



Welcome
to the

Igneous and West Texas Bolsons Aquifers Modeling Project Stakeholder Advisory Forum

Thank you for signing in early.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, Central Daylight Time

Please stay muted during the meeting and use the chat box to submit questions

Meeting information

- Draft model and report out for public comment
 - Due end of day **September 1, 2025**
- An audio and video recording of the meeting, presentation, and the report summarizing the meeting will be made available on the TWDB webpage for this project
- <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/wtbi/wtbi.asp>

Why Stakeholder Advisory Forums?



Keep stakeholders updated about progress of the modeling project



Inform how the groundwater model can, should, and should not be used



Provide stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input and data to assist with model development

Contact information

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Web information:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/wtbi/wtbi.asp>

Igneous and West Texas Bolsons Aquifers



Ian Jones, Ph.D., P.G.

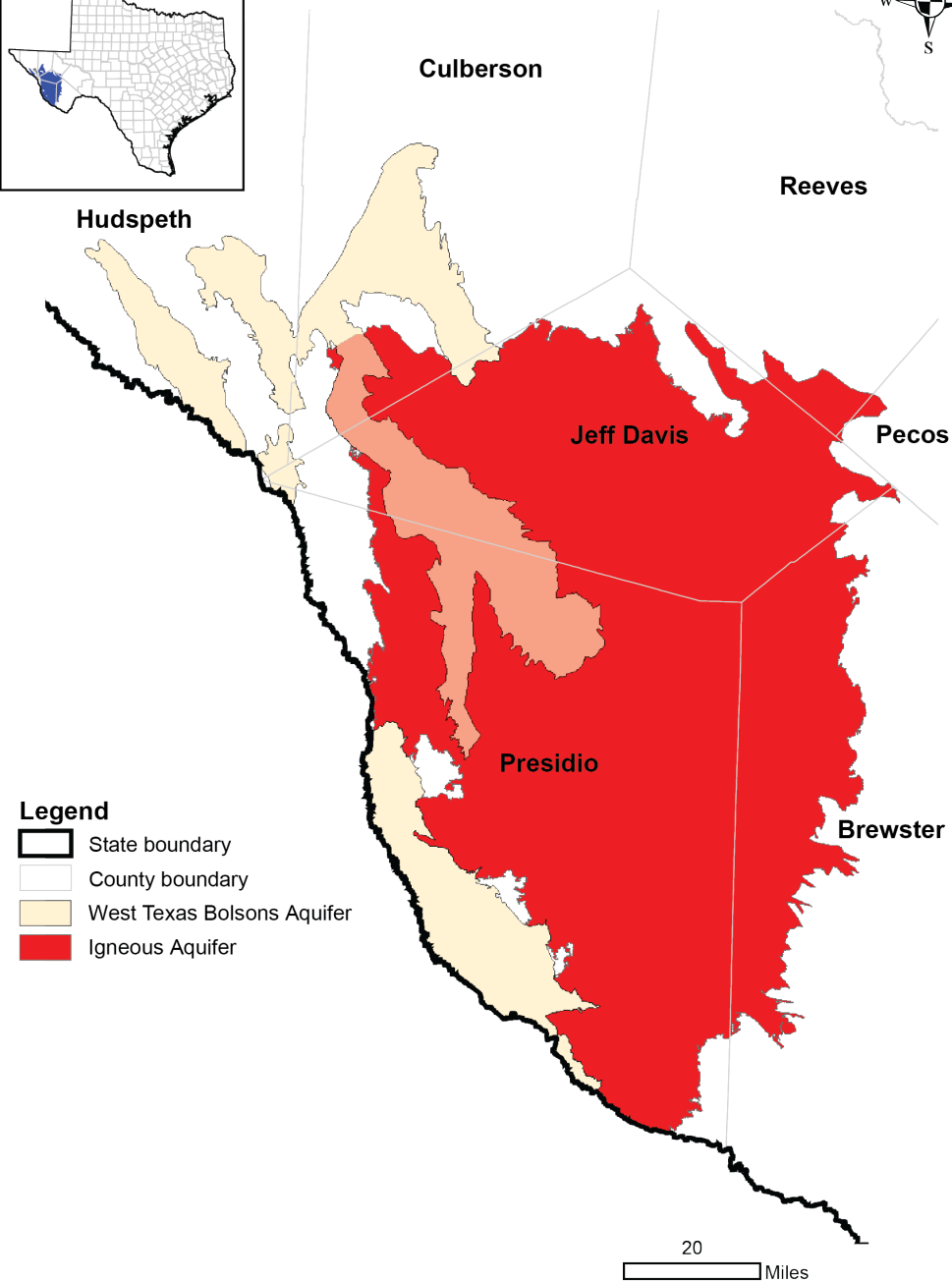
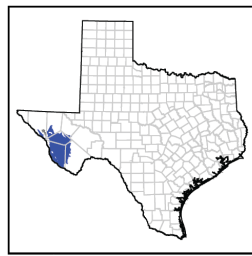
July 29, 2025

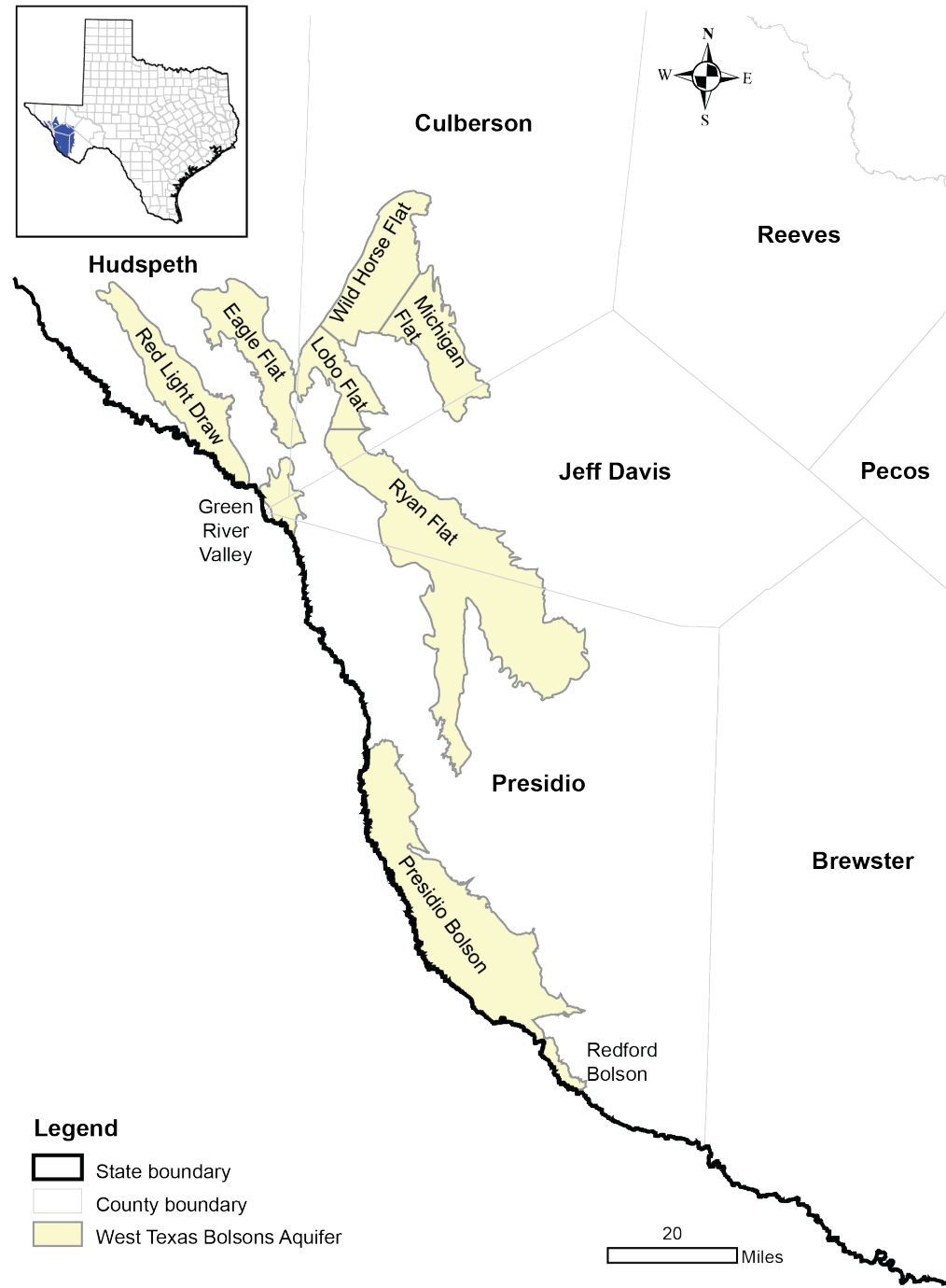
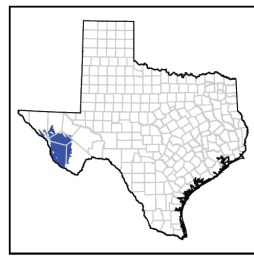
Agenda

1. Model packages
2. Model Calibration
3. Simulated vs. measured water levels
4. Model water budget
5. Model Sensitivity Analysis
6. Model limitations
7. Questions and Answers

INTRODUCTION

Ryan Flat

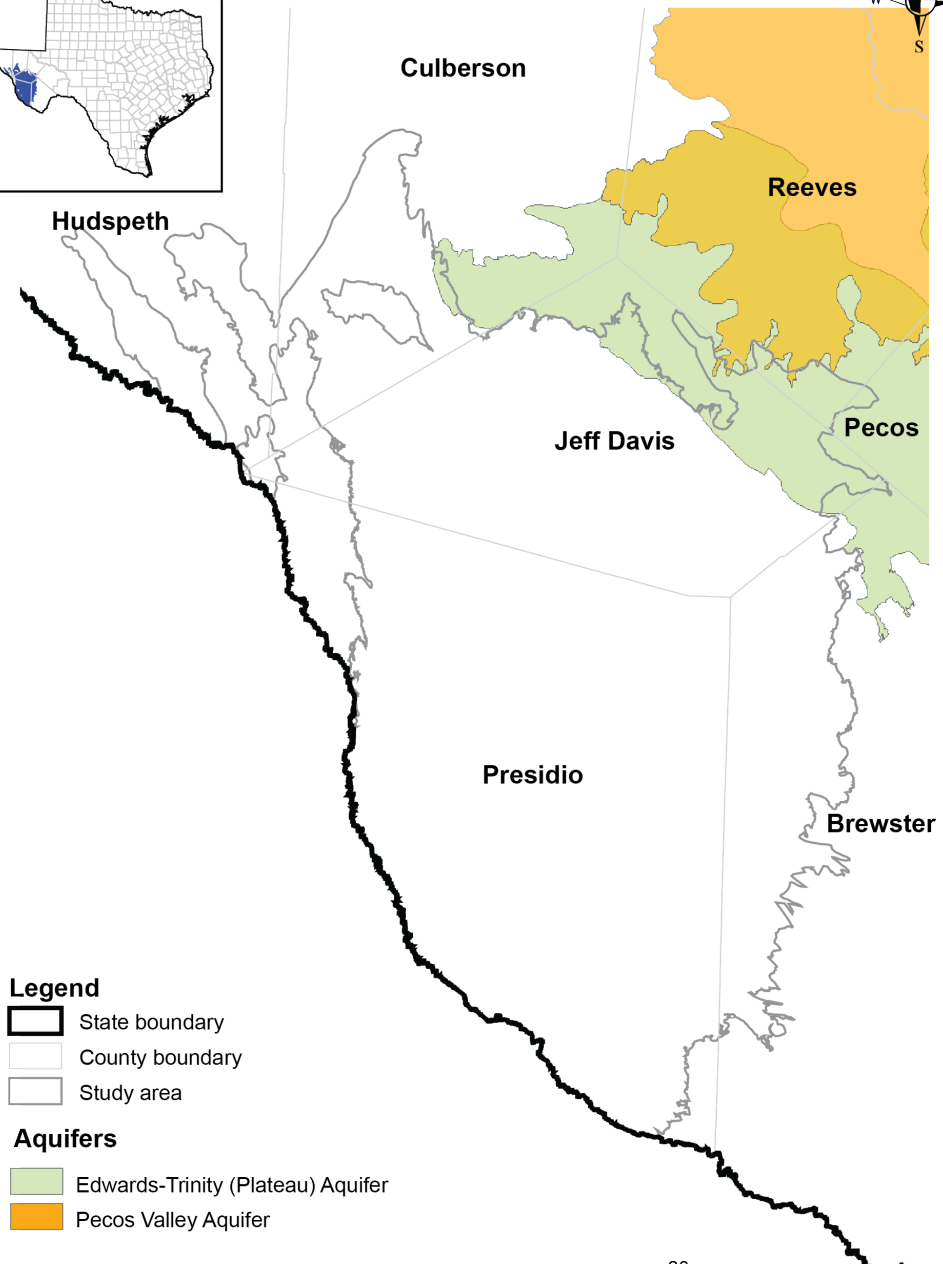
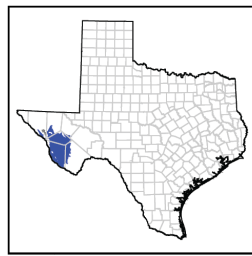







Legend

- State boundary
- County boundary
- West Texas Bolsons Aquifer



20
Miles



Legend

-  State boundary
-  County boundary
-  Study area

Aquifers

-  Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer
-  Pecos Valley Aquifer

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Miles

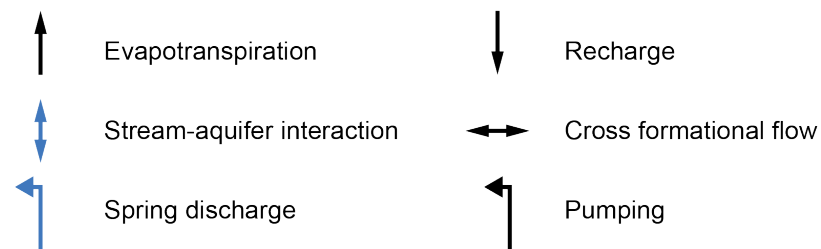
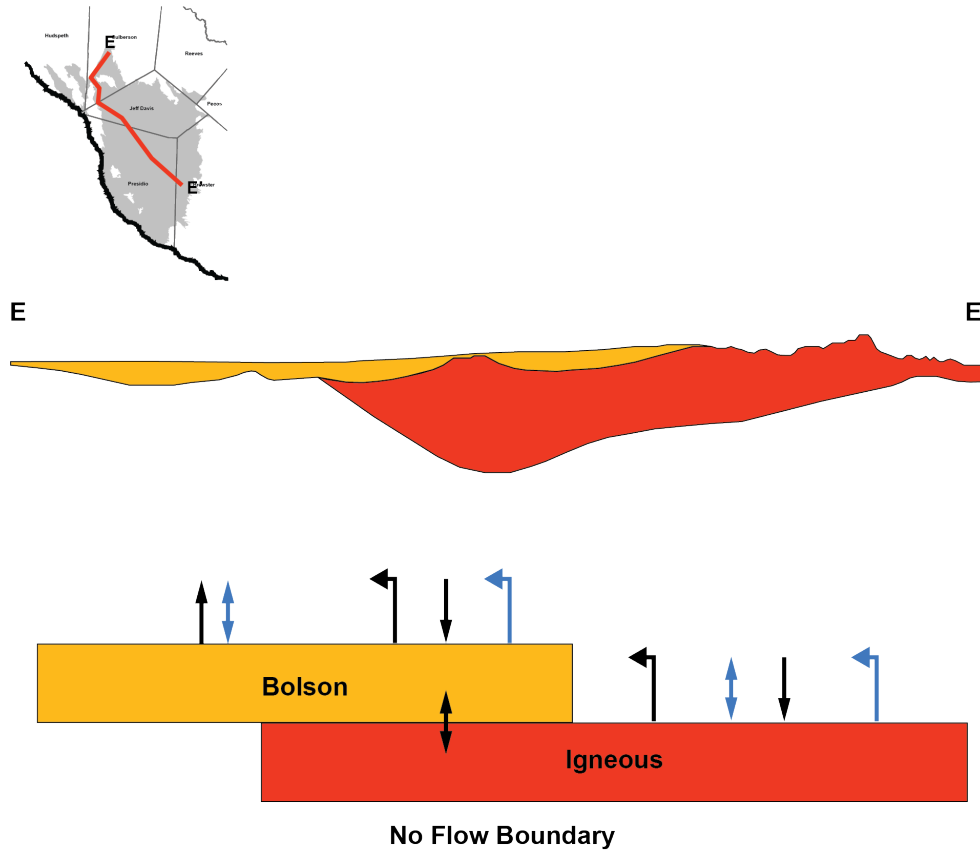
A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted desert plants, including what appear to be saguaros and cholla. The middle ground shows a range of low, rounded mountains with a mix of green and brown vegetation. The sky is a vibrant blue, filled with numerous small, white, puffy clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear.

