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):**
-
9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):**
-
10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:**
-
11. **Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):**
-
12. **Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):**
- Dominant:
- Sub-dominant:
- Other:
- Additional:
-
13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):**
-
14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):**
-
15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):**
-
16. **Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that**

become dominant for only one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state for the ecological site:

17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:**
