

CHIHUAHUAN LOAMY PLAINS DESERT GRASSLAND

Nature Serve ID: CES302.061

Geology: Primarily occurs on Quaternary alluvium. Included in this system are also grasslands that occupy other formation at higher elevations of mountain foothills. These grasslands may occupy various sedimentary and igneous substrates.

Landform: Level intermountain basins as well as level to gently rolling landforms on the foothills.

Soils: Loamy soils. The foothill grasslands often occupy Shallow Ecological Sites over Perdiz Conglomerate, but may also occur on gravelly sites.

Description: Currently this system (as considered for Phase 5) includes two somewhat distinct grassland types. These grasslands occupy loams of the intermountain basins, and also represent foothill grasslands that occupy shallow soils at the basin edges. These types are often closely juxtaposed and share graminoid composition but differ in abiotic sites, aspect, and invading shrubs. The loamy grasslands are dominated by species such as *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama), *Bouteloua curtipendula* (sideoats grama), *Bouteloua eriopoda* (black grama), *Pleuraphis mutica* (tobosa), *Scleropogon brevifolius* (burrograss), *Bothriochloa laguroides* ssp. *torreyana* (silver bluestem), *Bothriochloa barbinodis* (cane bluestem), and *Dasyochloa pulchella* (fluffgrass). These grasslands occur in extensive level plains with deep soils. *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) is the common shrub invader. Other shrubs present to dominant as invaders include *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush), *Flourensia cernua* (tarbush), and *Mimosa aculeaticarpa* var. *biuncifera* (catclaw). The foothill grasslands are of similar composition with respect to grasses, but occupy rolling landscapes at slightly higher elevations and are on shallow soils. *Condalia ericoides* (javelina bush), *Juniperus* spp. (junipers), and *Acacia constricta* (whitethorn acacia) are common invaders.

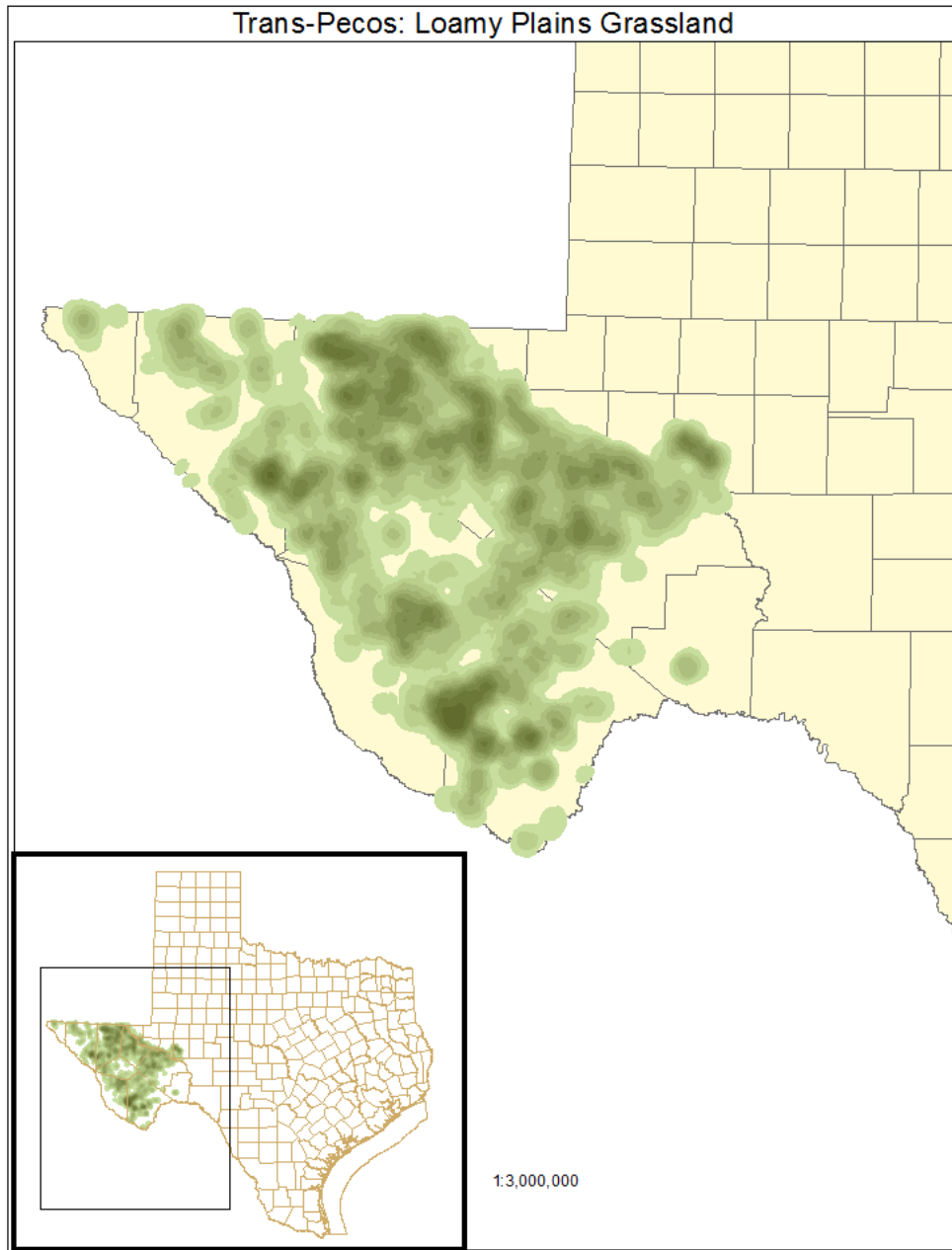
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

TRANS-PECOS: LOAMY PLAINS GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 8807

EMS Description: This grassland occupies level, deep loams of intermountain basins and is frequently invaded by *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush), and *Flourensia cernua* (tarbush).

