

NORTH AMERICAN WARM DESERT CIENEGA

Nature Serve ID: CES302.747

Geology: While the cienegas themselves often occur within Quaternary alluvium, the springs that feed the marshes and moist-soil habitats emanate from contacts often of Cretaceous limestone with less permeable formations.

Landform: Spring runs and draws fed by freshwater springs.

Soils: Often associated with Draw (Desert Grassland) Ecological Sites.

Description: This predominately herbaceous system occurs on drainages fed by freshwater springs. Evaporative processes may create saline conditions leading to the presence and/or dominance of species such as *Sporobolus airoides* (alkali sacaton), *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass), *Sesuvium verrucosum* (winged sea purslane), and *Trianthema portulacastrum* (desert horse purslane), and *Limonium limbatum* (bordered sea-lavender). Other moist-soil species include *Schoenoplectus pungens* var. *longispicatus* (American bulrush), *Juncus* spp. (rushes), and *Eleocharis* spp. (spikerushes). Composition of the occurrence is dependent on the depth and availability of water associated with the originating spring. At some sites, rare species such as *Helianthus paradoxus* (Pecos sunflower), *Nesaea longipes* (longstalk heimia), and *Agalinis calycina* (Leoncita false foxglove) may be found. The non-native grass *Cynodon dactylon* (Bermudagrass) is often encountered.

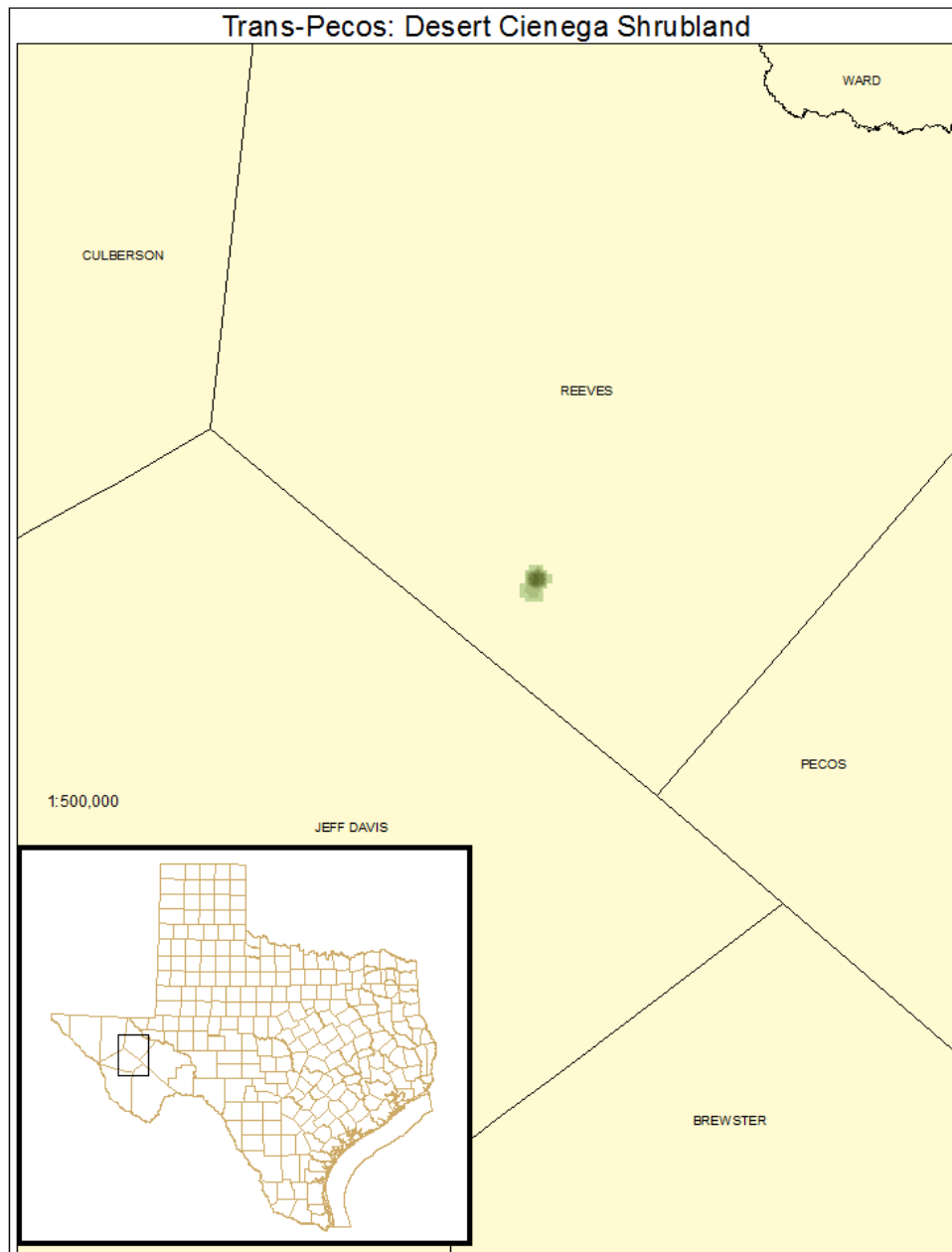
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

TRANS-PECOS: DESERT CIENEGA SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 11506

EMS Description: Though this system is typically herbaceous, some occurrences may become dominated by species such as *Atriplex canescens* (four-wing saltbush) or *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite).

