

CHIHUAHUAN GYPSOPHILOUS GRASSLAND AND STEPPE

Nature Serve ID: CES302.732

Geology: Extensive occurrences associated with the Permian Castile Formation and alluvium within evaporative bolsons. The system also occupies scattered occurrences of exposed gypsite and alluvium of evaporative ponds and swales receiving deposition from eroding gypsiferous formations.

Landform: Rolling uplands with minor erosional scarps as well as level basins and drainages.

Soils: Gyp, gyp hills, vegetated gypsum dunes, gyp upland and gyp (desert grassland) ecoclasses.

Description: Occurrences may be sparsely vegetated, grassy, or shrublands. Also included here are the gypsum dunes. Sites occupied by this system may be rolling and erosional uplands, as well as alluvium of basins and drainages. Gypsophilous species are frequently encountered, including *Sporobolus nealleyi* (gypgrass), *Bouteloua breviseta* (gyp grama), *Tiquilia hispidissima* (rough coldenia), *Nama carnosum* (sand nama), *Sartwellia flaveriae* (threadleaf glowwort), *Gaillardia multiceps* (onion blanket-flower), *Anulocaulis* spp. (ringstems) and *Selinocarpus* spp. (moonpods). Other species that may be encountered include *Atriplex canescens* (four-wing saltbush), *Ephedra torreyana* (Torrey jointfir), *Calylophus hartwegii* (Hartweg evening primrose), *Poliomintha incana* (hoary rosemary-mint), *Yucca torreyi* (Torrey's yucca), *Sporobolus airoides* (alkali sacaton), *Scleropogon brevifolius* (burrograss), *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush), *Condalia ericoides* (javelina bush), and *Sporobolus cryptandrus* (sand dropseed). This system includes the gypsum dunes which range from sparsely vegetated to scattered shrubs with patchy herbaceous cover. In addition to many of the species above, the composition of the dunes includes *Artemisia filifolia* (sand sage), *Psoralea scoparius* (broom pea), *Poliomintha incana* (hoary rosemary-mint), *Dalea lanata* (wooly dalea), *Andropogon hallii* (sand bluestem), *Sporobolus giganteus* (giant dropseed), *Dimorphocarpa wislizeni* (spectaclepod), *Tidestromia lanuginosa* (wooly tidestromia), *Krameria lanceolata* (trailing ratany), *Mentzelia* spp. (blazingstar), and *Yucca elata* (soaptree yucca).

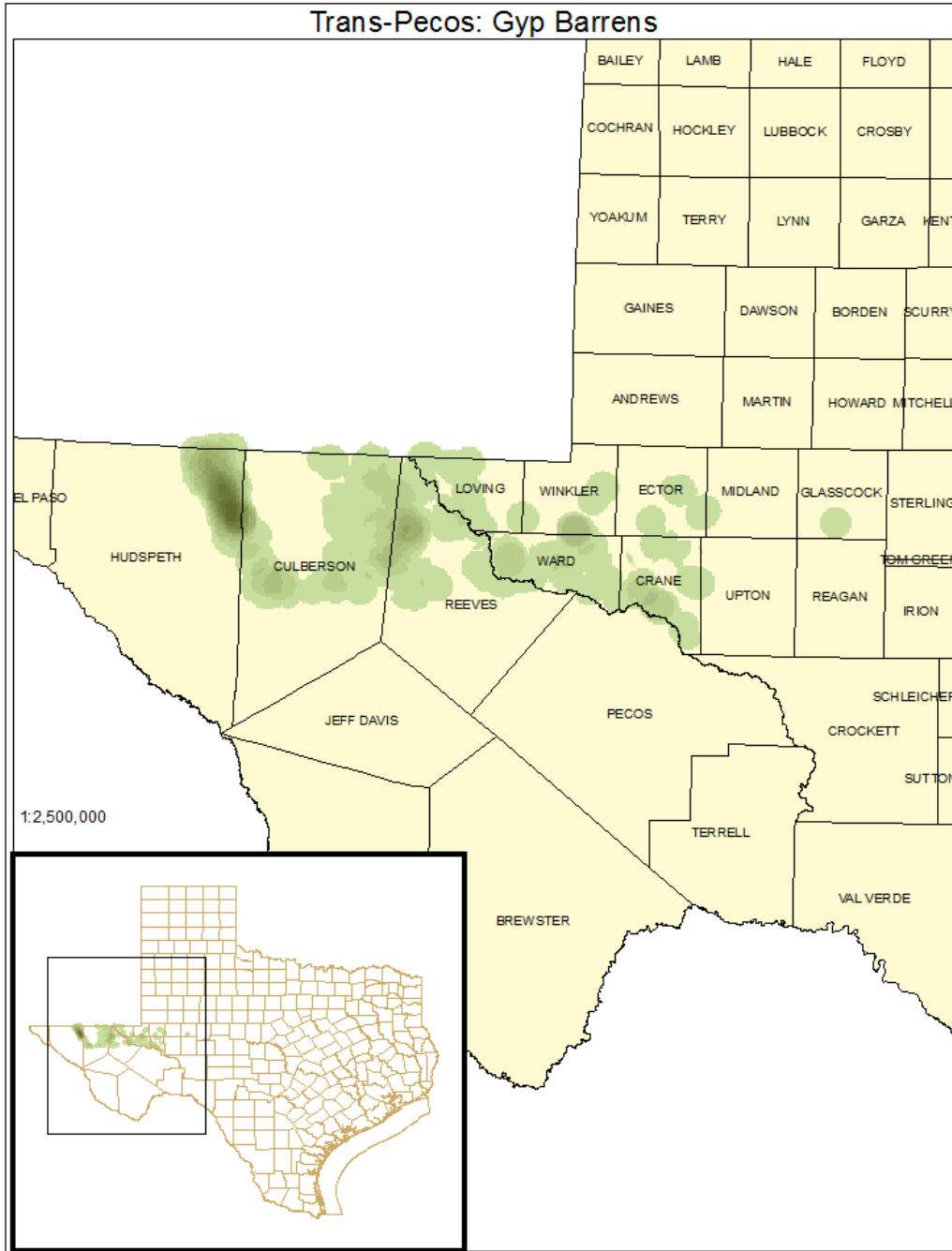
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