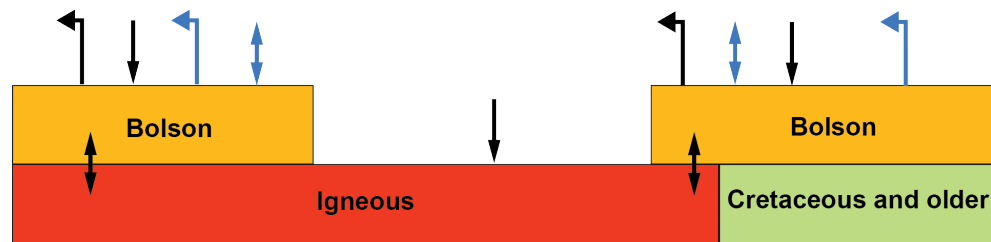
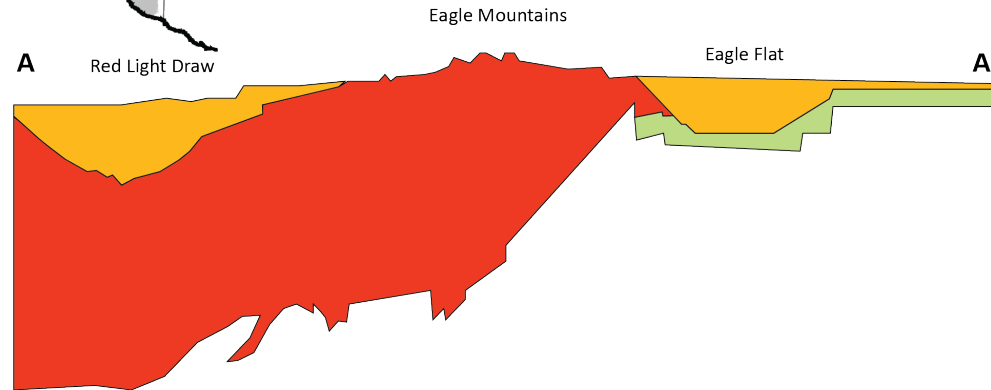
MODEL OVERVIEW AND PACKAGES

Red Light Draw

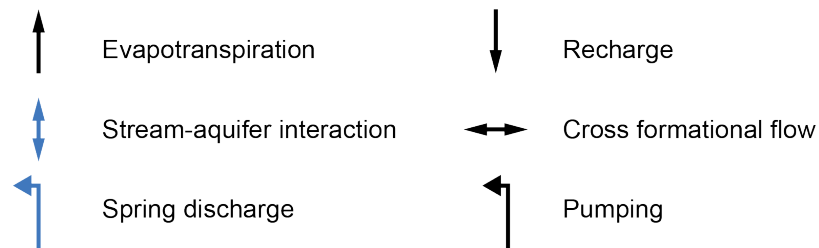
Model Packages

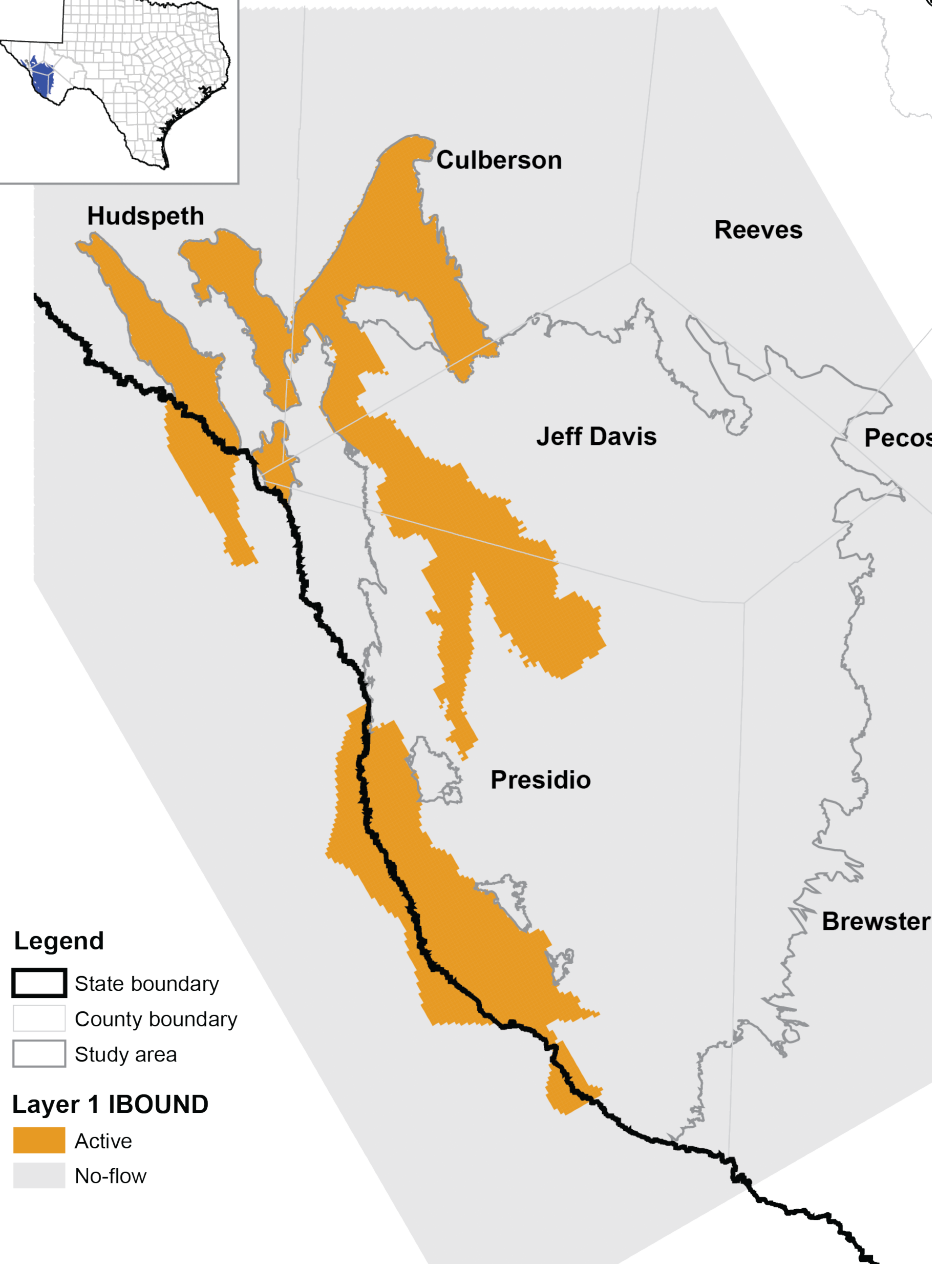
Packages	Input files	Packages	Output files
Basic (BAS6)	lgbl2Utr2.bas	List (LST)	lgbl2Utr2.lst
Name (NAM)	lgbl2Utr2.nam	Cell-by-Cell Budgets (CBB)	lgbl2Utr2.cbb
Discretization (DIS)	lgbl2Utr2.dis	Heads (HDS)	lgbl2Utr2.hds
Layer-Property Flow (LPF)	lgbl2Utr2.lpf	Drawdown (DDN)	lgbl2Utr2.ddn
Well (WEL)	lgbl2.wel		
Drain (DRN)	lgbl2Utr2.drn		
River (RIV)	lgbl2Utr2.riv		
General-Head Boundary (GHB)	lgbl2Utr2.ghb		
Recharge (RCH)	lgbl2Utr2.rch		
Output Control (OC)	lgbl2Utr2.oc		
Preconditioned Conjugate-Gradient (PCG)	lgbl2Utr2.pcg		





No Flow Boundary





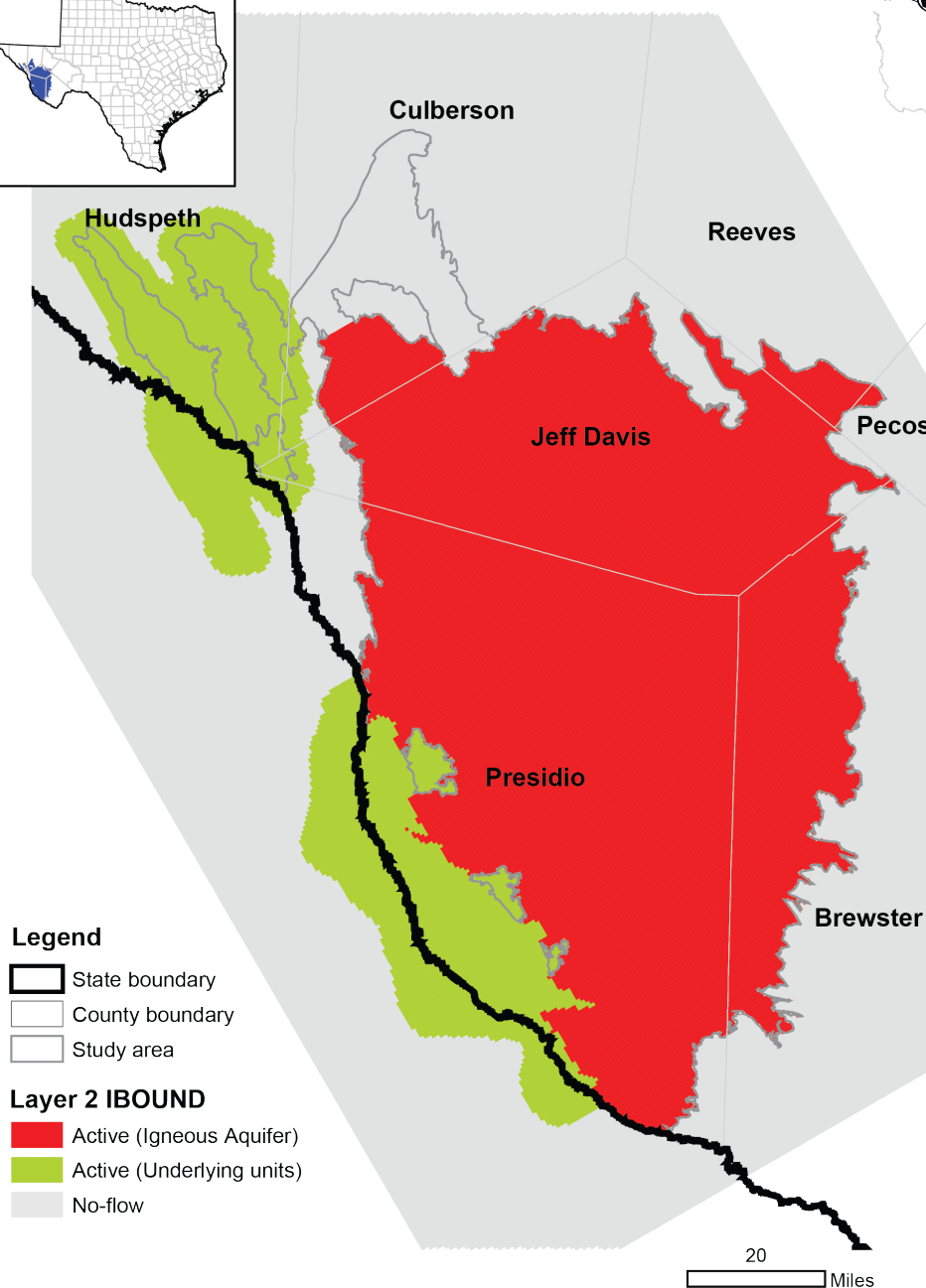
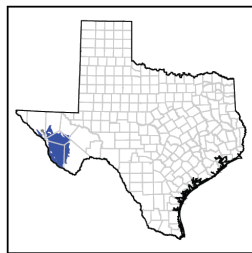
Legend

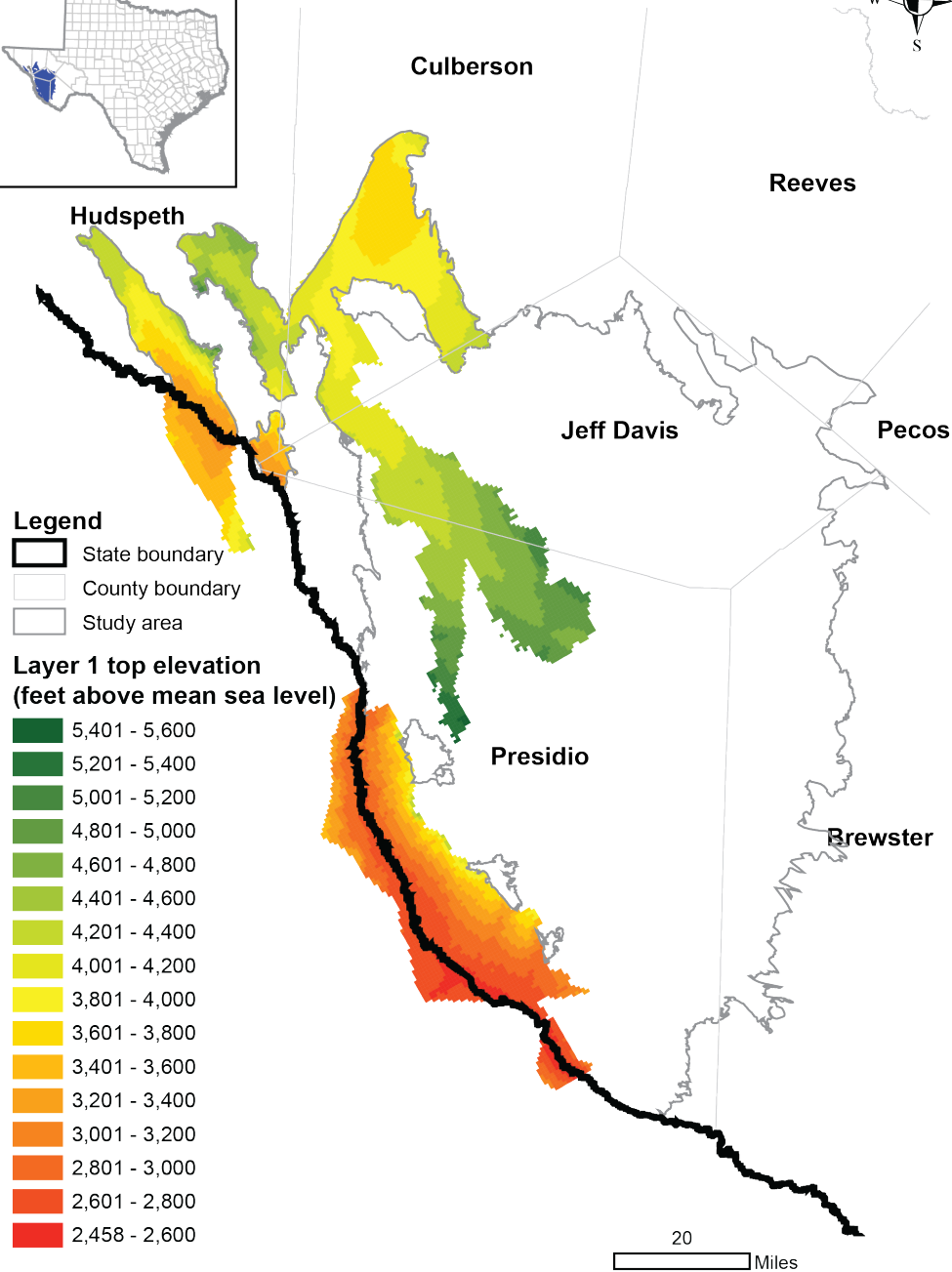
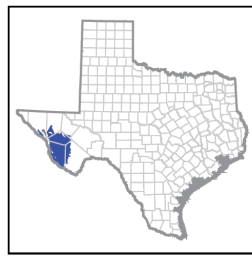
- State boundary
- County boundary
- Study area

