

RANGELAND PRODUCTIVITY
Sumner County, Kansas

Use and Explanation of Rangeland, Grazed Forest Land, Native Pastureland Interpretations

Information in this subsection can be used to plan the use and management of soils for rangeland, grazed forest land, and native pasture. Different kinds of soils vary in their capacity to produce native grasses and other plants suitable for grazing. Information in this subsection provides groupings of similar soils and estimates of potential forage production, which can be used to determine livestock stocking rates.

Rangeland. Range is land on which the native vegetation (climax or natural potential plant community) is predominantly grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, and shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing. Range includes natural grasslands, savannas, many wetlands, some deserts, tundra, and certain shrub and forb communities. Rangeland receives no regular or frequent cultural treatment. The composition and production of the plant community are determined by soil, climate, topography, overstory canopy, and grazing management.

Grazed Forest Land. Includes land on which the understory includes, as an integral part of the forest plant community, plants that can be grazed without significantly impairing other forest values.

Native Pasture. Includes land on which the native vegetation (climax or natural potential plant community) is forest but which is used and managed primarily for production of native plants for forage. Native pasture includes cut-over forest land and forest land cleared and now managed for native or naturalized forage plants.

Rangeland

In areas that have similar climate and topography, differences in the kind and amount of vegetation produced on rangeland are closely related to the kind of soil. Effective management based on the relationship between the soils and vegetation and water.

The Rangeland, Grazed Forest land, Native Pastureland Interpretations shows, for each soil that supports rangeland vegetation, the ecological site and the potential annual production of vegetation in favorable, normal, unfavorable years. An explanation of the column headings in this table follows.

An ecological site is the product of all the environmental factors responsible for its development. It has characteristic soils that have developed over time throughout the soil development process; a characteristic hydrology, particularly infiltration and runoff, that has developed over time; and a characteristic plant community (kind and amount of vegetation). The hydrology of a site is influenced by development of the soil and plant community. The vegetation, soils, and hydrology are all interrelated. Each is influenced by the others and influences the development of the others. The plant community on an ecological site is typified by an association of species that differs from that of other ecological sites in the kind and/or proportion of species or in total production. Descriptions of ecological sites are provided in the Field Office Technical Guide, which is available in local offices of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Total dry-weight production is the amount of vegetation that can be expected to grow annually on well managed rangeland that is supporting the potential natural plant community. It includes all vegetation, whether or not it is palatable to grazing animals. It includes the current year's growth of leaves, twigs, and fruits of woody plants. It does not include the increase in stem diameter of trees and shrubs. It is expressed in pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation for favorable, average, and unfavorable years. In a favorable year, the amount and distribution of precipitation and the temperatures make growing conditions substantially better than average. In a normal year, growing conditions are about average. In an unfavorable year, growing conditions are well below average, generally because of low available soil moisture. Yields are adjusted to a common percent of air-dry moisture content.

Range management requires a knowledge of the kinds of soil and of the potential natural plant community. It also requires an evaluation of the present range similarity index and rangeland trend. Range similarity index is determined by comparing the present plant community with the potential natural plant community on a particular rangeland ecological site. The more closely the existing community resembles the potential community, the higher the range similarity index. Rangeland trend is defined as the direction of change in an existing plant community relative to the potential natural plant community. Further information about the range similarity index and rangeland trend is available in chapter 4 of the National Range and Pasture Handbook, which is available in local offices of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The objective in range management is to control grazing so that the plants growing on a site are about the same in kind and amount as the potential natural plant community for that site. Such management generally results in the optimum production of vegetation, control of undesirable brush species, conservation of water, and control of erosion. Sometimes, however, an area with a range similarity index somewhat below the potential meets grazing needs, provides wildlife habitat, and protects soil and water resources.

RANGELAND PRODUCTIVITY--Continued
Sumner County, Kansas

(Only the soils that support rangeland vegetation suitable for grazing are rated.) Refer to range site description to determine the percentage allowable of grasses, forbs, and shrubs for the range ecological site.

