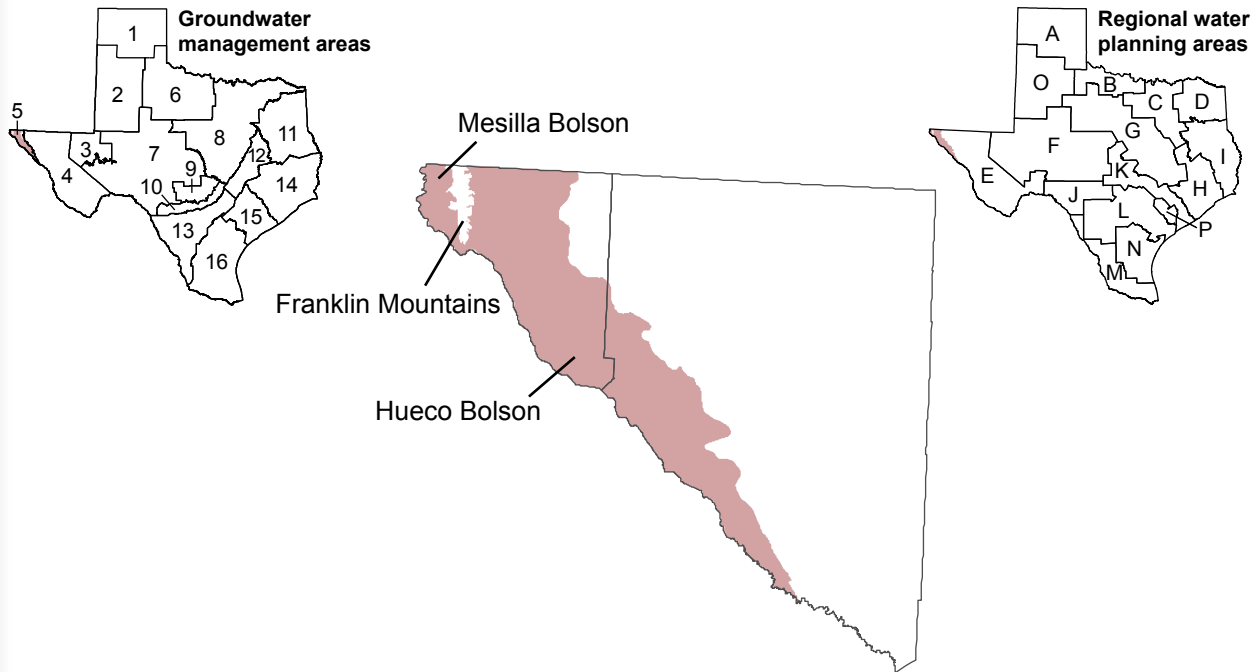


# Hueco-Mesilla Bolsons Aquifer



The Hueco-Mesilla Bolsons Aquifer, located east and west of the Franklin Mountains in Far West Texas, is recognized as a major aquifer in Texas. The aquifer is composed of basin fill deposits of silt, sand, gravel, and clay in two basins, or bolsons: the Hueco Bolson and the Mesilla Bolson. The upper portion of the Hueco Bolson contains fresh to slightly saline water. Water in the Mesilla Bolson also ranges from fresh to saline, with salinity typically increasing to the south and in the shallower parts of the aquifer. Water level declines have contributed to higher salinity in both of the aquifers. The Hueco Bolson is the principal aquifer for the El Paso area and Ciudad Juarez in Mexico—nearly 90 percent of the water pumped from the Mesilla and the Hueco bolsons in Texas is used for public supply. Several hundred feet of water level decline have occurred, primarily due to municipal pumping in the Hueco Bolson. The Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group recommends the conjunctive use of water from the Rio Grande with groundwater from the Hueco-Mesilla Bolsons Aquifer as a water management strategy. In addition, El Paso and Fort Bliss are building the world's largest inland desalination plant in El Paso County. This desalination plant will use brackish groundwater from the Hueco Bolson as its source water.

## Aquifer characteristics

- Area of aquifer: 1,370 square miles
- Availability: 183,000 acre-feet per year (2010 to 2060)
- Well yield: 150 to 2,000 gallons per minute (2003 to 2006), with mean yield of about 900 gallons per minute
- Proportion of aquifer with groundwater conservation districts: 0 percent
- Number of counties containing the aquifer: 2

## Groundwater supplies with implementation of water management strategies

