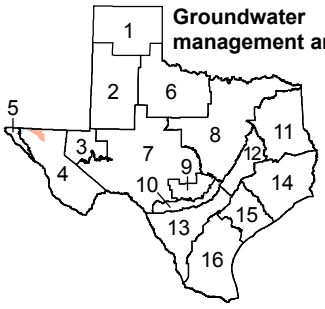
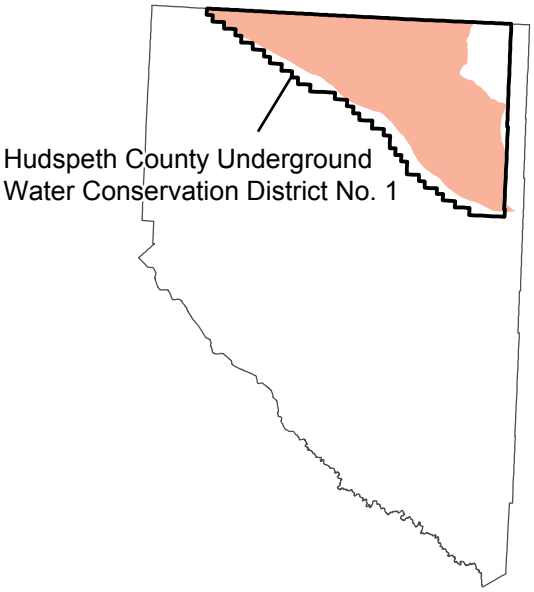
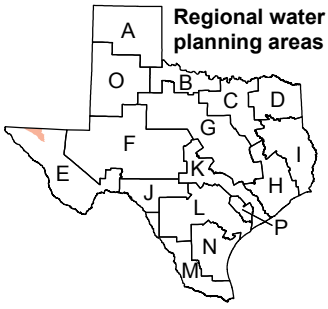
Bone Spring-Victorio Peak Aquifer







The Bone Spring-Victorio Peak Aquifer is a minor aquifer located in northern Hudspeth County. The principal water bearing units in the aquifer are the Bone Spring and Victorio Peak limestones. Both formations produce water from solution cavities along fractures. Water quality is generally slightly saline, with total dissolved solids of 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per liter. In the Dell Valley area, total dissolved solids increase to 3,000 to 10,000 milligrams per liter. Significant amounts of groundwater have been pumped and are being pumped from the aquifer in the Dell Valley area. Since the late 1940s, pumping has been the principal means of discharge for the aquifer. Pumping to the south and west of the Dell Valley area is limited to scattered wells used for livestock or domestic purposes. Water levels have declined in the Dell Valley area from 5 to 60 feet with an average of about 30 feet over a period of about 55 years. These declines are likely due to pumping for irrigation. However, water levels over the last 30 years have been relatively constant except for the last few years, where water levels have declined due to drought. The Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group recommends a water management strategy to redevelop and expand a well field in the Bone Spring-Victorio Peak Aquifer, desalinate the water, and transport it to El Paso County.

Aquifer characteristics

- Area of aquifer: 710 square miles
- Availability: 63,000 acre-feet per year (2010 to 2060)
- Well yield: highly variable, 20 to 3,000 gallons per minute
- Proportion of aquifer with groundwater conservation districts: 100 percent
- Number of counties containing the aquifer: 1

Groundwater supplies with implementation of water management strategies