Map symbol and soil name	Ecological site	Total dry-weight production		
		Favorable year	Average year	Unfavorable year
		Lb/acre	Lb/acre	Lb/acre
015LS: Ladysmith-----	Clay Upland (pe25-34)	5,000	3,500	2,000
035LG: Lincoln-----	Sandy Lowland (pe24-32)	6,500	5,500	4,000
Tivoli-----	Sands (pe24-32)	4,000	3,000	2,000
035VC: Vanoss-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,700	2,500
035VD: Verdigris-----	Loamy Lowland (pe30-36)	10,000	8,500	6,000
077AN: Kaski-----	Loamy Lowland (pe24-32)	7,000	6,000	4,500
077BM: Lincoln-----	Sands (pe24-32)	3,000	2,300	1,800
077BP: Woodward-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Port-----	Loamy Lowland (pe24-32)	8,500	6,100	4,500
077CE: Corbin-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
077CF: Corbin-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
077GN: Grant-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,700	2,500
077GS: Grant-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,700	2,500
077KR: Kirkland-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Renfrow-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
077KW: Kirkland-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Renfrow-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
077PH: Dale-----	Loamy Terrace (pe24-32)	8,500	6,100	4,500
077PT: Pratt-----	Sands (pe24-32)	4,500	3,500	2,500
Tivoli-----	Sands (pe24-32)	2,000	1,400	1,000
077SO: Shellabarger-----	Sandy (pe24-32)	4,500	3,200	2,000
Albion-----	Sandy (pe24-32)	4,000	3,000	2,000
077TH: Tivoli-----	Choppy Sands (pe24-32)	2,000	1,400	1,000
095DA: Dillwyn-----	Subirrigated (pe24-32)	9,000	8,000	7,000
Plevna-----	Subirrigated (pe24-32)	9,000	8,000	7,000
095OA: Wellsford-----	Red Clay Prairie (pe24-32)	3,000	2,000	1,500
095RA: Renfrow-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
173EA: Elandco-----	Loamy Terrace (pe24-32)	6,500	5,000	3,500
173LA: Lesho-----	Subirrigated (pe24-32)	9,000	8,000	7,000
173PB: Plevna-----	Subirrigated (pe24-32)	9,000	8,000	7,000
173RA: Renfrow-----	Red Clay Prairie (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
1439: Crisfield-----	Sandy Terrace (pe24-32)	6,000	5,000	3,500
AED: Arents, Earthen Dam-----	---	---	---	---
Ba: Bethany-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,000	3,500	2,500
Bb: Bethany-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,000	3,500	2,500
BOA: Borrow Areas-----	---	---	---	---
Br: Brewer-----	Loamy Terrace (pe24-32)	6,000	4,200	3,000
Bs: Brewer-----	Loamy Terrace (pe24-32)	6,000	4,200	3,000
Drummond-----	Saline Lowland (pe24-32)	7,000	5,800	5,000
Ca: Canadian-----	Sandy Terrace (pe24-32)	8,500	6,100	4,500
CAA: Canadian-----	Sandy Terrace (pe24-32)	6,500	4,500	3,500
Cc: Carwile-----	Sandy (pe24-32)	5,000	3,800	3,000
Cr: Corbin-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
Da: Dale-----	Loamy Terrace (pe24-32)	8,500	6,100	4,500
Dr: Dale-----	Loamy Terrace (pe24-32)	8,500	6,100	4,500
Reinach-----	Loamy Terrace (pe24-32)	8,500	6,100	4,500
Ea: Elandco-----	Loamy Lowland (pe24-32)	6,500	5,000	3,500

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Map symbol and soil name	Ecological site	Total dry-weight production		
		Favorable year	Average year	Unfavorable year
		Lb/acre	Lb/acre	Lb/acre
Ec:				
Elandco-----	Loamy Lowland (pe24-32)	6,500	5,000	3,500
Fa:				
Farnum-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
Fb:				
Farnum-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
Fc:				
Farnum-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
Fd:				
Farnum-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
GRP:				
Gravel Pits-----	---	---	---	---
INT:				
Aquolls-----	---	---	---	---
IRR:				
Irwin-----	Clay Upland (pe25-34)	5,000	3,500	2,000
Ka:				
Kirkland-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Kb:				
Kirkland-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Kc:				
Kirkland-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Lo:				
Lesho-----	Subirrigated (pe24-32)	9,000	8,000	7,000
Ls:				
Lincoln-----	Sandy Lowland (pe24-32)	3,000	2,300	1,800
M-W:				
Miscellaneous Water-----	---	---	---	---
Ma:				
Milan-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
Mb:				
Milan-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
Mc:				
Milan-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
Md:				
Milan-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	4,000	2,500
On:				
Wellsford-----	Red Clay Prairie (pe24-32)	3,000	2,000	1,500
Oo:				
Wellsford-----	Red Clay Prairie (pe24-32)	3,000	2,000	1,500
Op:				
Wellsford-----	Red Clay Prairie (pe24-32)	3,000	2,000	1,500
Elandco-----	Loamy Lowland (pe24-32)	6,500	5,000	3,500
Or:				
Wellsford-----	Red Clay Prairie (pe24-32)	3,000	2,000	1,500
Renfrow-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Os:				
Wellsford-----	Red Clay Prairie (pe24-32)	3,000	2,000	1,500
Shale Outcrop-----	---	---	---	---
Pa:				
Pond Creek-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,850	2,750
Pb:				
Pond Creek-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,850	2,750
Pc:				
Pond Creek-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,850	2,750
Pd:				
Pond Creek-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,850	2,750
Px:				
Pratt-----	Sands (pe24-32)	4,500	3,500	2,500
Ra:				
Renfrow-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Grainola-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	4,000	2,800	2,000
Ro:				
Rosehill-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,500	2,000
Rs:				
Rosehill-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,500	2,000
Rx:				
Rosehill-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,500	2,000
Sa:				
Shellabarger-----	Sandy (pe24-32)	4,500	3,200	2,000
Sb:				
Shellabarger-----	Sandy (pe24-32)	4,500	3,200	2,000
Sc:				
Shellabarger-----	Sandy (pe24-32)	4,500	3,200	2,000
Ta:				
Tabler-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	3,800	2,600	1,800
Tv:				
Tivoli-----	Choppy Sands (pe24-32)	2,000	1,400	1,000
Us:				
Ustifluvents-----	---	---	---	---
Va:				
Vanoss-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,700	2,500
Vb:				
Vanoss-----	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,700	2,500
Vc:				

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		Favorable year	Average year	Unfavorable year
		Lb/acre	Lb/acre	Lb/acre
Vanoss----- W:	Loamy Upland (pe24-32)	5,500	3,700	2,500
Water (< 40 Acres)----- Wa:	---	---	---	---
Waurika-----	Clay Upland (pe24-32)	3,500	2,300	1,500

