

# Energy Sprawl in West Texas: Roadmap to Smart Growth?



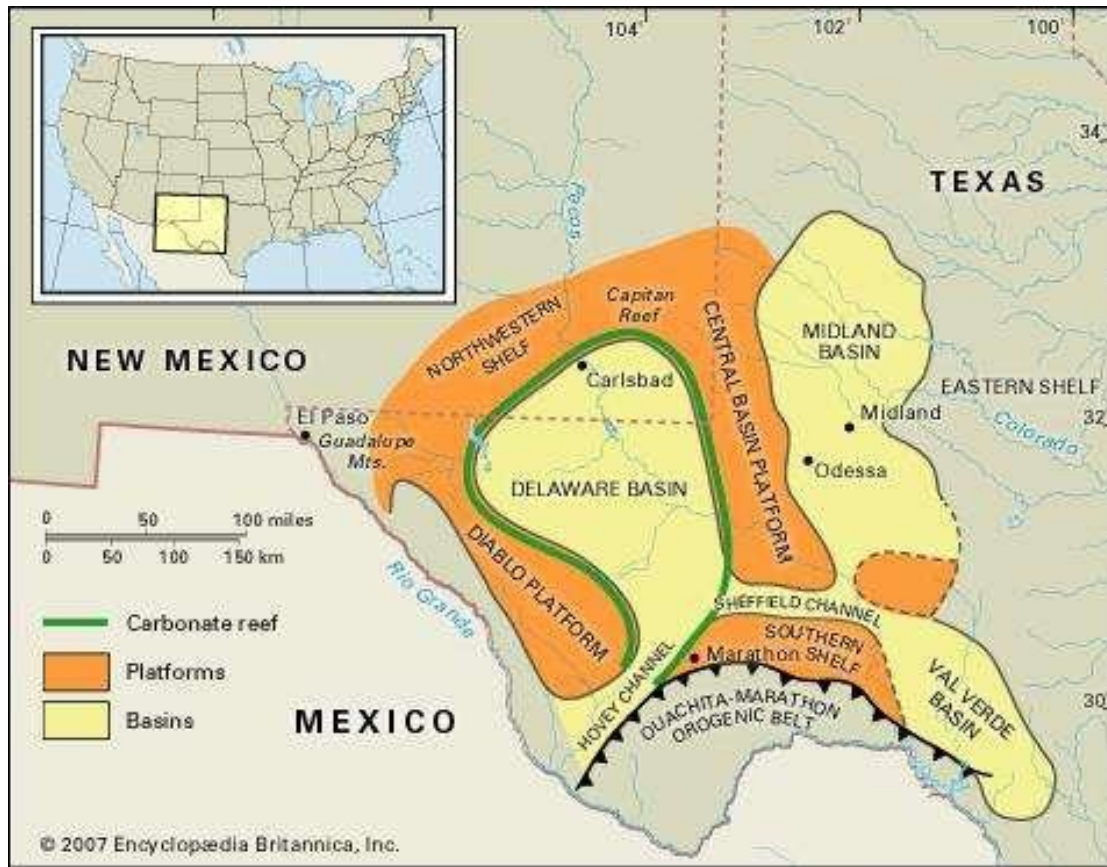
# Texas: Energy Capital of the U.S.

- Leads the nation in oil, gas, wind
  - 1/4 of U.S. proven gas reserves
  - 1/3 of U.S. proven oil reserves
  - Over 20,000 MW wind
- Third fastest growing solar power producer (5239 new MW to be installed in next five years)



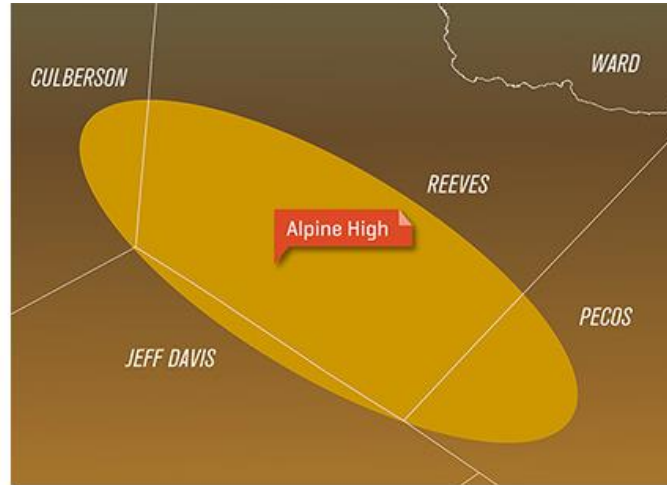
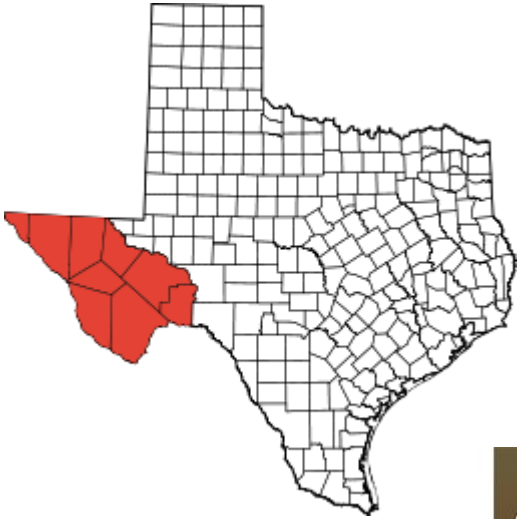


# Permian Basin: Energy Capital of Texas



- Currently producing 2 million bbl/day of oil
- Second largest oil formation in the world
- 400 rigs in the Permian (up from 267 in Jan. 2017)
- Almost half of all rigs operating in the U.S.

# Trans Pecos: Unspoiled Nature at Risk



- Recent oil and gas discovery means dramatic uptick in drilling, roads, pipelines, industrial infrastructure
- Significant new investments in wind power and utility solar plants

# Trans Pecos: Unspoiled Nature at Risk

- Most biologically diverse region in western hemisphere: deserts, mountains, grasslands
- Dark skies
- Breathtaking scenic vistas



# Tools to Protect Nature on Private Land

- Voluntary commitments by industry to (1) avoid sensitive areas; and (2) implement best management practices
- Lease provisions
- Easements
- Surface Damage Act



# Community Based Landscape Conservation Planning

- Purpose: to develop a common understanding and agreement of the most important resources to protect
  - Scenic vistas
  - Rare species
  - Ecosystem functionality
  - Clean and adequate water
  - Dark skies
  - Local lifestyle
  - Tourism industry



# Community Based Landscape Conservation Planning



- Key: to protect rural ways of life that are compatible with biological goals.
  - Grounded in science
  - Driven by locals – academics, landowners, residents, businesses, local government agencies
  - Implementation depends on local involvement and buy-in



## Examples of Success in Texas

- Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (Travis County and Austin)
- Bastrop County HCP
- Williamson County HCP