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

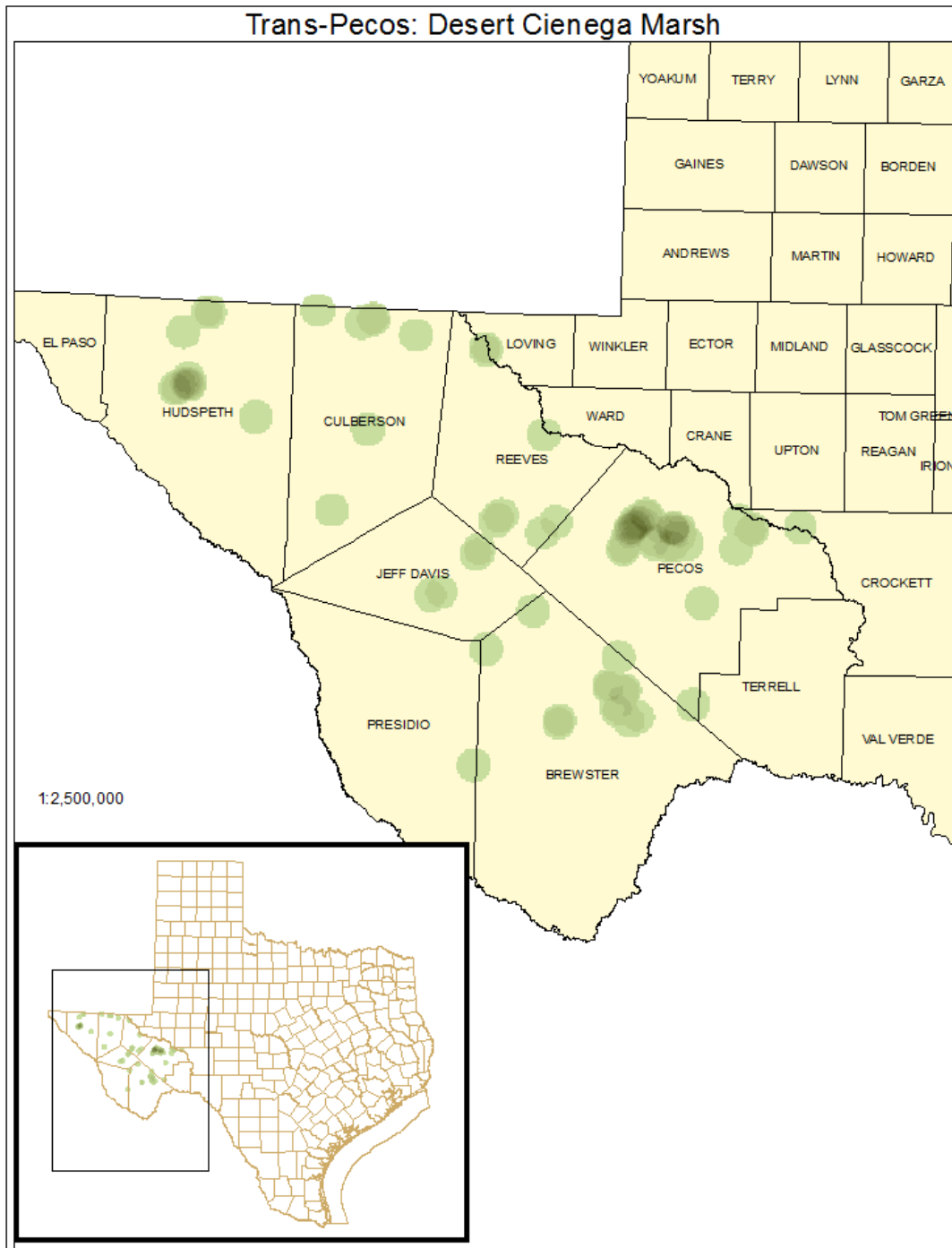
None.

TRANS-PECOS: DESERT CIENEGA MARSH

Mapping System ID: 11517

EMS Description: Occurrences dominated by herbaceous species as described for the system.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

None.