CHIHUAHUAN MIXED SALT DESERT SCRUB

Nature Serve ID: CES302.017

Geology: Quaternary alluvium.

Landform: Depressional basins and river floodplains.

Soils: Salty desert grassland, Salty Clay Fan, and Salty Bottomland ecological sites.

Parent Description: This system usually occurs as an open-canopied shrubland surrounding saline basins, alluvial fans, and the salty bottomlands along the Pecos River. Substrates are fine-textured, alluvial, and saline. Species making up the often relatively sparse vegetative cover include *Atriplex canescens* (four-wing saltbush), *Allenrolfea occidentalis* (pickle-weed), *Suaeda suffrutescens* (desert seepweed), *Cylindropuntia leptocaulis* (tasajillo), *Prosopis glandulosa* var. *torreyana* (western honey mesquite), *Isocoma pluriflora* (southern Jimmy-weed), *Sesuvium verrucosum* (winged sea purslane), *Koeberlinia spinosa* (allthorn), *Atriplex acanthocarpa* (tubercled saltbush), *Flourensia cernua* (tarbush), and *Ziziphus obtusifolia* (lotebush). Non-native halophiles such as *Salsola tragus* (prickly Russian thistle), *Alhagi maurorum* (camelthorn), *Peganum harmala* (African rue), and *Tamarix* spp. (saltcedars) are commonly encountered to dominant. Graminoids commonly found, and sometimes constituting significant cover, include *Sporobolus airoides* (alkali sacaton), *Sporobolus wrightii* (big sacaton), *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass), *Trichloris crinita* (false Rhodes grass), *Pappophorum bicolor* (pink pappusgrass), *Pleuraphis mutica* (tobosa), and *Scleropogon brevifolius* (burrograss).

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ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

TRANS-PECOS: SALTY DESERT SCRUB

Mapping System ID: 10406

EMS Description: Saline sites with significant shrub cover of species mentioned above.

Distribution Map:

Example:

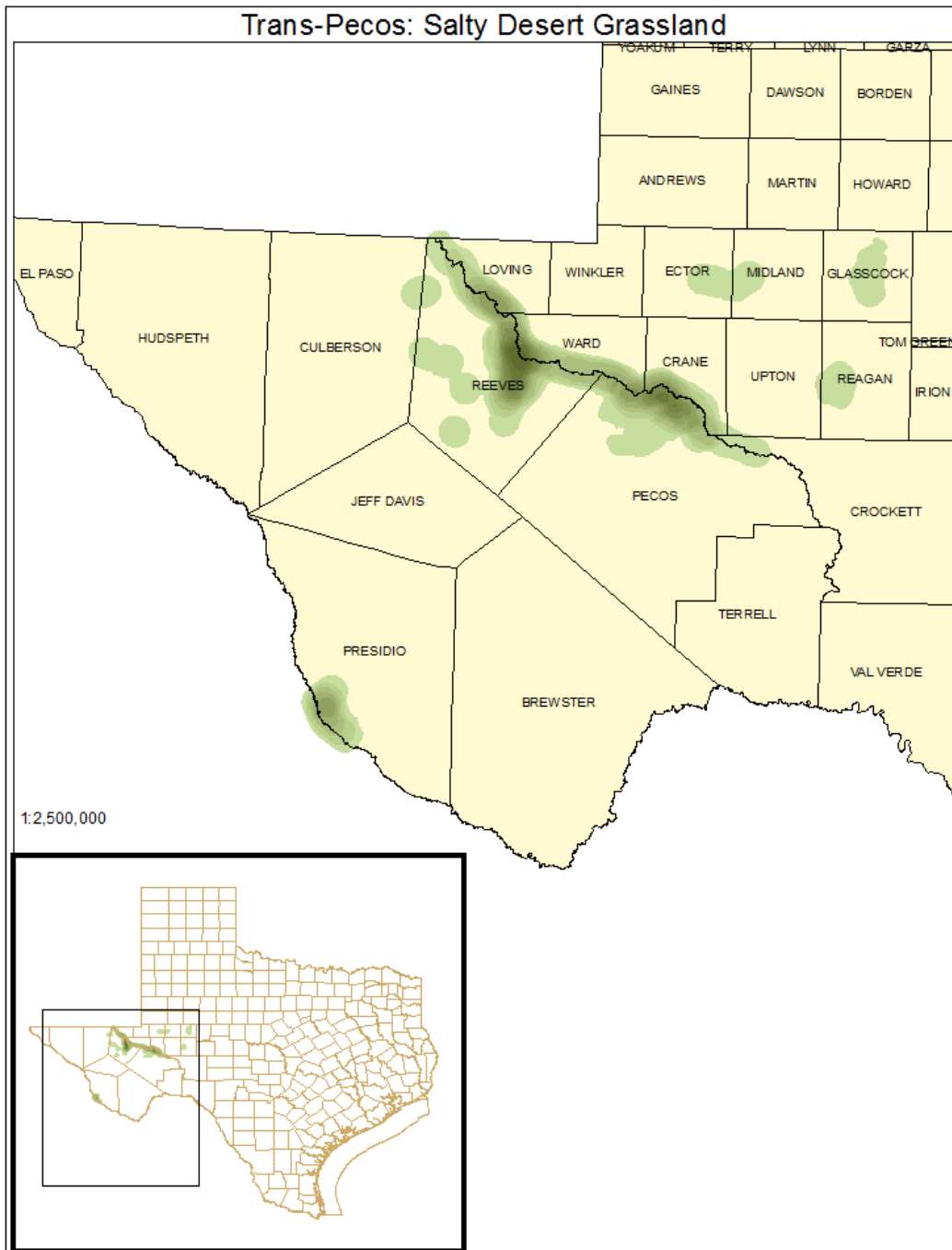**Public Land Occurrence:**

None.

TRANS-PECOS: SALTY DESERT GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 10407

EMS Description: Saline sites with significant graminoid cover of species mentioned above and lacking, or having sparse, shrub canopy cover.

Distribution Map:

Example:

Public Land Occurrence:

None.