TRANS-PECOS: GYP BARRENS

Mapping System ID: 10300

EMS Description: Sparsely vegetated gyp sites.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

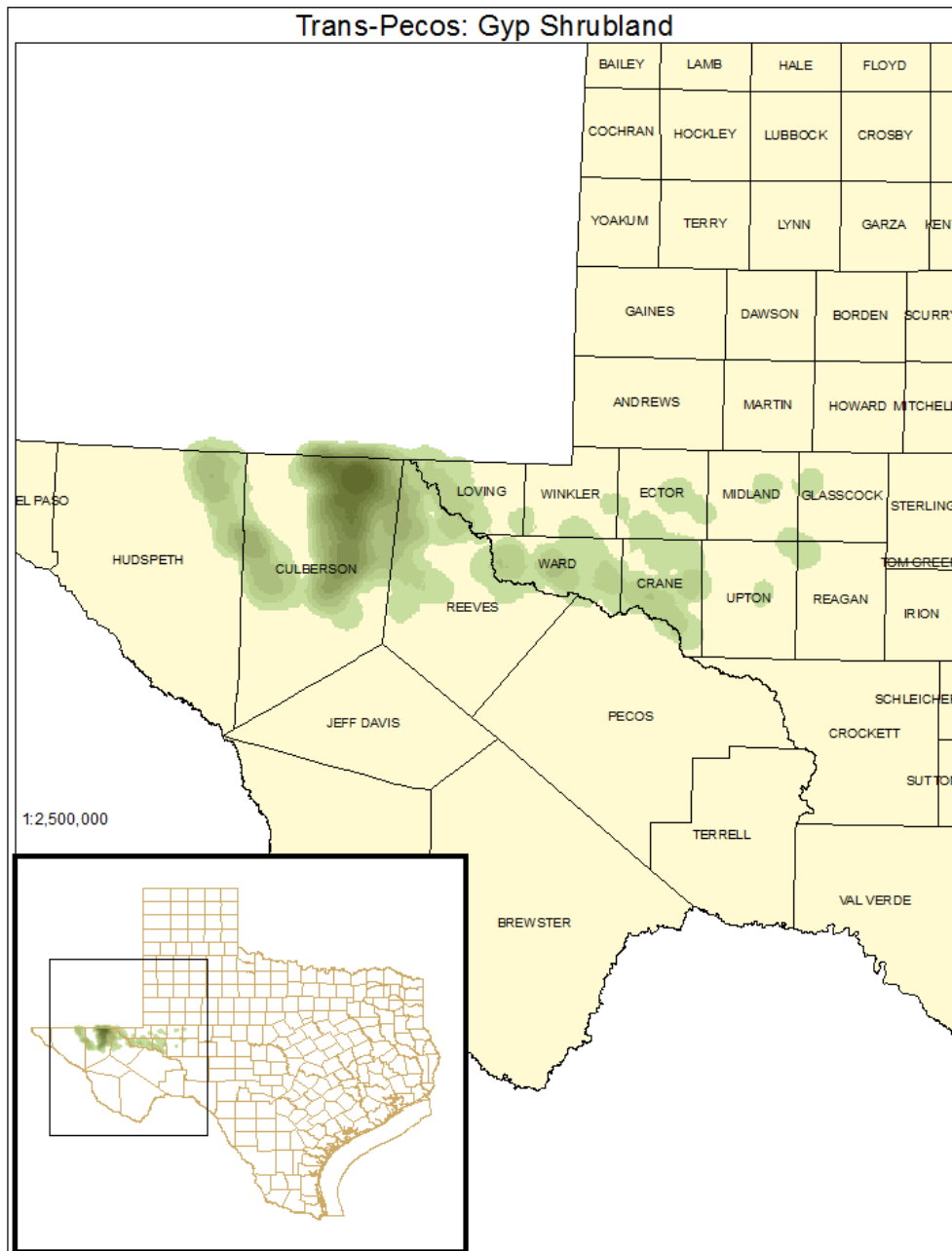
Guadalupe Mountains National Park: US National Park Service

