

CHIHUAHUAN – SONORAN DESERT BOTTOMLAND AND SWALE GRASSLAND

Nature Serve ID: CES302.746

Geology: Typically on Quaternary alluvium, but may be local in nature and mapped within various geological formations.

Landform: Generally found on local topographic lows that may be associated with a drainage or may occur as basins or swales.

Soils: Found on tight soils, typically Clay Flat Ecological Sites.

Parent Description: This system is named based on the regions (Chihuahuan and Sonoran Deserts) where it is best developed and occupies significant areas, however it does occur well outside these regions, at least as far north and east as the Rolling Plains of Texas. The system typically occurs in local topographic lows that may be associated with drainages, or may represent swales or basins, but typically receives run-off from the surrounding landscape. Soils are generally clayey, and in some cases the shrink-swell characteristics of the soil may limit the development of woody species. *Pleuraphis mutica* (tobosa) is generally the clear dominant, though other species such as *Panicum obtusum* (vine-mesquite), *Sporobolus airoides* (alkali sacaton), and *Pascopyrum smithii* (western wheatgrass) may be present. *Prosopis glandulosa* (mesquite) may be present, and in some cases may develop into a significant canopy. The system often occupies the Clay Flat Ecological Site.

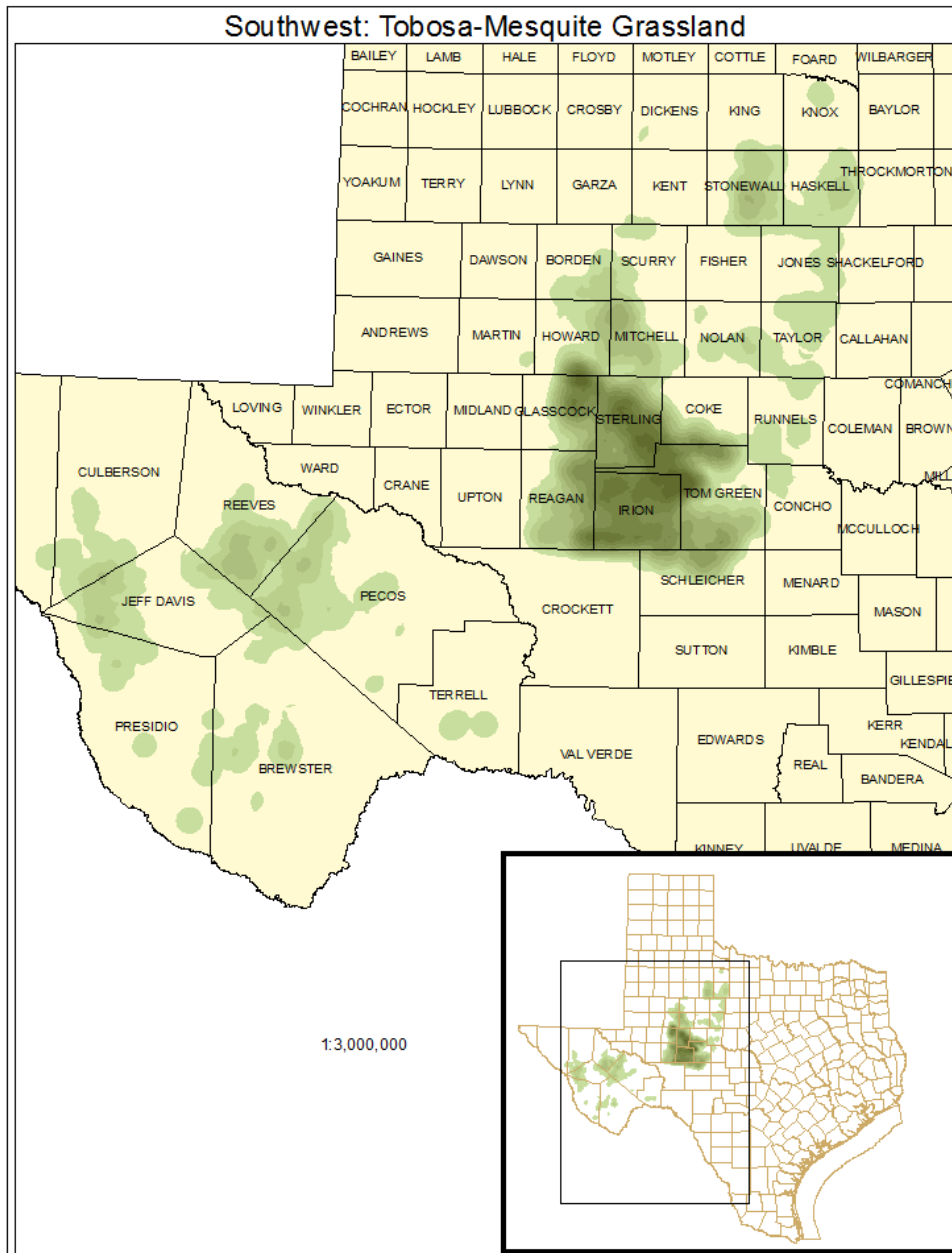
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

SOUTHWEST: MESQUITE - TOBOSA GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 406

EMS Description: Swales and low basins with tight soils where *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) forms a significant canopy over a grassland often dominated by *Pleuraphis mutica* (tobosa).