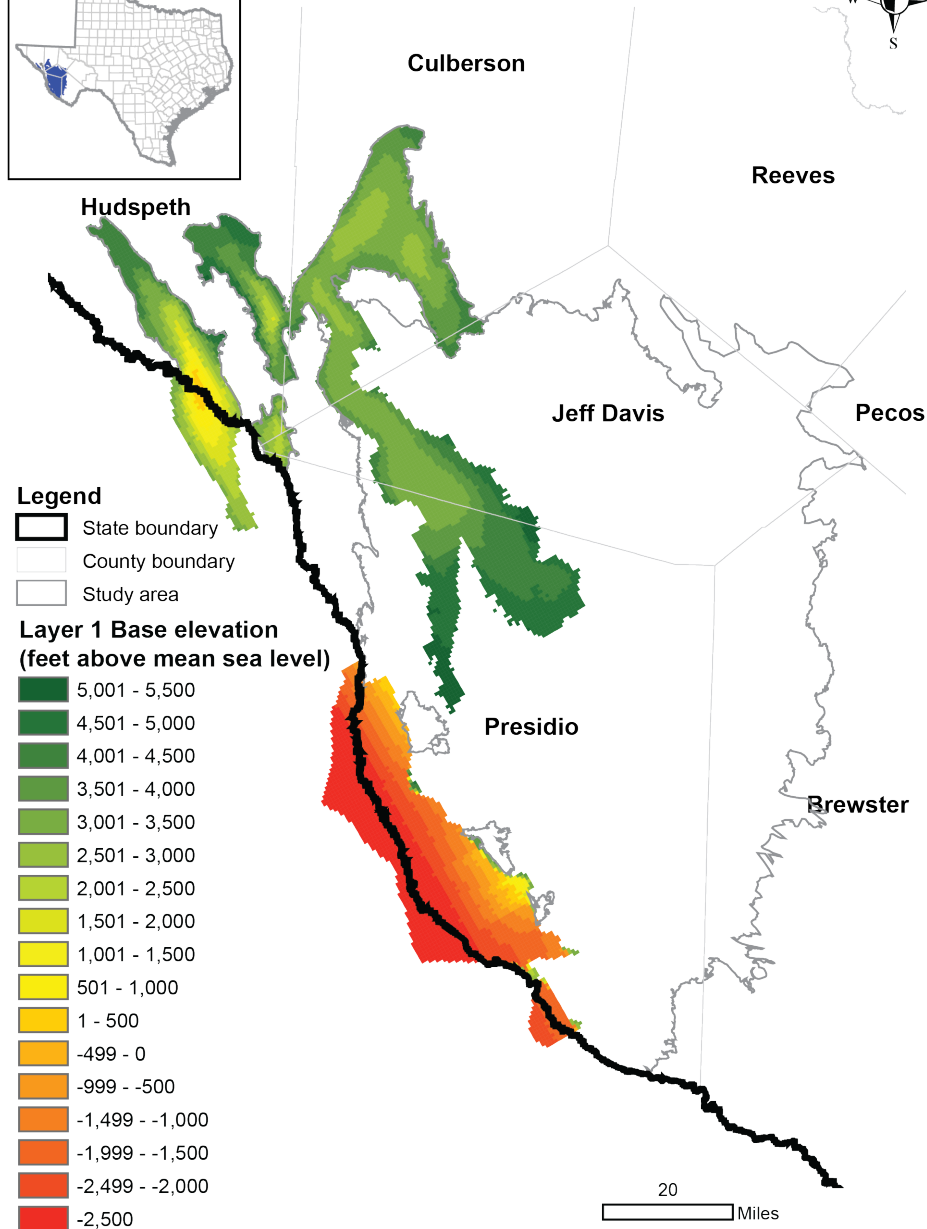
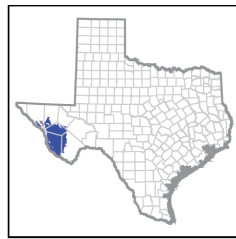
Layer 1 IBOUND

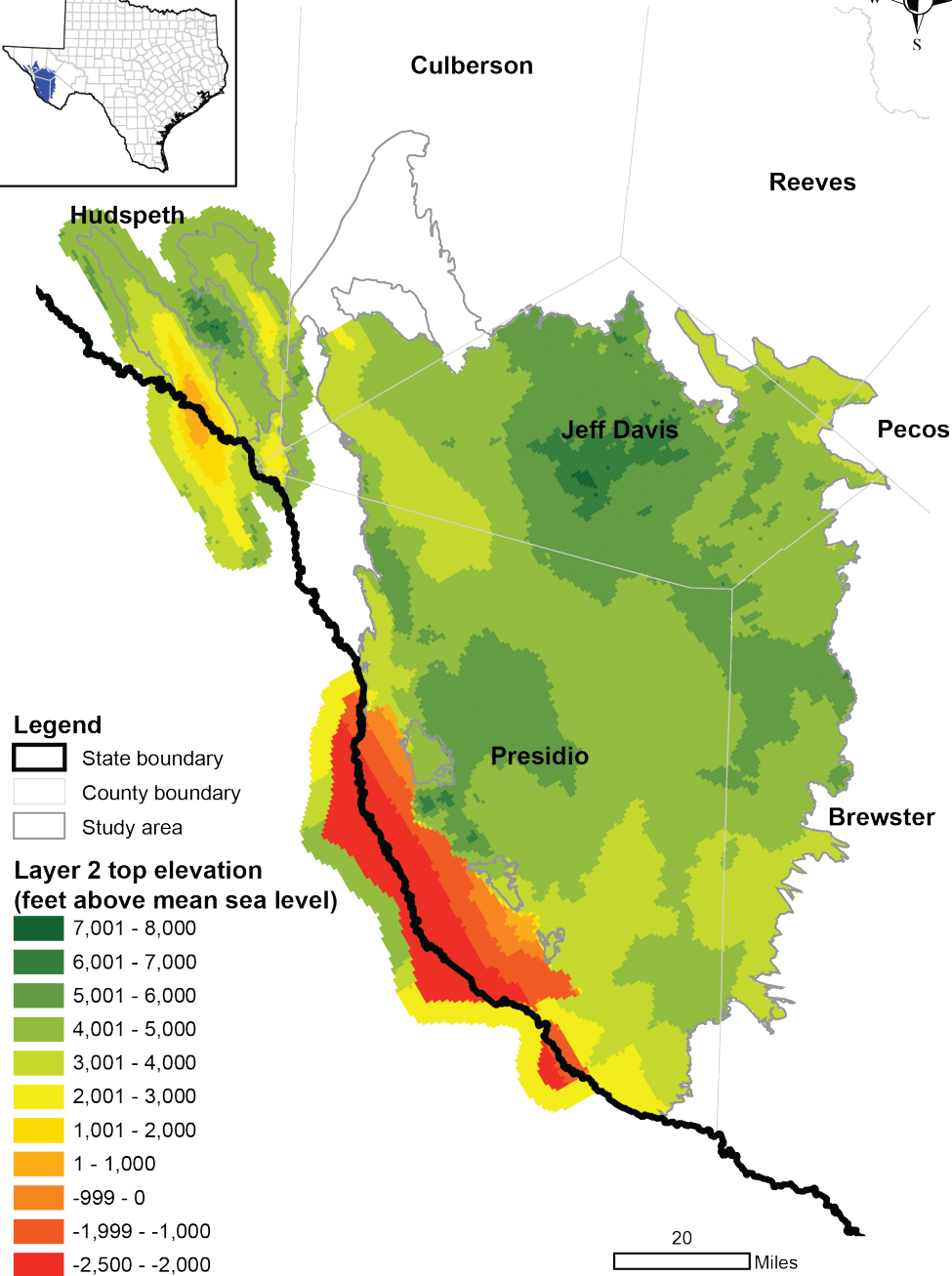
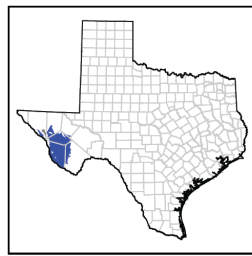
- Active
- No-flow

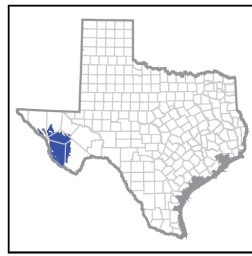
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Miles









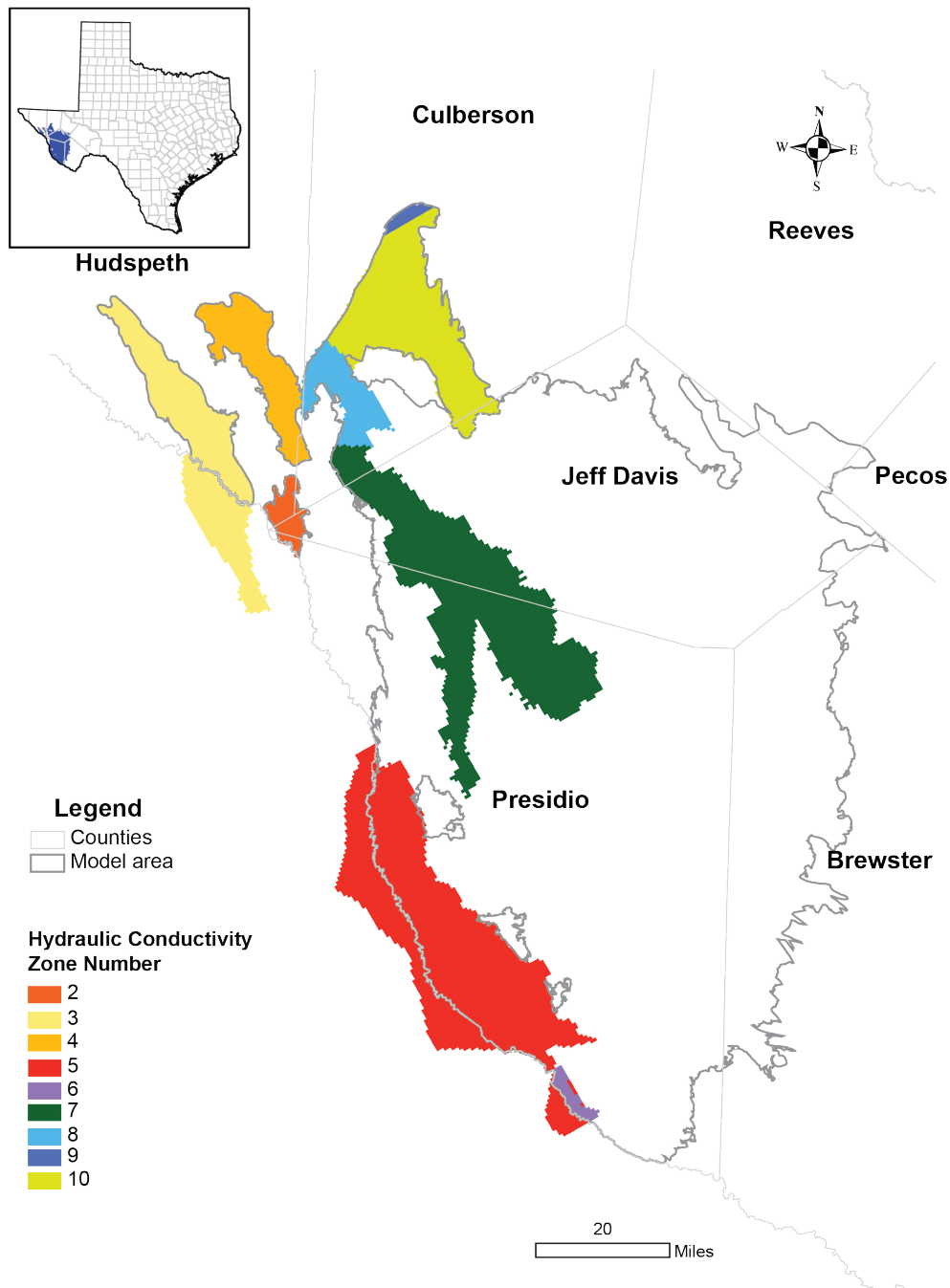


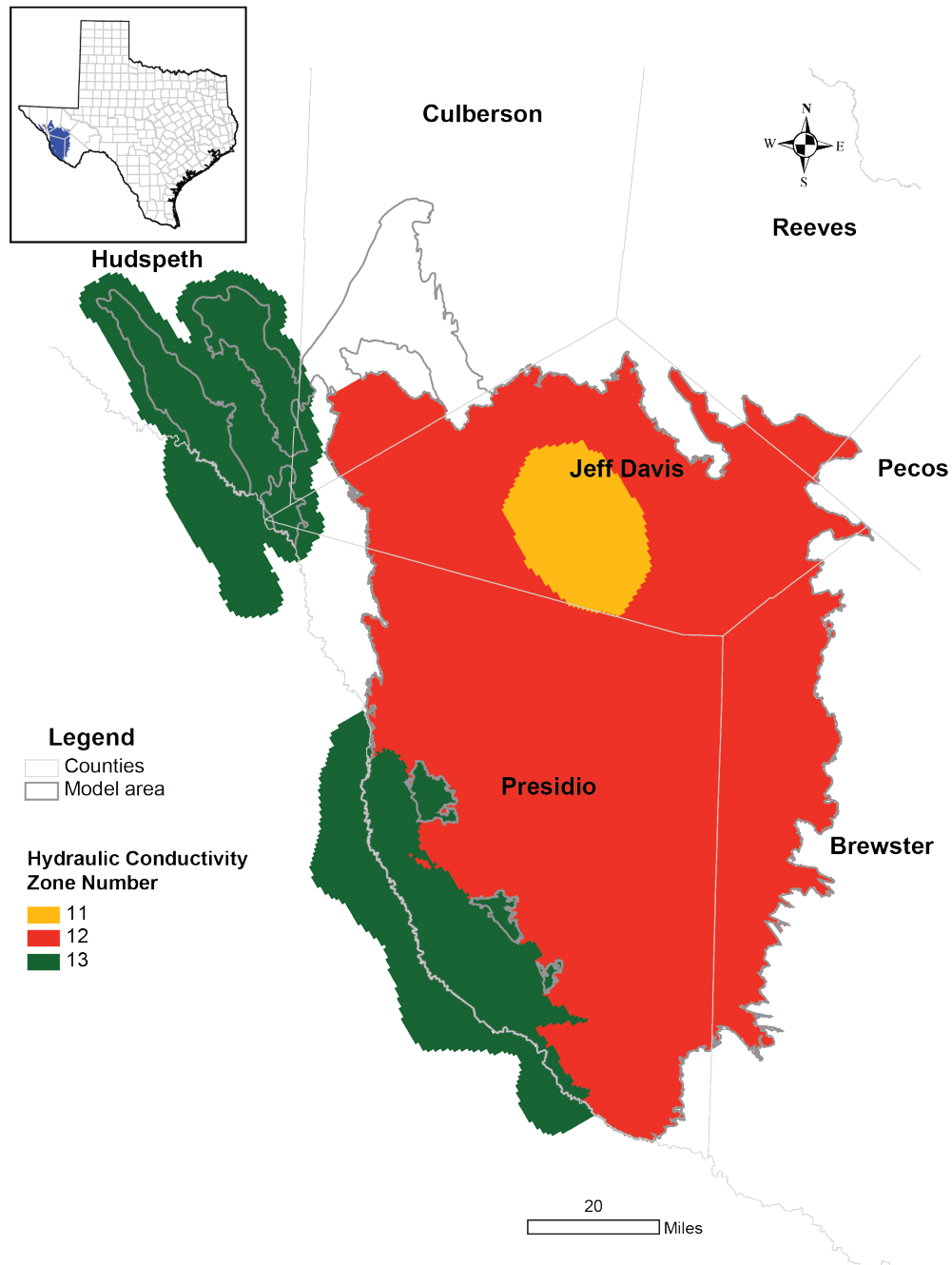
- Legend**
- State boundary
 - County boundary
 - Study area