TRANS-PECOS: GYP SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 10306

EMS Description: Gyp sites with significant shrub cover with species including *Atriplex canescens* (four-wing saltbush), *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush), *Condalia ericoides* (javelina bush), *Yucca torreyi* (Torrey's yucca), and/or *Ephedra torreyana* (Torrey jointfir).

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

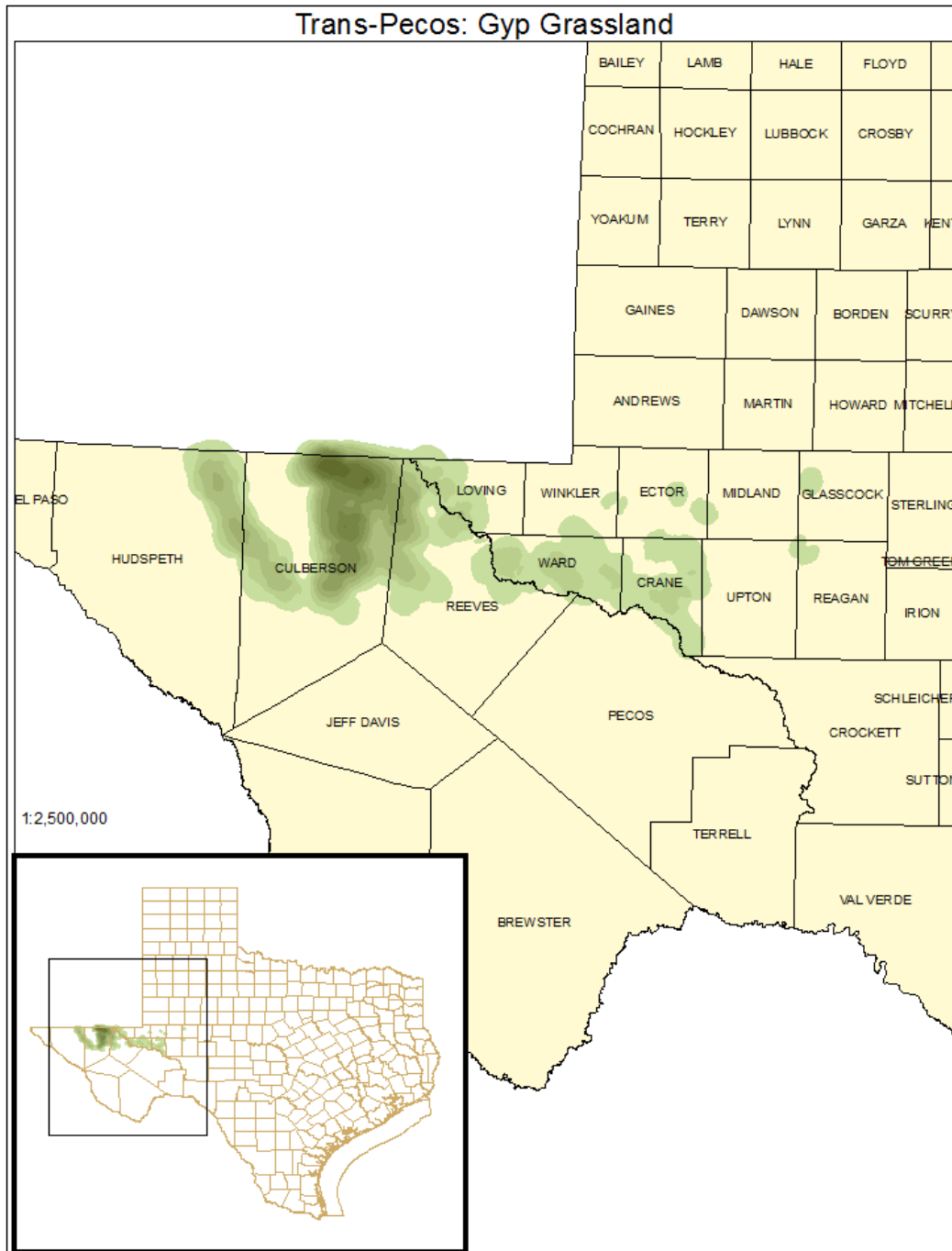
Guadalupe Mountains National Park: US National Park Service

