



Hydrology

Springs are a key natural resource of BBRSP. Over 100 springs, mostly in the Fresno and Ternereros Creek drainages, have been recorded. It is probable that more await discovery around the Bofecillos volcanic platform.

Many of the park’s creeks are ephemeral in nature. However, the larger drainages,

Natural Features

Big Bend Ranch State Park is located in the Trans-Pecos Vegetation Area. The flora and fauna are represented by a rich assemblage of species because of the high diversity of life found in the northern Chihuahuan Desert. The natural plant communities at BBRSP can be grouped into four major types:

1. A riparian zone found near springs, along drainages and in the Rio Grande corridor.
2. Mixed desert scrub characterized by an abundance of creosote, ocotillo, cacti and lechuguilla, a Chihuahuan Desert indicator species.
3. Desert grassland.
4. Open juniper woodland, occurring in only the highest elevations.



such as Alamito and Cienega Creeks, have permanent stream flow. All of the drainages in BBRSP are part of the Rio Grande

The mixed desert scrub is by far the most widespread of these communities. It has largely replaced the once dominant desert grasslands. The riparian corridors are of particular importance as areas of high biological diversity.

The flora of the park is influenced by elevation and past land use. Overgrazing and browsing, through historical land uses, has degraded the plant communities within the BBRSP. All but a few livestock have been removed and after many years many plant communities are recovering. Even so, fifteen plant community types have been identified.

drainage basin; all are subject to flash flooding. A census of wells and windmills is in progress in the park. An inventory of wells and water levels and a spring survey will provide information about groundwater reserves in local aquifers.



Fees

\$5 per day, per person 13 and older from October-April

\$7 per day, per person 13 and older from May-September

Group School-Sponsored Trip entrance fee per person: \$1 - \$5

Park Wildlife

The fauna of Big Bend Ranch State Park is also varied, particularly the mammalian and herpto-faunas. Forty-eight species of mammals have been documented from the park, including 16 species of bats with an additional eight more species of bats having the potential to occur within the park. There are at least 30 species of snakes and over 300 species of birds reported from BBRSP and the immediate vicinity. The park is home to a number of state-listed taxa including the zone-tailed hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), reticulated gecko (*Coleonyx reticulatus*),



Trans-Pecos black-headed snake (*Tantilla cucullata*), Texas lyre snake (*Trimorphodon biscutatus*) and Chihuahua shiner (*Notropis chihuahua*). Other mammals of interest that have been documented within the boundaries of the park include black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mountain lions (*Felis concolor*) and white-

nosed coati (*Nasua narica*). Game species such as mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and collared peccary, or javelina, (*Tayassu tajacu*) are common and offer limited hunting opportunities.

Rapidly becoming a threat to soil, water, native wildlife, and vegetation resources are increasing populations of aoudad, feral burros and feral hogs. To date, the hogs are found in the Cienega area along Alamito Creek and aoudad are near the Rio Grande, especially in Tapado Canyon.