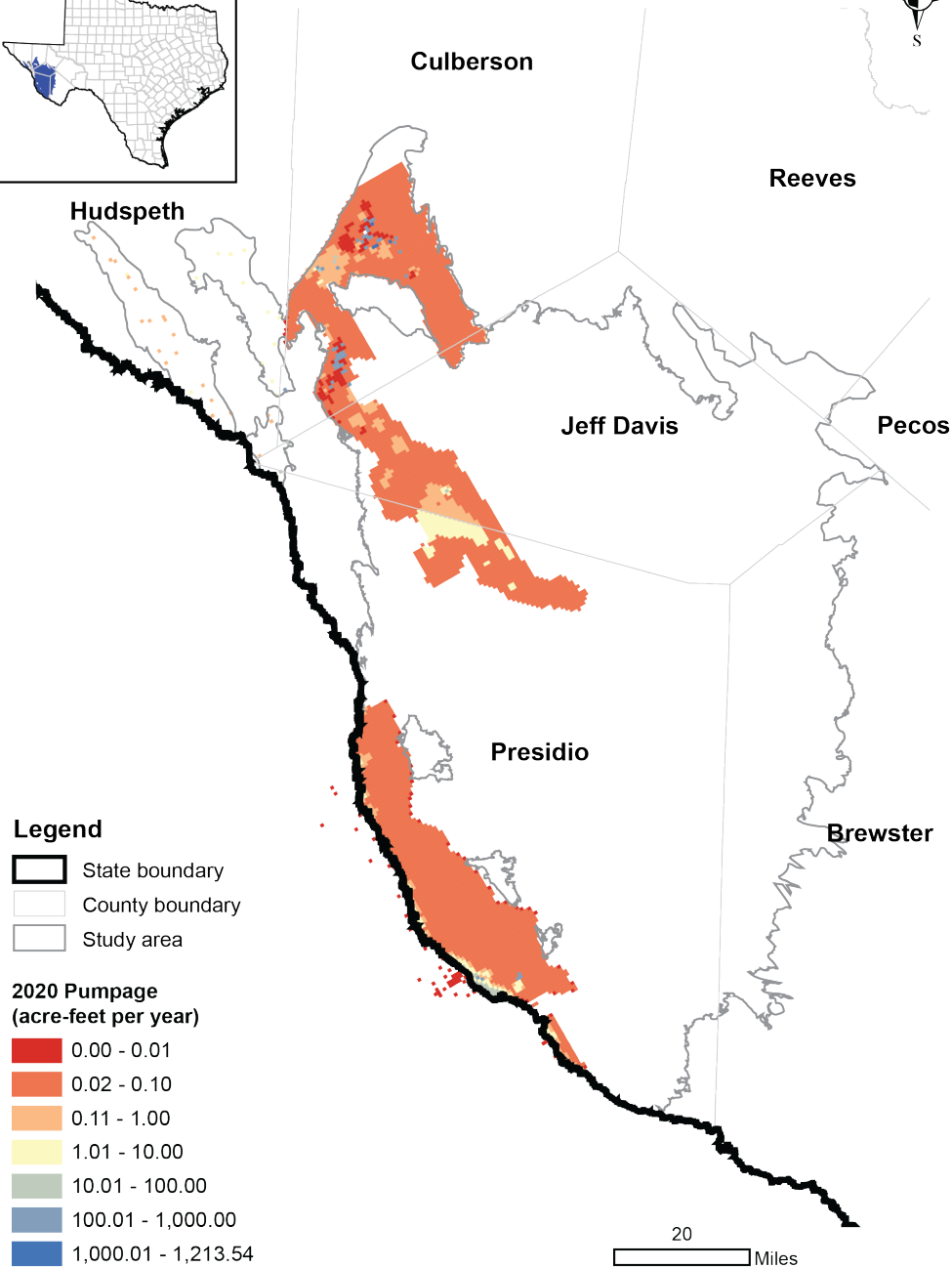
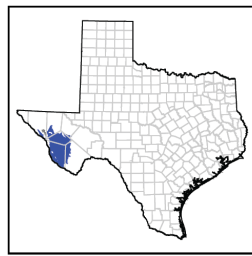
**Layer 2 base elevation
(feet above mean sea level)**

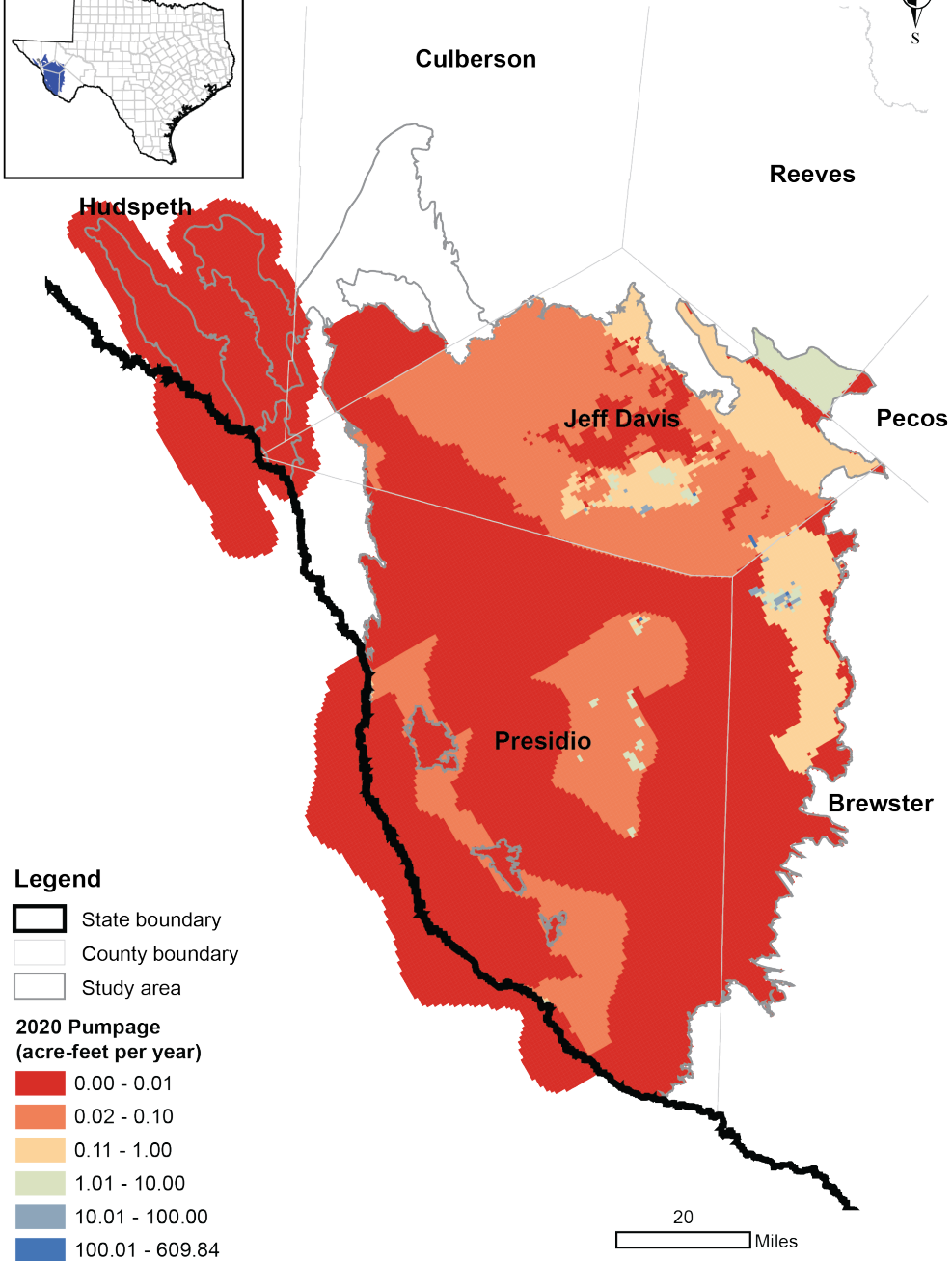
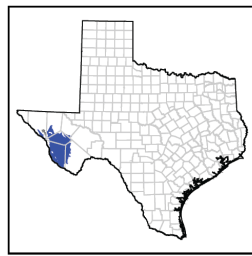
- 5,001 - 6,000
- 4,001 - 5,000
- 3,001 - 4,000
- 2,001 - 3,000
- 1,001 - 2,000
- 1 - 1,000
- 999 - 0
- 1,999 - -1,000
- 2,999 - -2,000
- 3,999 - -3,000
- 4,999 - -4,000
- 5,407 - -5,000

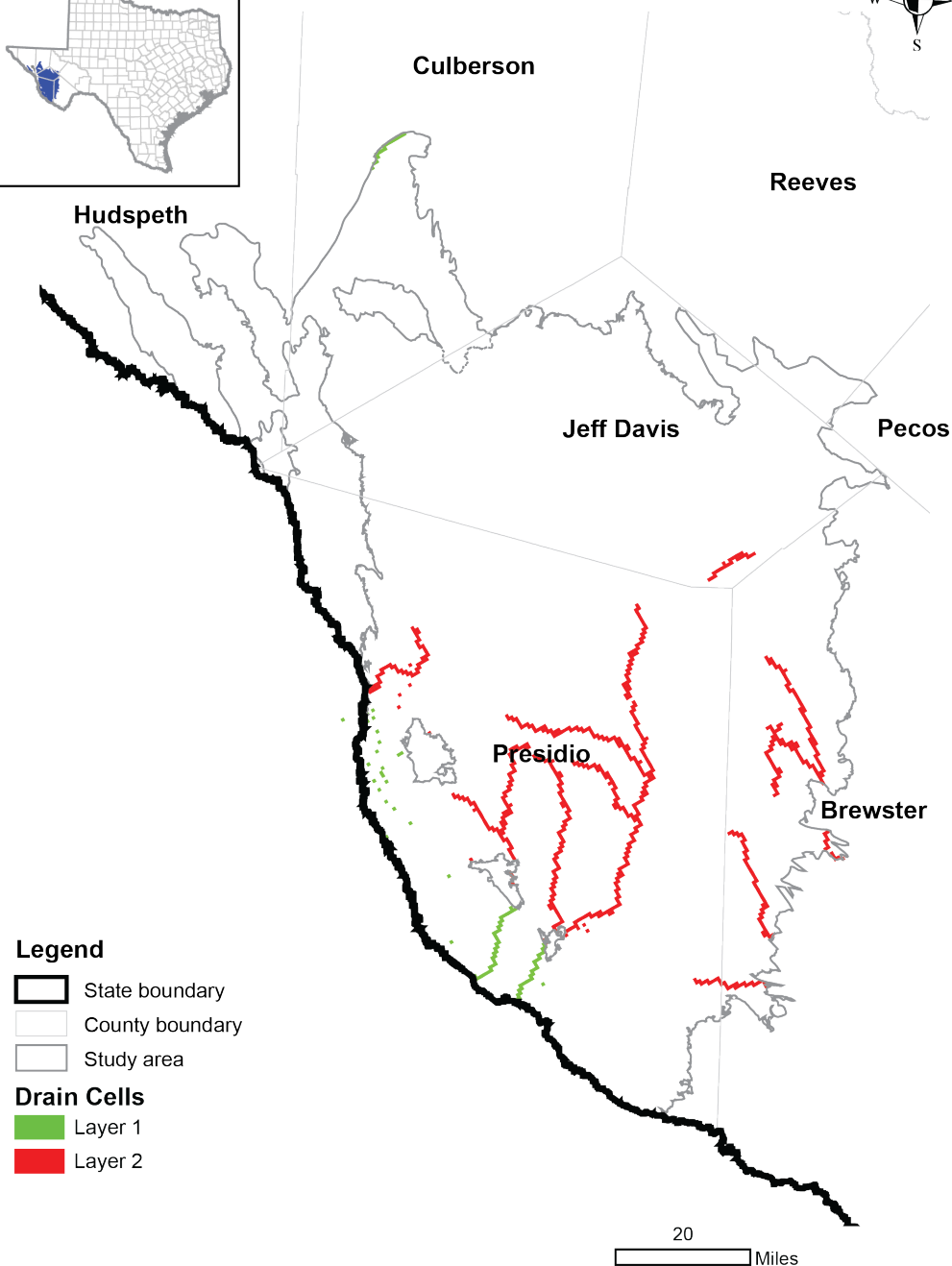
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 Miles

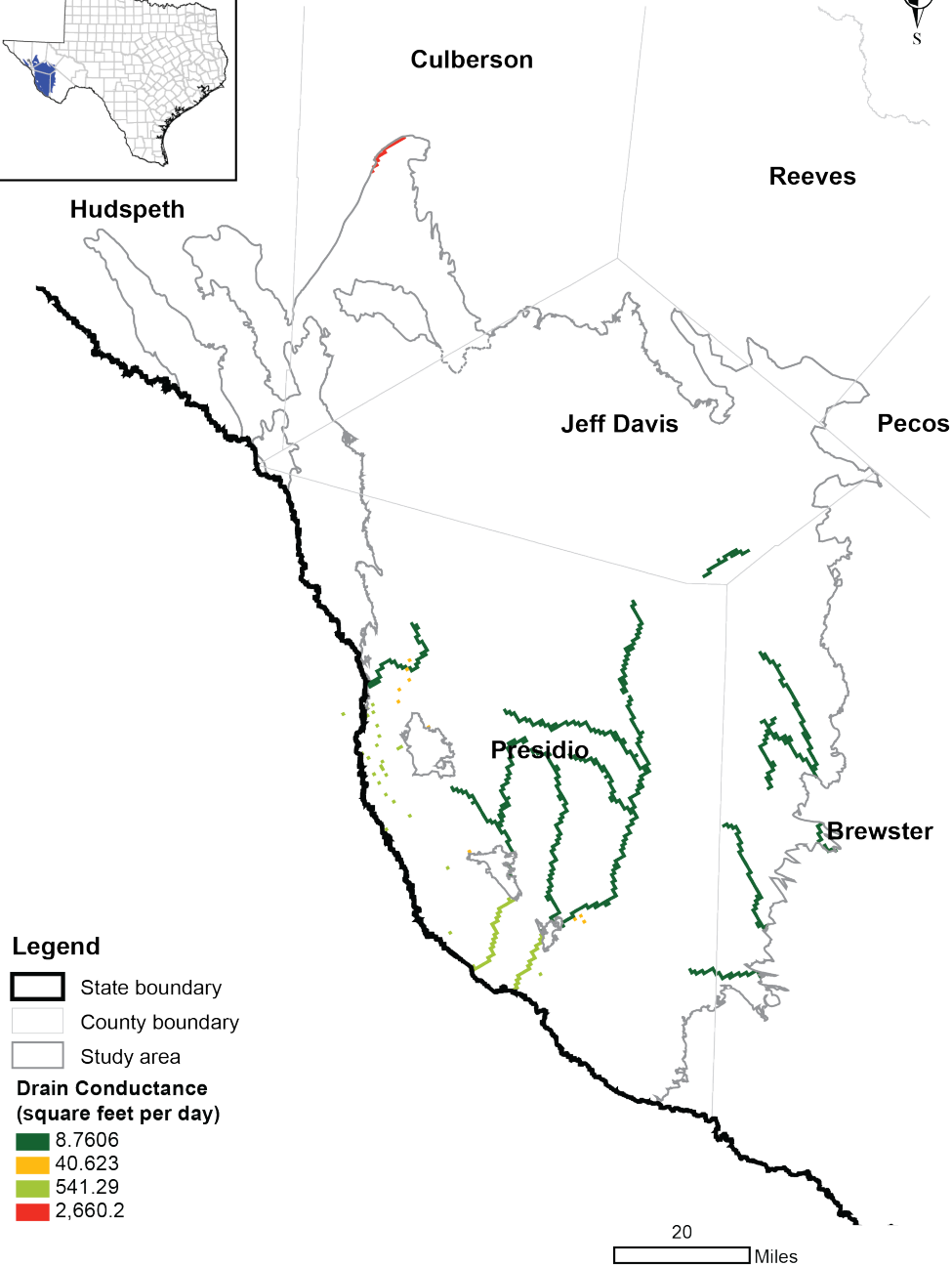
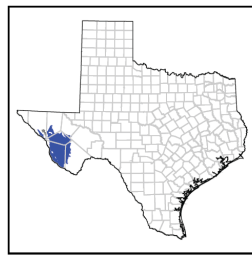