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Big Bend National Park: US National Park Service

Big Bend Ranch State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Black Gap Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Davis Mountains State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Fort Davis National Historic Site: US National Park Service

Guadalupe Mountains National Park: US National Park Service

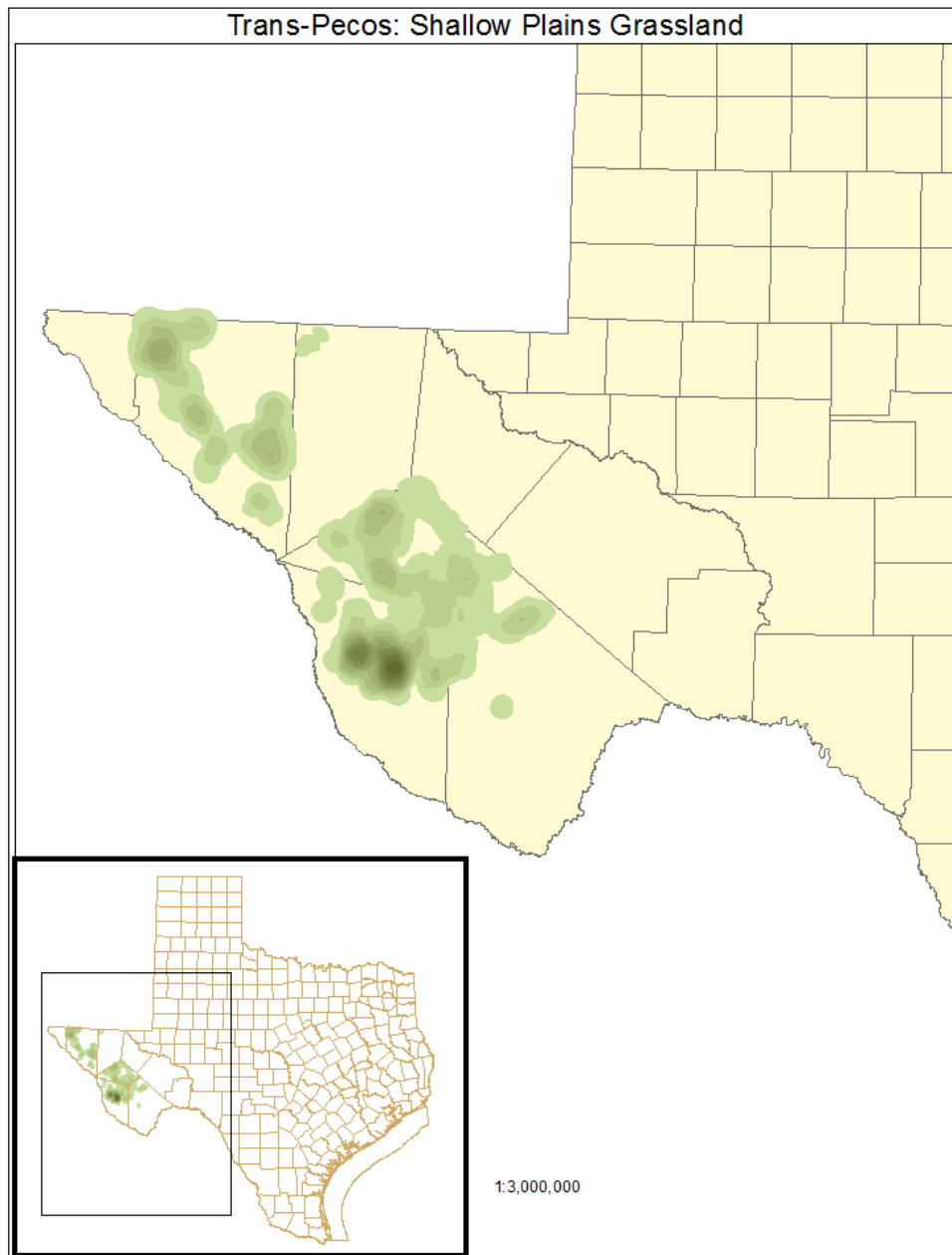
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

TRANS-PECOS: SHALLOW PLAINS GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 8817

EMS Description: This grassland occupies rolling uplands with shallow soils and is frequently invaded by *Condalia ericoides* (javelina bush), *Juniperus* spp. (junipers), and *Acacia constricta* (whitethorn acacia).

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Davis Mountains State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Fort Davis National Historic Site: US National Park Service

Guadalupe Mountains National Park: US National Park Service

Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department