Distribution Map:



Example:

Not available at this time.

Public Land Occurrence:

Balmorhea State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Big Bend Ranch State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

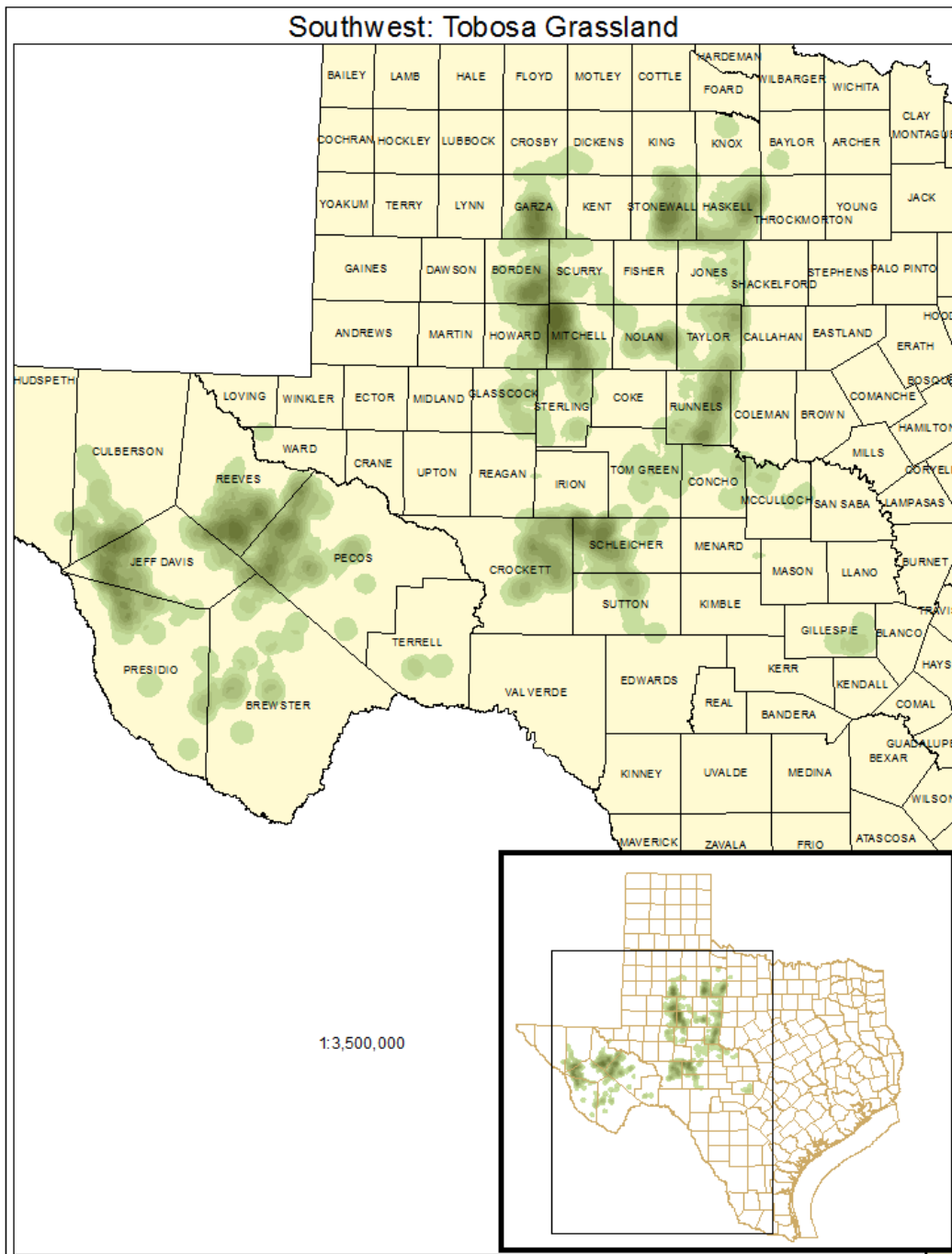
San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

SOUTHWEST: TOBOSA GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 407

EMS Description: Grass dominated swales and basins with tight soils. This type is often dominated by *Pleuraphis mutica* (tobosa).

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Balmorhea State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Big Bend Ranch State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department