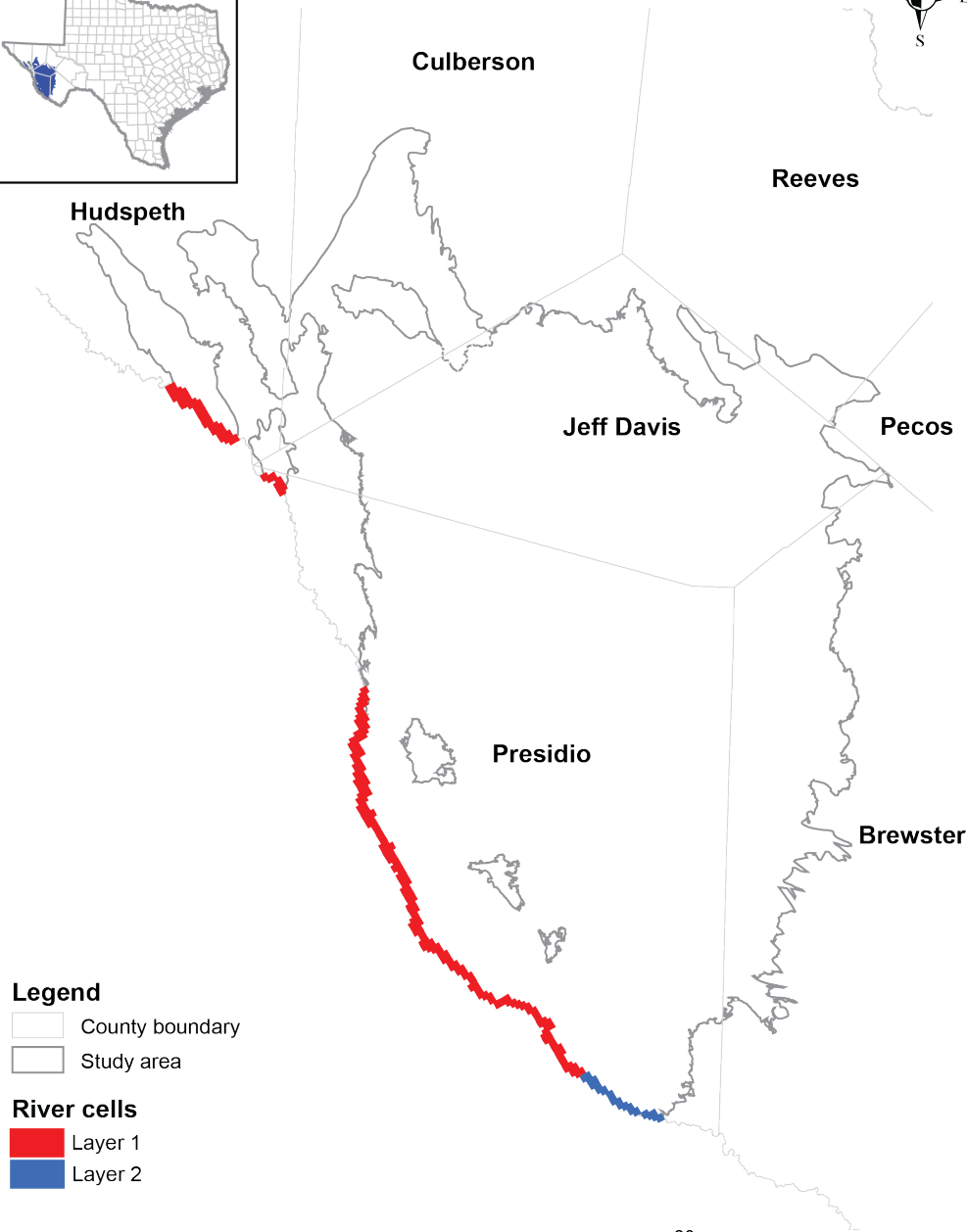
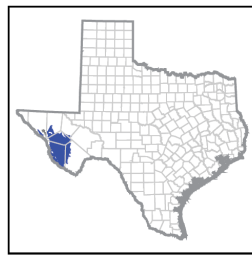






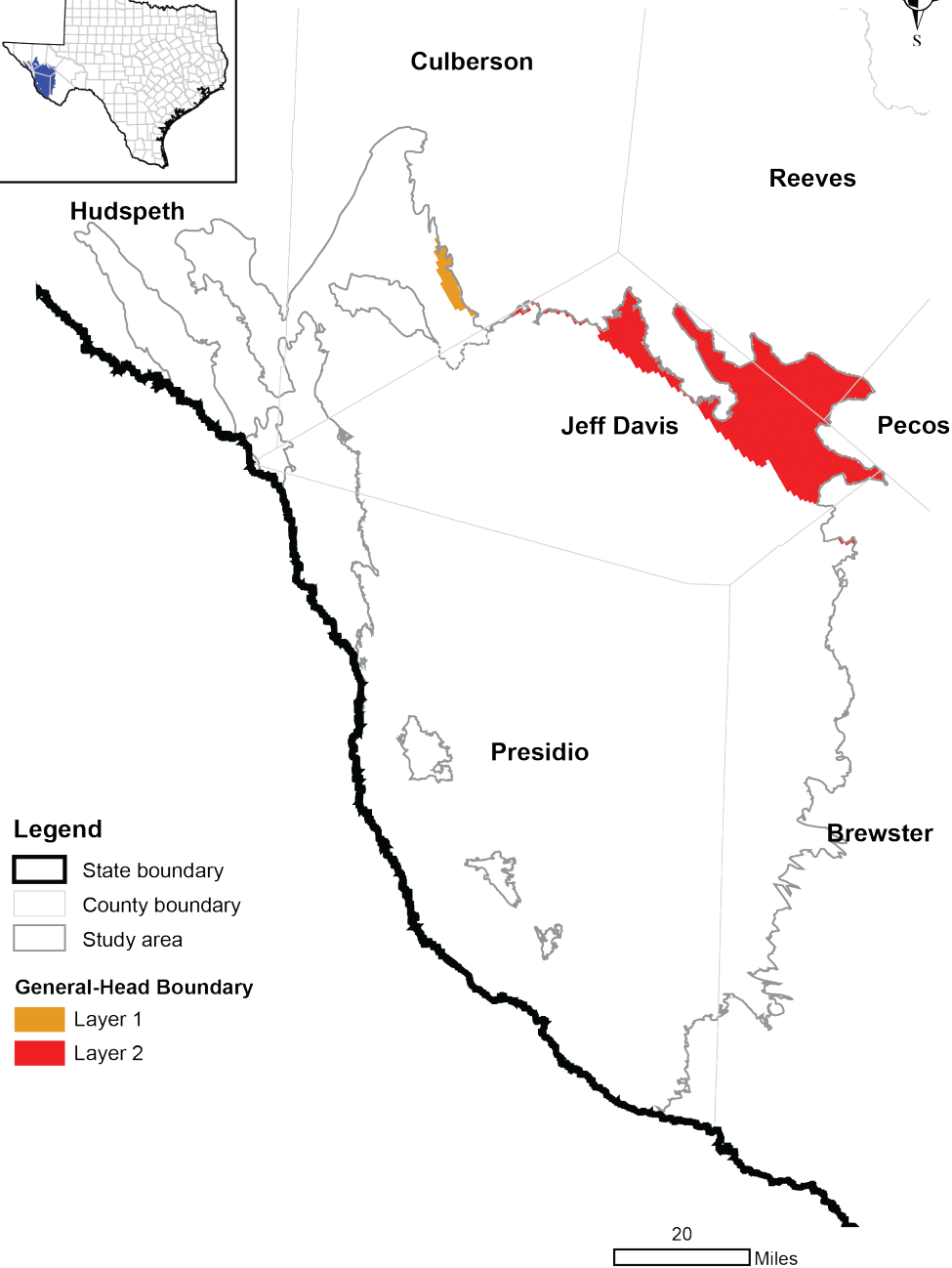
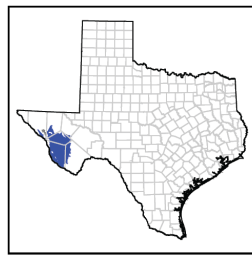


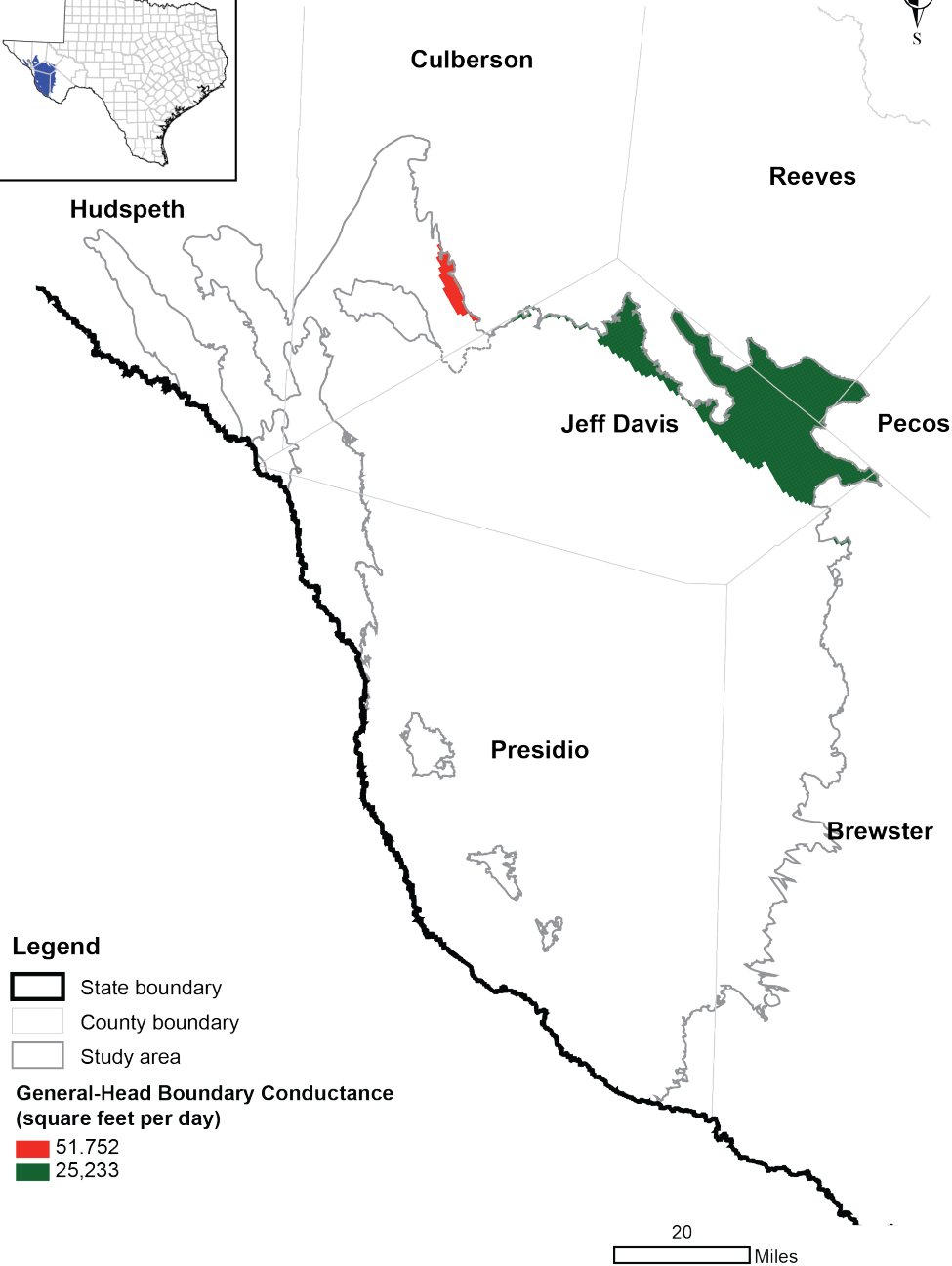
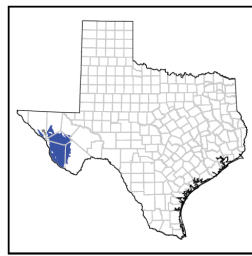




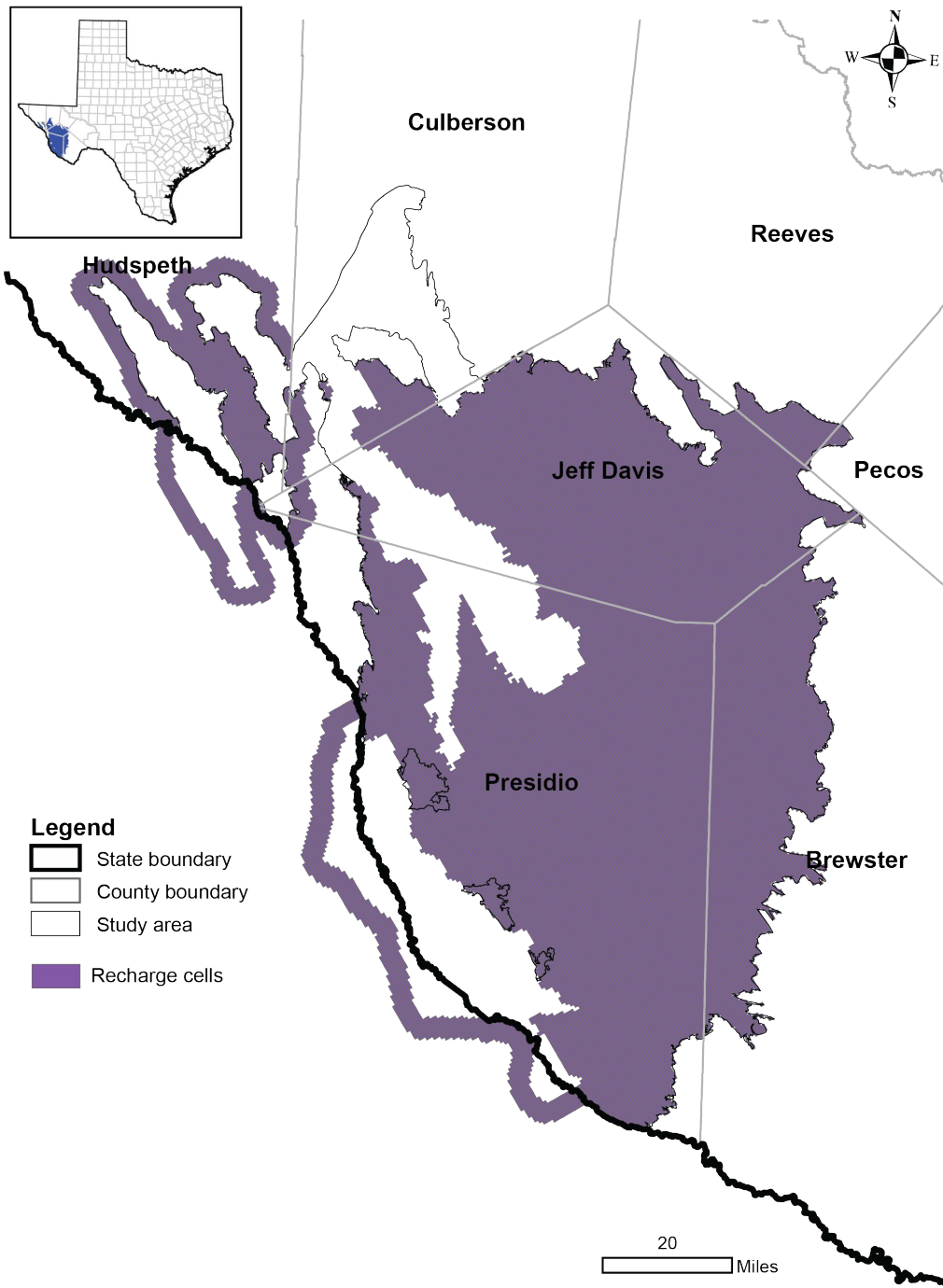
- Legend**
- County boundary
 - Study area
- River cells**
- Layer 1
 - Layer 2