TRANS-PECOS: GYP GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 10307

EMS Description: Gyp sites with sparse shrub layer and with herbaceous layer present, including herbaceous species mentioned in the system description.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

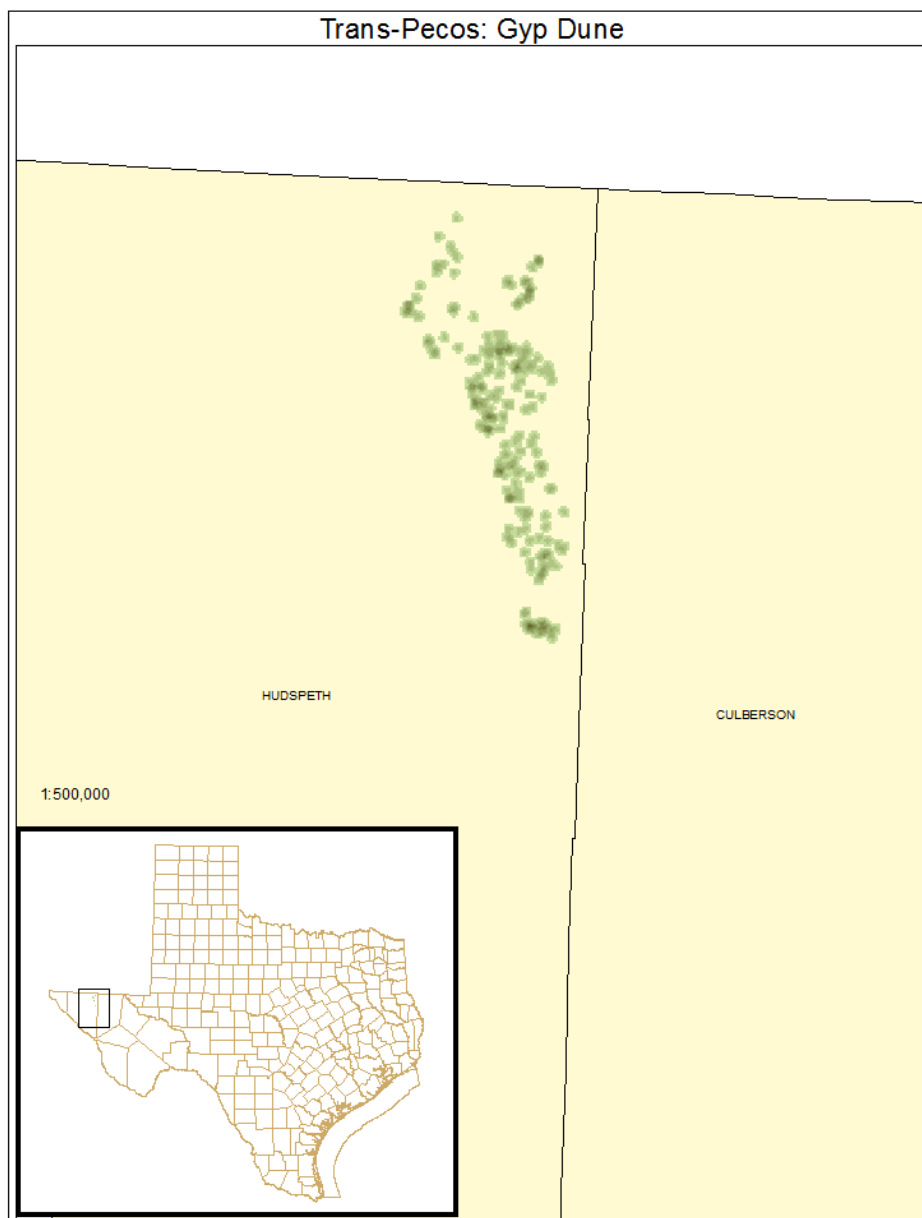
Guadalupe Mountains National Park: US National Park Service

TRANS-PECOS: GYP DUNE

Mapping System ID: 10310

EMS Description: In addition to other species mentioned for the system, the composition of the dunes includes *Artemisia filifolia* (sand sage), *Psoralea scoparius* (broom pea), *Poliomintha incana* (hoary rosemary-mint), *Dalea lanata* (wooly dalea), *Andropogon hallii* (sand bluestem), *Sporobolus giganteus* (giant dropseed), *Achnatherum hymenoides* (Indian ricegrass), *Dimorphocarpa wislizeni* (spectaclepod), *Tidestromia lanuginosa* (wooly tidestromia), *Krameria lanceolata* (trailing ratany), *Mentzelia* spp. (blazingstar), and *Yucca elata* (soaptree yucca).

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Guadalupe Mountains National Park: US National Park Service