

CHIHUAHUAN MIXED DESERT AND THORNSCRUB

Nature Serve ID: CES302.734

Geology: This system is particularly well-developed on limestone, but can occur on various other substrates.

Landform: Occupying limestone hills and slopes, gravel-capped ridges and slopes, as well as hills and slopes of igneous and sandstone substrates.

Soils: Rocky soils of Igneous Hill and Mountain, Limestone Hill and Mountain and other ecoclasses.

Parent Description: In this Chihuahuan Desert of Texas, this ecological system is widely distributed and often occupies footslopes and hilly landforms of limestones, sandstones, and igneous strata, though it is best developed on limestones. This shrubland can occur in proximity to Apacherian – Chihuahuan Semi-Desert Grassland and Steppe, Chihuahuan Creosotebush Desert Scrub, and/or Chihuahuan Succulent Desert Scrub. *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush), *Parthenium incanum* (mariola), *Condalia ericoides* (javelina bush), *Mimosa aculeaticarpa* var. *biuncifera* (catclaw mimosa), *Yucca torreyi* (Torrey's yucca), *Acacia constricta* (whitethorn acacia), *Agave lechuguilla* (lechuguilla), *Dasyilirion leiophyllum* (smooth sotol), *Viguiera stenoloba* (skeleton-leaf golden eye), *Leucophyllum* spp. (cenizo), and *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) are often present to dominant, but numerous shrub species may be present. It differs from Chihuahuan Creosotebush Desert Scrub in having a diversity of shrub species present and is not a nearly monotypic stand of *Larrea tridentata* (creosotebush). Herbaceous cover is generally low with species such as *Bouteloua eriopoda* (black grama), *Bouteloua ramosa* (chino grama), *Bouteloua curtipendula* (sideoats grama), *Bouteloua trifida* (red grama), *Aristida purpurea* (purple threeawn), *Dasyochloa pulchella* (fluffgrass), and *Muhlenbergia setifolia* (curlyleaf muhly).

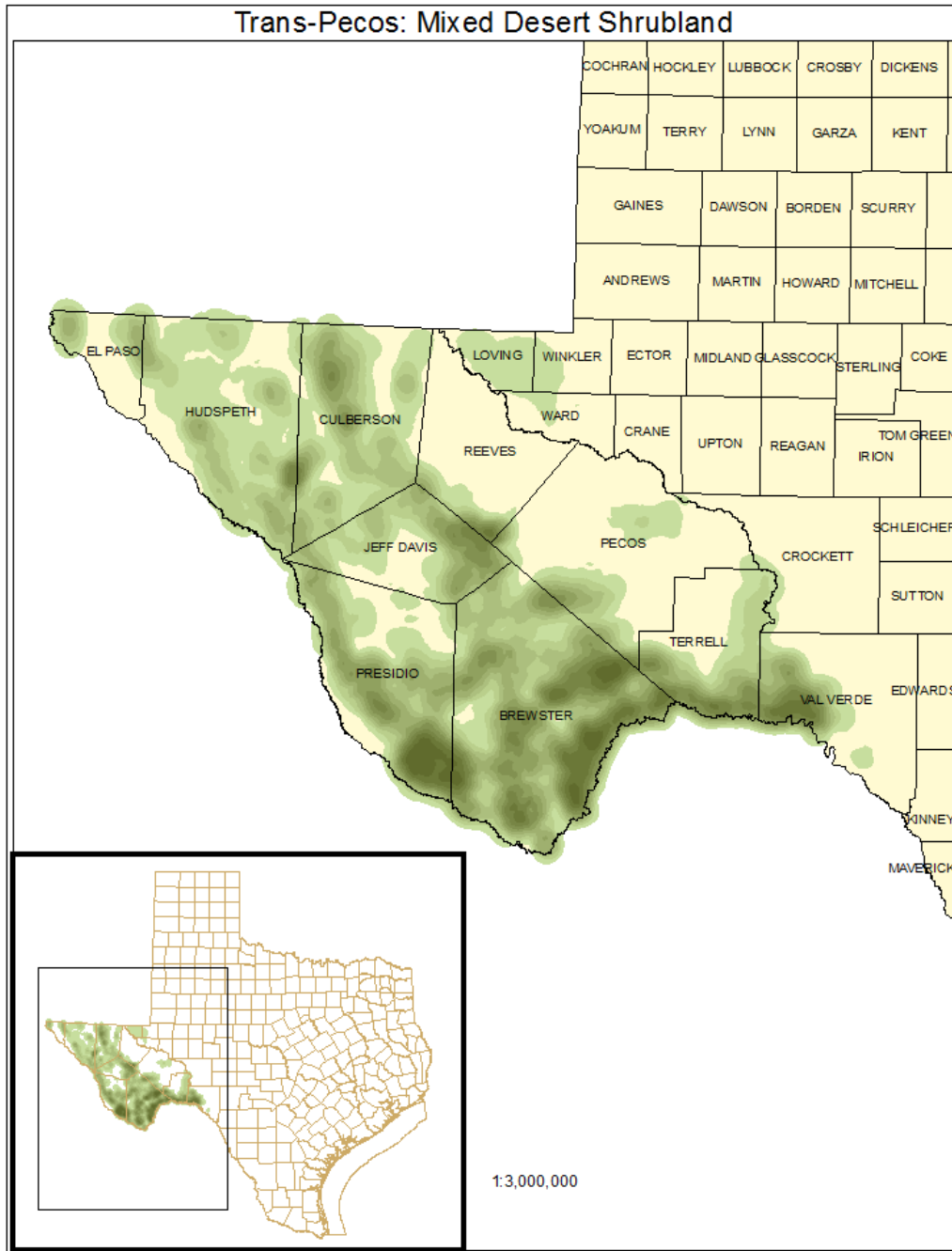
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

TRANS-PECOS: MIXED DESERT SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 8306

EMS Description: As described for system.

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: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Guadalupe Mountains National Park: US National Park Service

Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department