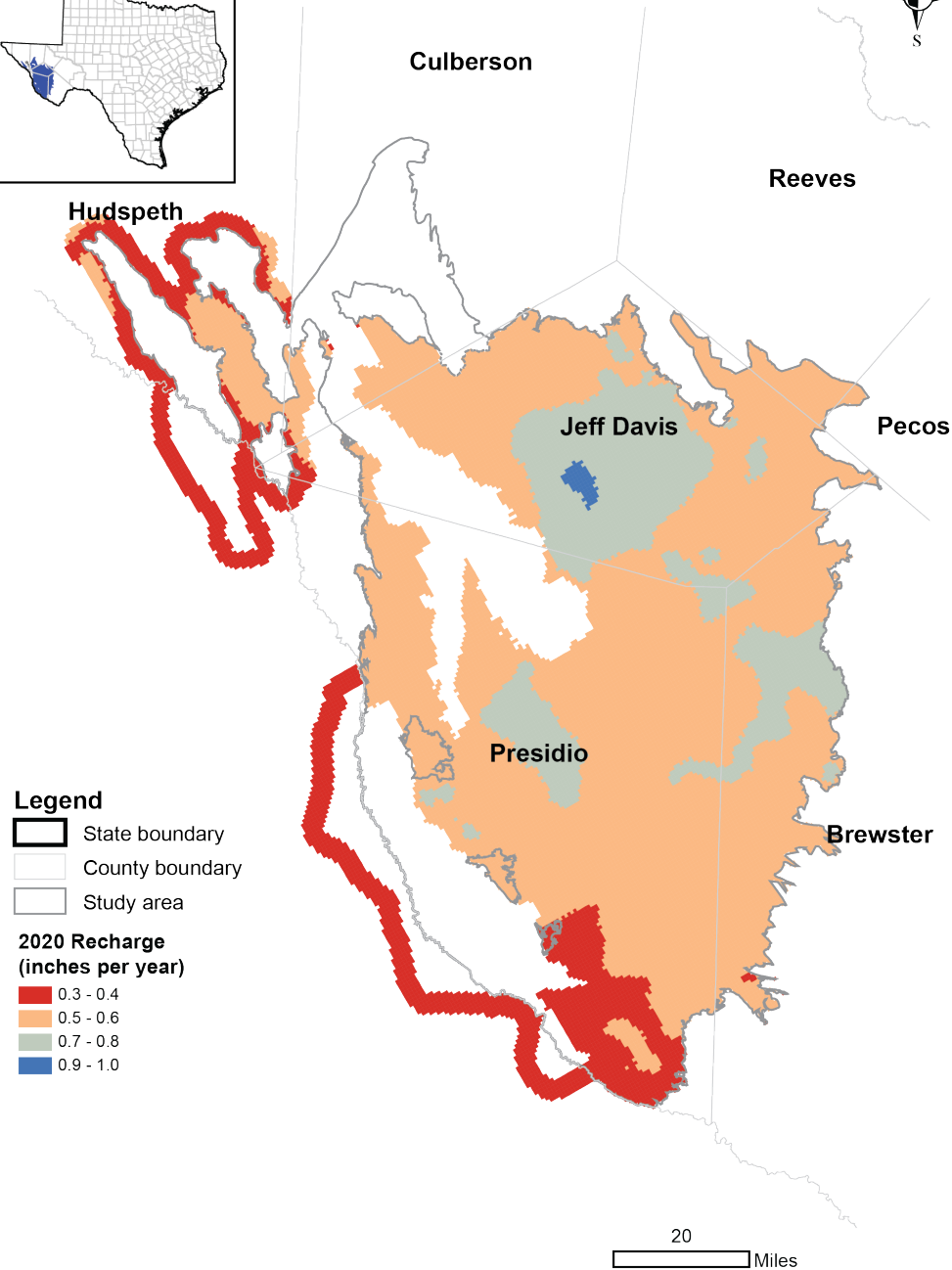
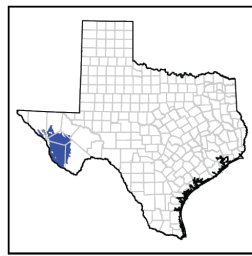
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Miles





Year	Total Recharge (acre-feet per year)	Year	Total Recharge (acre-feet per year)
1980	109,469	2001	105,200
1981	145,912	2002	108,444
1982	103,935	2003	106,267
1983	110,977	2004	175,597
1984	172,567	2005	108,134
1985	113,695	2006	98,453
1986	148,699	2007	121,211
1987	117,041	2008	124,923
1988	122,301	2009	129,287
1989	91,758	2010	133,691
1990	151,962	2011	69,209
1991	139,247	2012	108,230
1992	124,761	2013	106,643
1993	88,486	2014	113,250
1994	95,411	2015	151,151
1995	99,435	2016	113,910
1996	108,713	2017	148,330
1997	125,421	2018	113,635
1998	84,009	2019	122,877
1999	107,606	2020	88,452
2000	95,436		





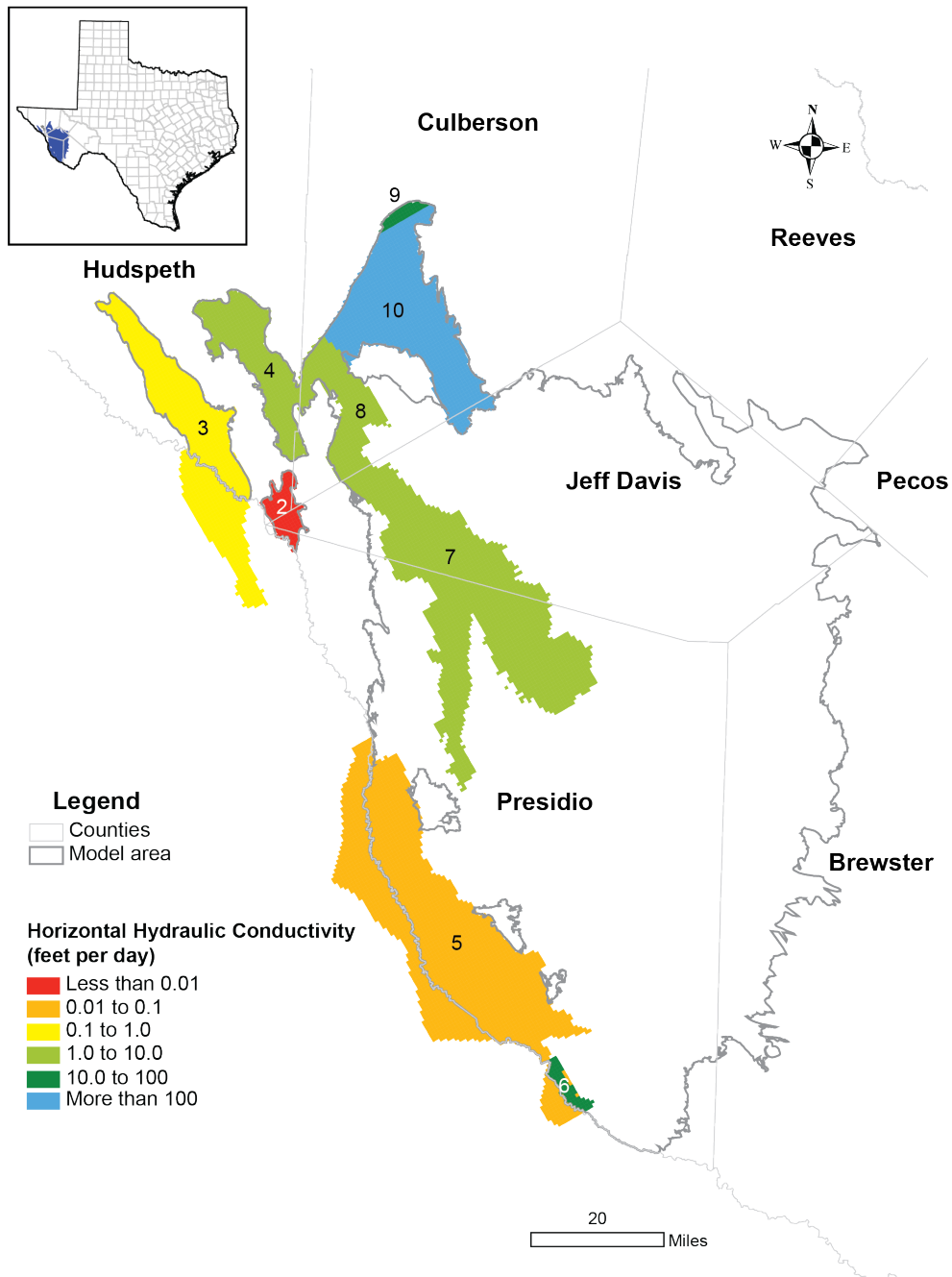


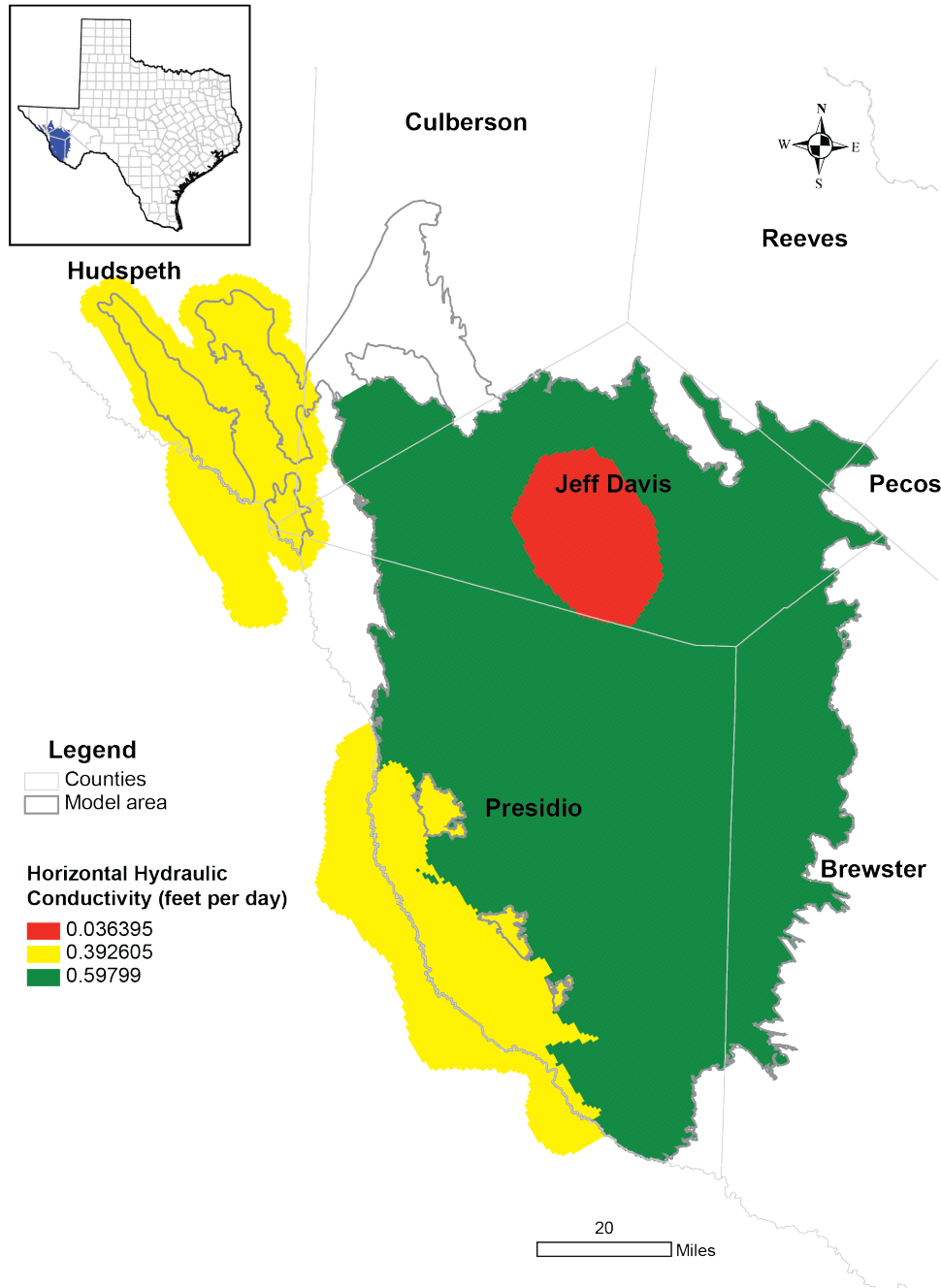
MODEL CALIBRATION AND RESULTS

Eagle Mountains

Parameter	Zone	Aquifer	Initial	Calibrated
Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity (feet per day)	1	West Texas Bolsons	0.0	0.0
	2	West Texas Bolsons	0.001	0.003
	3	West Texas Bolsons	0.200	1.0
	4	West Texas Bolsons	1.14	6.40
	5	West Texas Bolsons	2.35	0.013
	6	West Texas Bolsons	4.20	17.6
	7	West Texas Bolsons	8.80	4.28
	8	West Texas Bolsons	30.6	1.74
	9	West Texas Bolsons	35.0	35.0
	10	West Texas Bolsons	50.0	1,000
	11	Igneous	0.02	0.04
	12	Igneous	0.10	0.60
	13	Igneous	0.14	0.39
Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity (feet per day)	1	West Texas Bolsons	0.0	0.0
	2	West Texas Bolsons	0.0001	0.0003
	3	West Texas Bolsons	0.02	0.10
	4	West Texas Bolsons	0.114	0.64
	5	West Texas Bolsons	0.235	0.001
	6	West Texas Bolsons	0.42	1.76
	7	West Texas Bolsons	0.88	0.43
	8	West Texas Bolsons	3.06	0.17
	9	West Texas Bolsons	3.50	3.50
	10	West Texas Bolsons	5.00	100
	11	Igneous	0.002	0.004
	12	Igneous	0.01	0.06
	13	Igneous	0.014	0.039
Specific Storage (per foot)	1	West Texas Bolsons	0.00003	0.001
	2	Igneous	0.00001	0.00001
	3	Igneous	0.00003	0.000002
Recharge factor	1		1.00	2.55
General-Head Boundary Conductance (square feet per day)	1	West Texas Bolsons	264	52
	2	Igneous	400	25,233

