

Major Land Resource Area 070B

Pecos and Canadian River Basins

Accessed: 05/10/2025

Description

MLRA 70B represents the southern terminus of Land Resource Region G, the Western Great Plains. The entirety of this MLRA is within two primary river basins carved out of the Great Plains by the Canadian and Pecos rivers. The basins are characterized by the Tucumcari Basin portion of the Canadian River and the Pecos River Basin with its associated Mescalero Sand Plain, Artesia Group saline red beds, and piedmont deposits. This MLRA constitutes the transition from the Basin and Range Province of the west to the Southern High Plains, with its Ogallala aquifer-bearing deposits, to the east. Most of the MLRA is rangeland punctuated by extensive areas of petroleum extraction in the south and east parts of the Pecos Basin. In smaller areas along waterways, diverted water from the main river or shallow water tables provide irrigation to bottomland fields.

Ecological site group keys

Key to Ecological Site Groups for MLRA 70B

1a. Site is on a water-collecting landform such as a drainageway bottom, swale, floodplain, or playa. ...

GX070B01XESG01 – Run-on

1b. All other sites.

2a. Soils are < 20" (50 cm) to root-restrictive layers. ... GX070B01XESG02 – Shallow Uplands

2b. Soils are ≥ 20" (50 cm) to root-restrictive layers.

3a. Soils contain ≥ 15% gypsum either throughout or in subsurface horizons. ... GX070B01XESG03 – Gypsum Uplands

3b. All other sites.

4a. All soil horizons in the upper 40" (100 cm) have sandy textures (≥ 50% sand in the fine earth fraction)

OR soils are contain ≥ 35% gravel in the upper 40". ... GX070B01XESG04 – Sandy Uplands

4b. All other sites.

5a. Soils react strongly or violently to dilute HCl at the surface, and react violently in all subsurface horizons. ... GX070B01XESG05 – Limy Uplands

5b. All other sites. ... GX070B01XESG06 – Clayey Uplands