Parameter	Zone	Aquifer	Initial	Calibrated
River Conductance (square feet per day)	1	West Texas Bolsons/Igneous	3,300	19,891
Drain Conductance (square feet per day)	1	West Texas Bolsons	2,640	2,660
	2	West Texas Bolsons	500	541
	3	Igneous	1,320	8.76
	4	Igneous	50	41





MODEL-SIMULATED v. MEASURED WATER LEVELS

Eagle Flat

$$\text{Residual} = (h_m - h_s)$$

$$\text{Mean error} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (h_m - h_s)_i$$

$$\text{Mean absolute error} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |(h_m - h_s)_i|$$

$$\text{Root mean square error} = \left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |(h_m - h_s)_i|^2 \right]^{0.5}$$

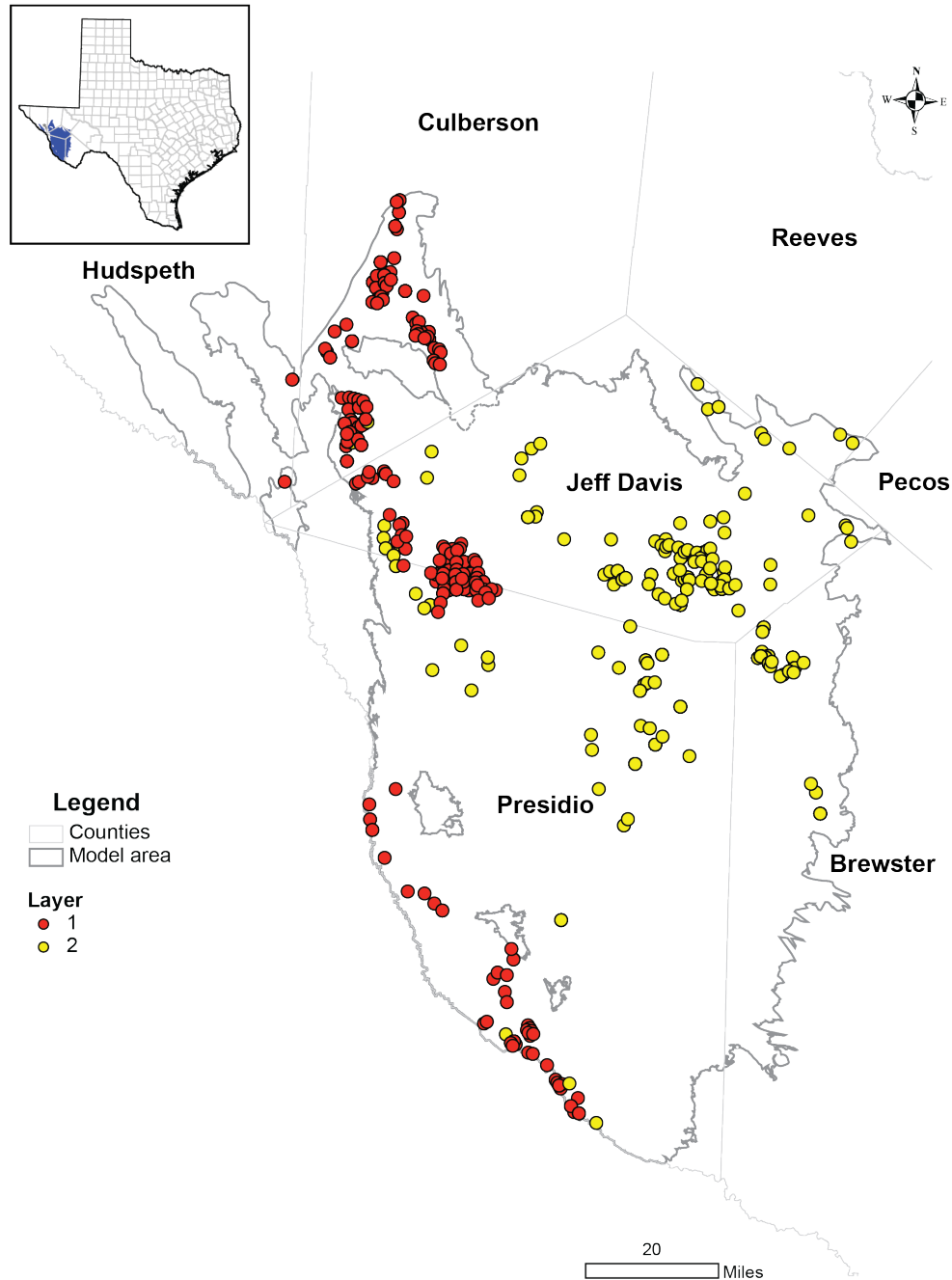
where:

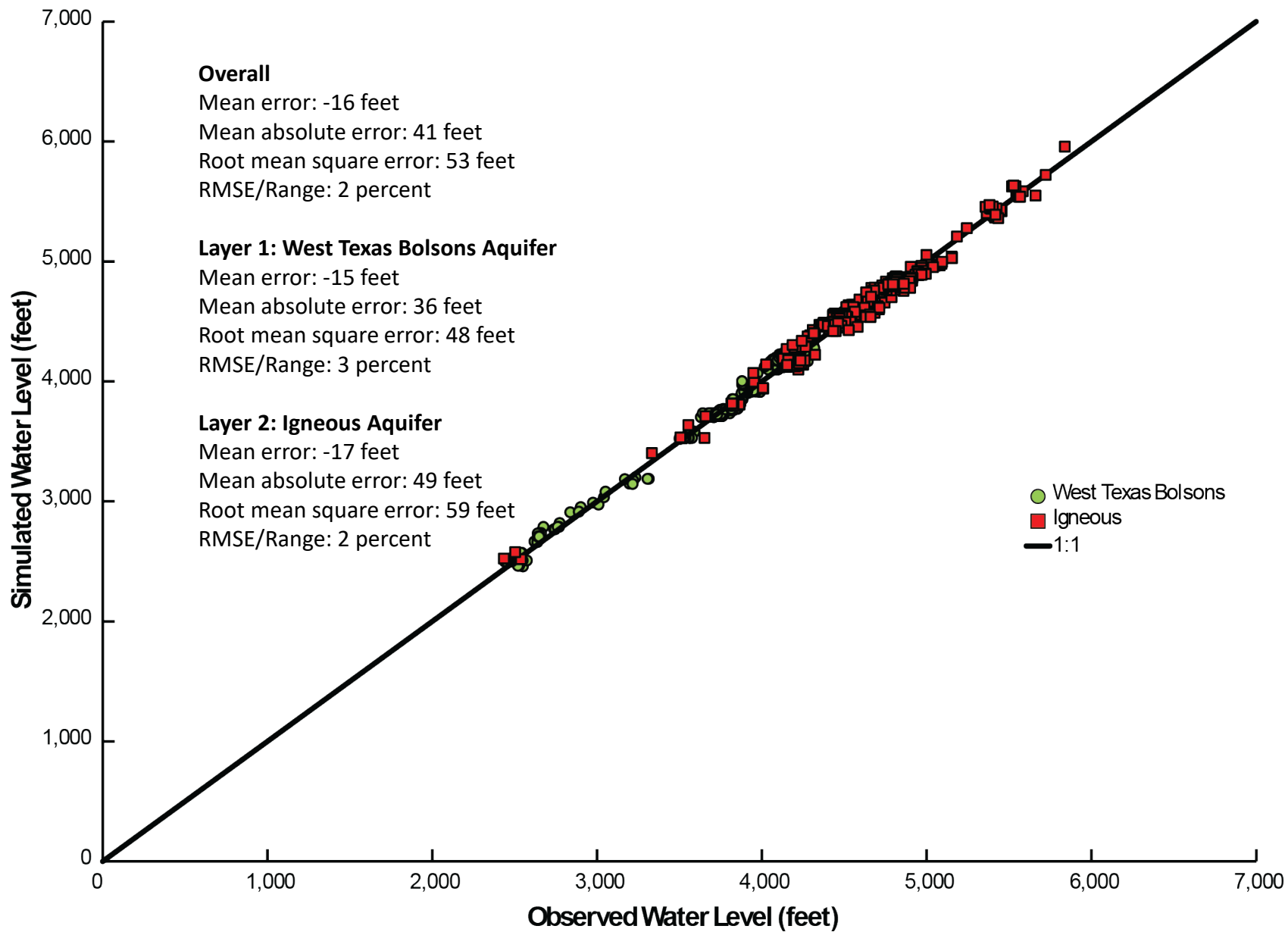
h_m = measured water level (feet above mean sea level)

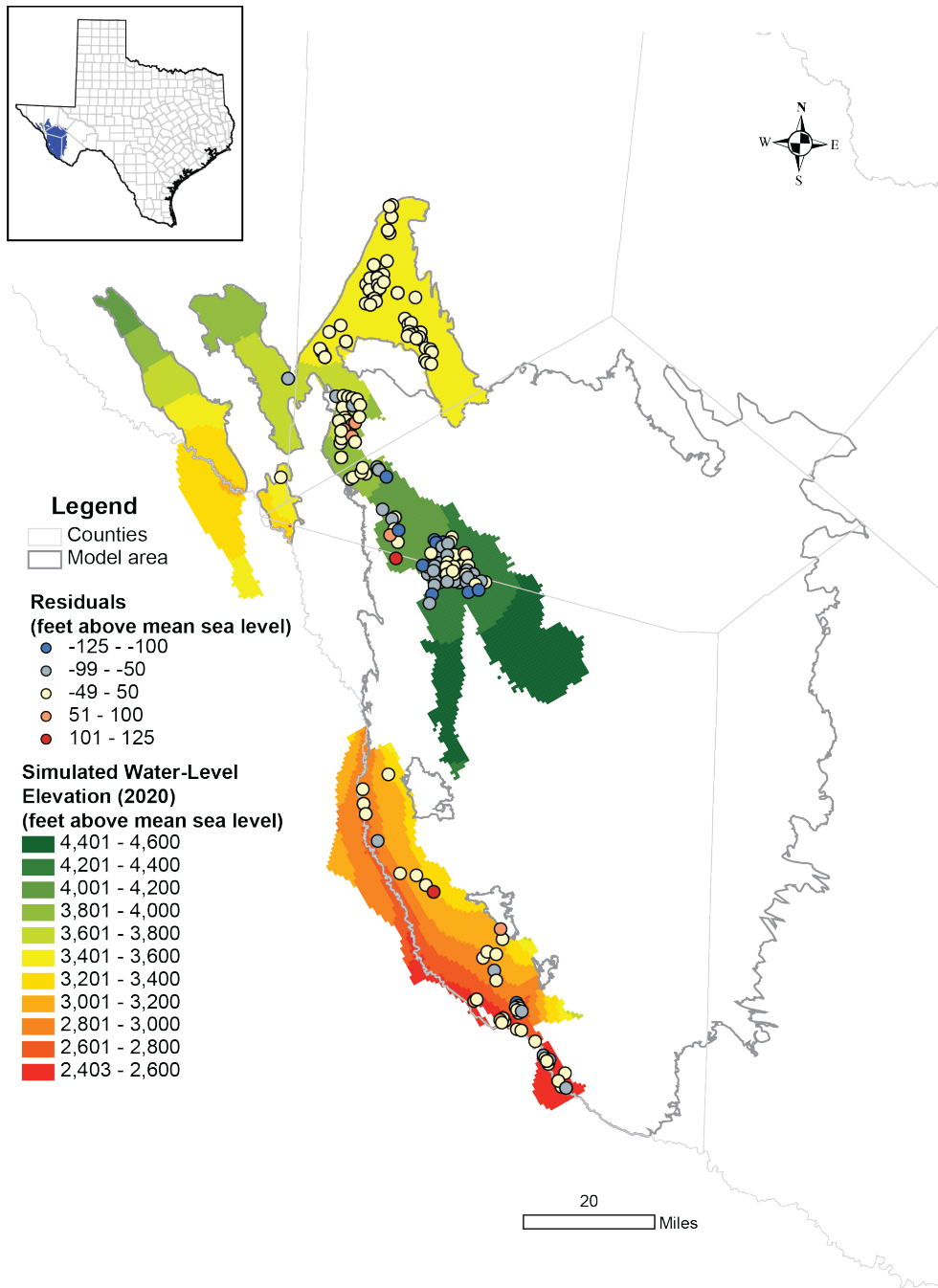
h_s = simulated water level (feet above mean sea level)

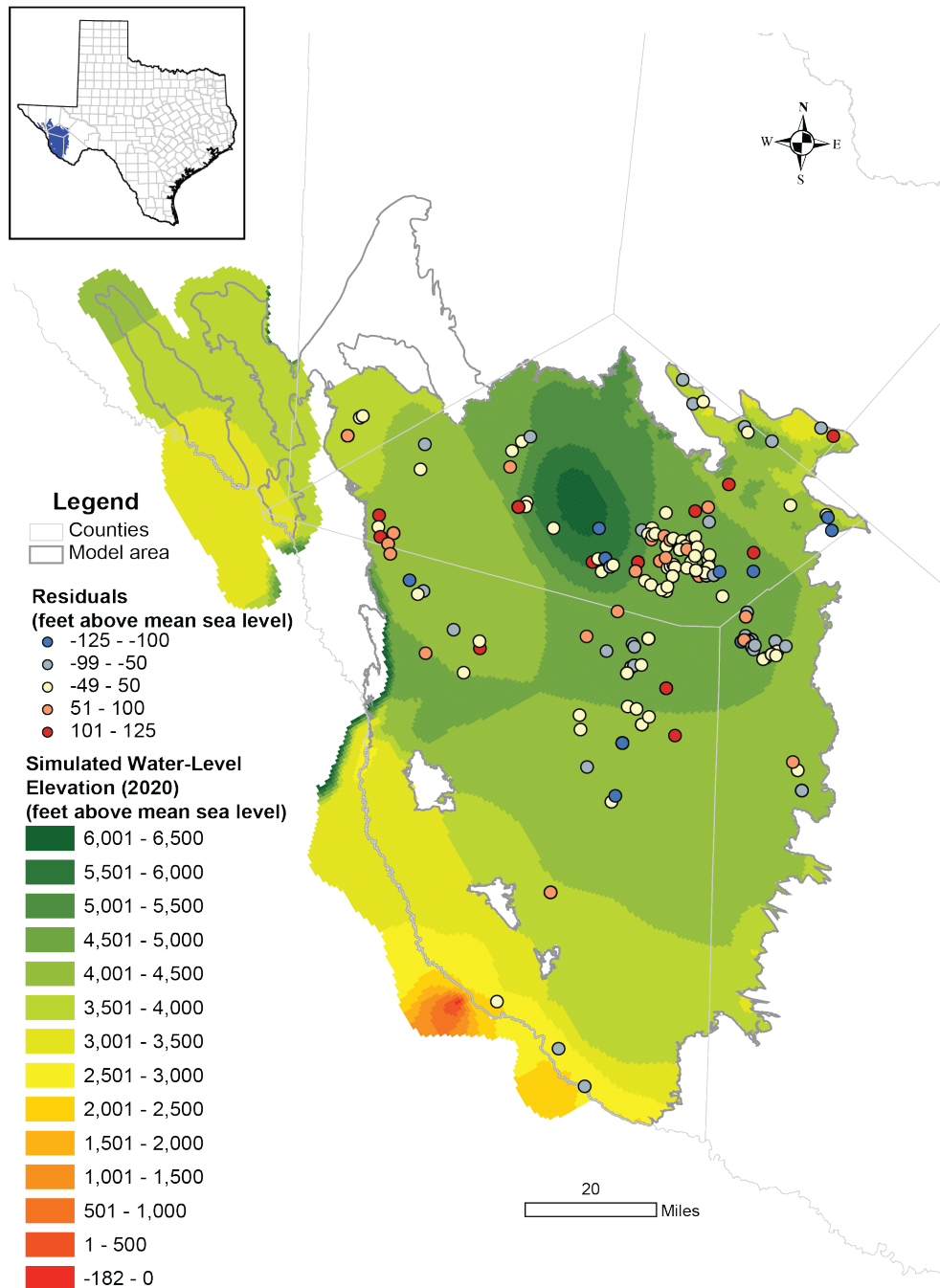
n = number of calibration measurements.

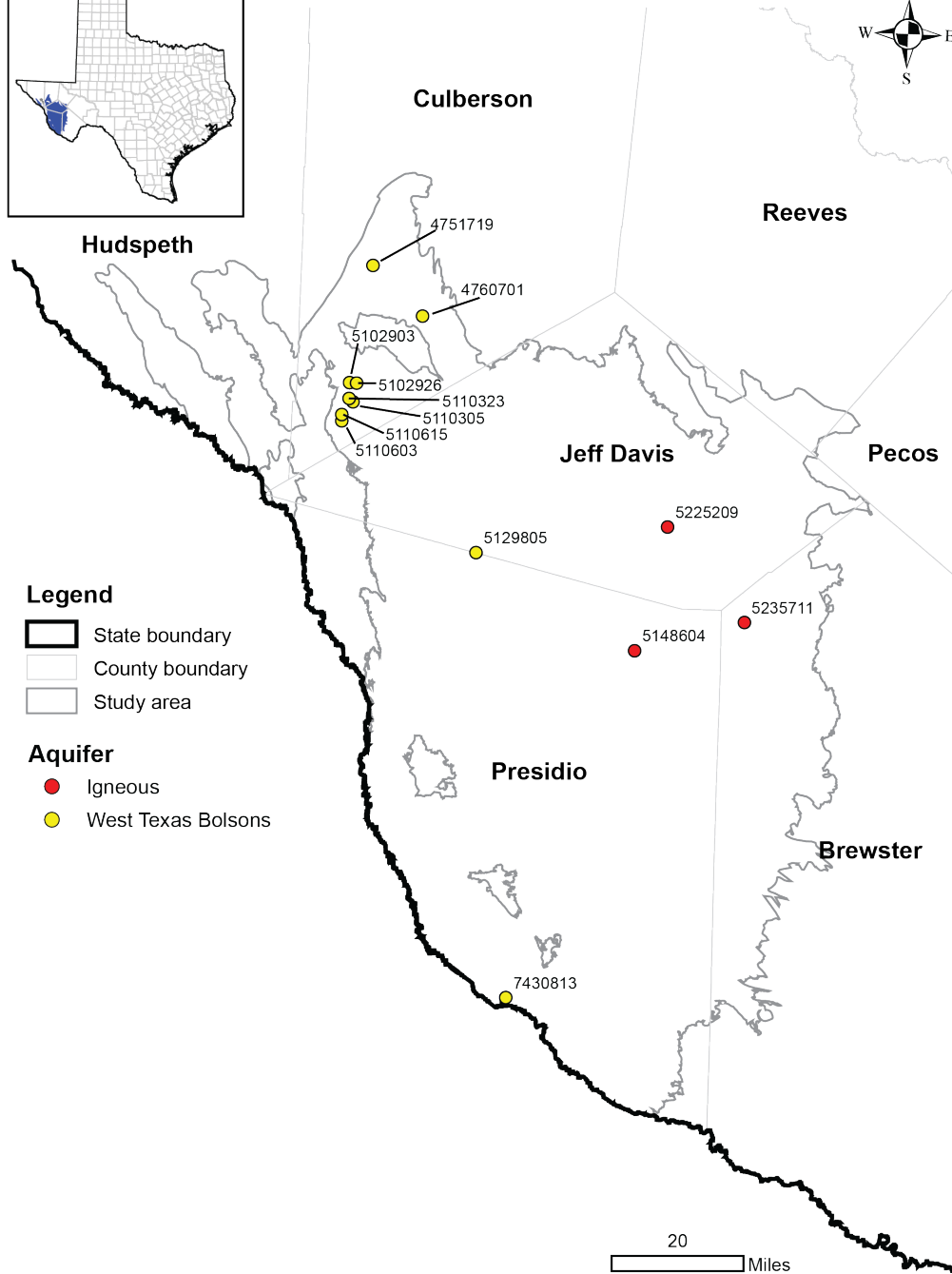
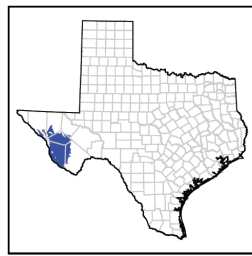
West Texas Bolsons Aquifer	Pest 3
Mean Error (feet)	-15
Mean Absolute Error (feet)	36
Root Mean Square Error (feet)	48
Range of measured water levels (feet)	1,877
Root Mean Square Error/Range (percent)	3
Igneous Aquifer	
Mean Error (feet)	-17
Mean Absolute Error (feet)	49
Root Mean Square Error (feet)	59
Range of measured water levels (feet)	3,404
Root Mean Square Error/Range (percent)	2
Overall	
Mean Error (feet)	-16
Mean Absolute Error (feet)	41
Root Mean Square Error (feet)	53
Range of measured water levels (feet)	3,404
Root Mean Square Error/Range (percent)	2

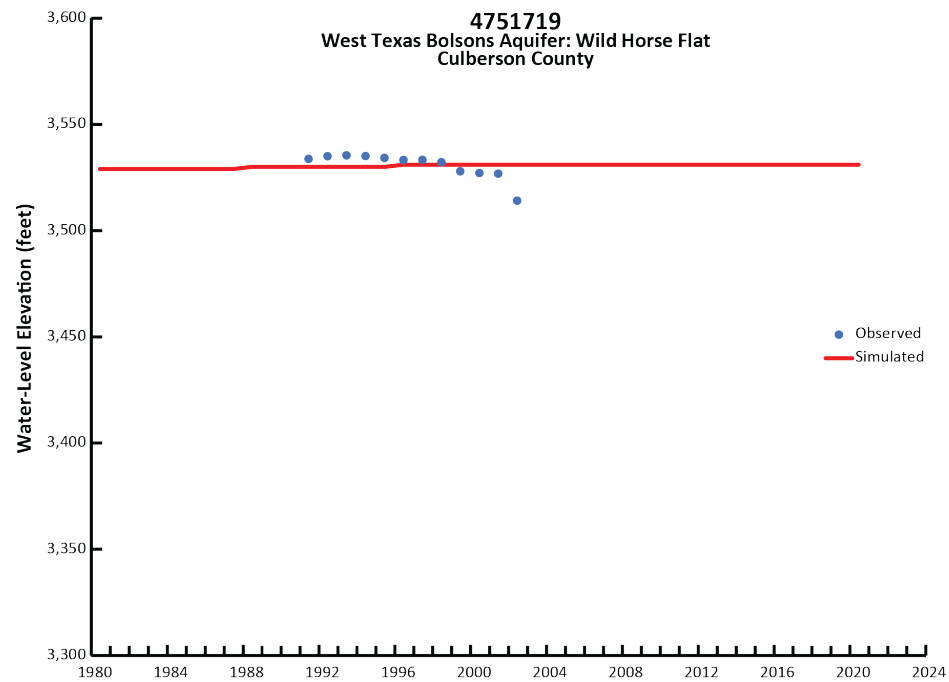
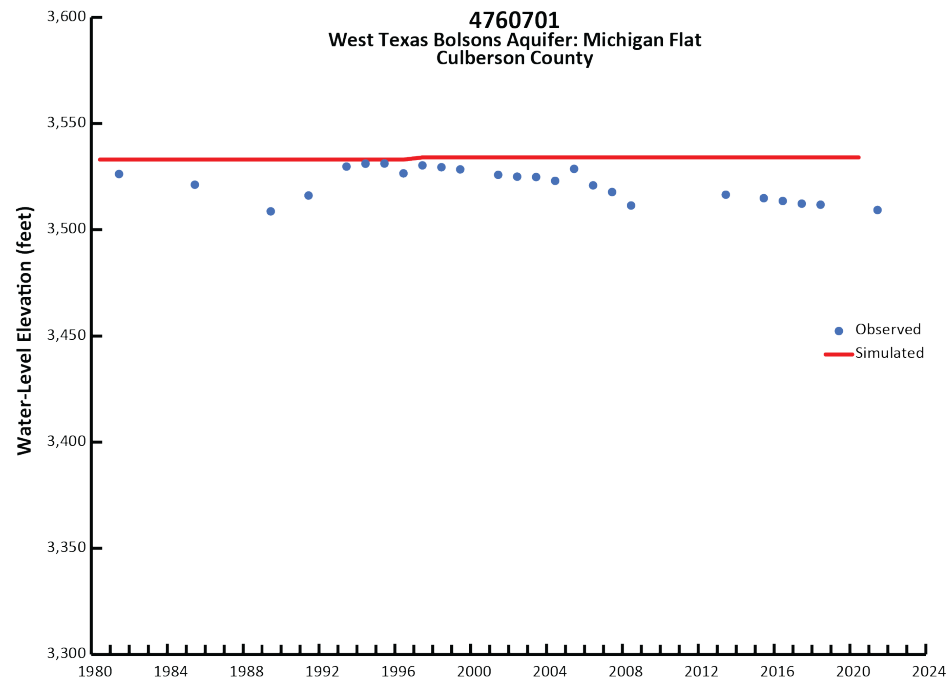


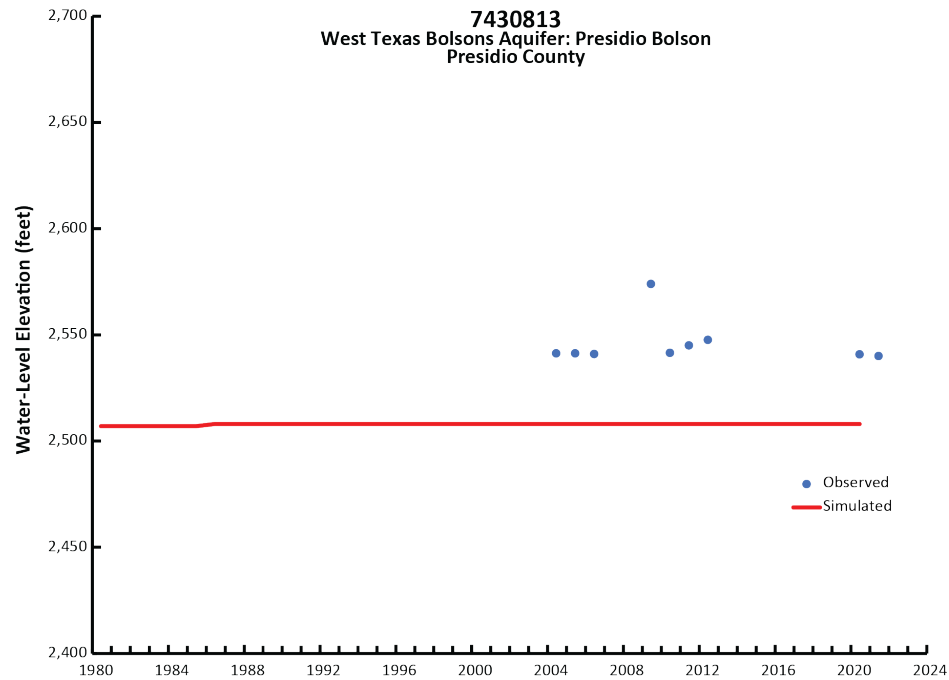
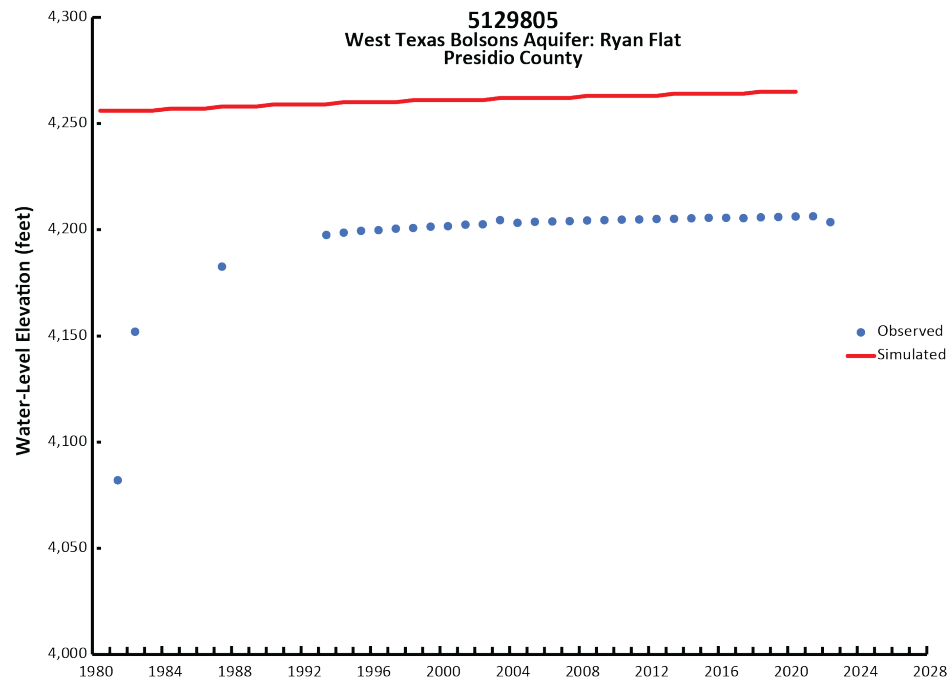


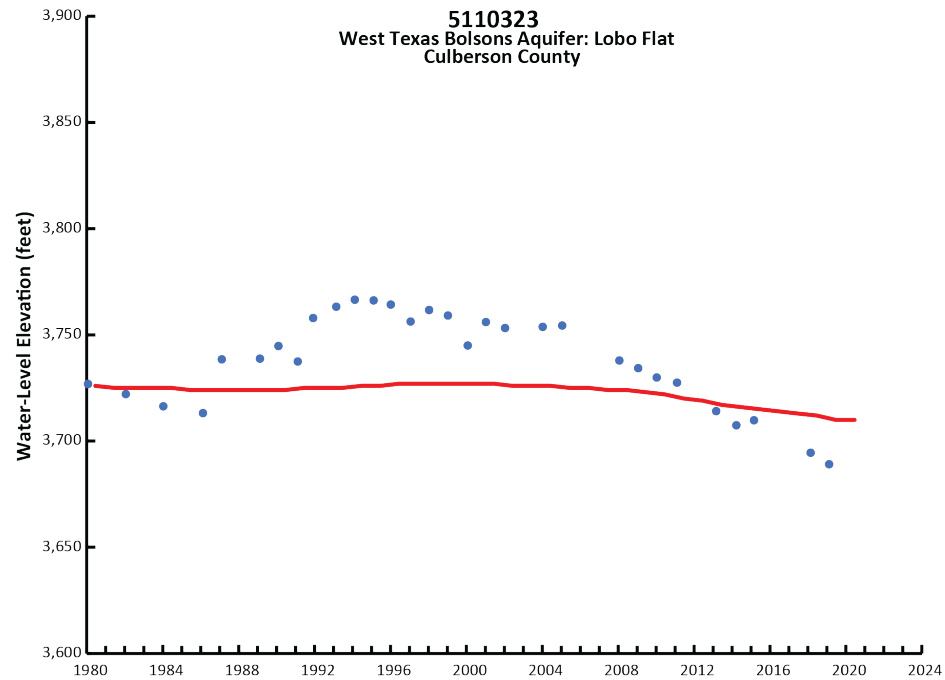
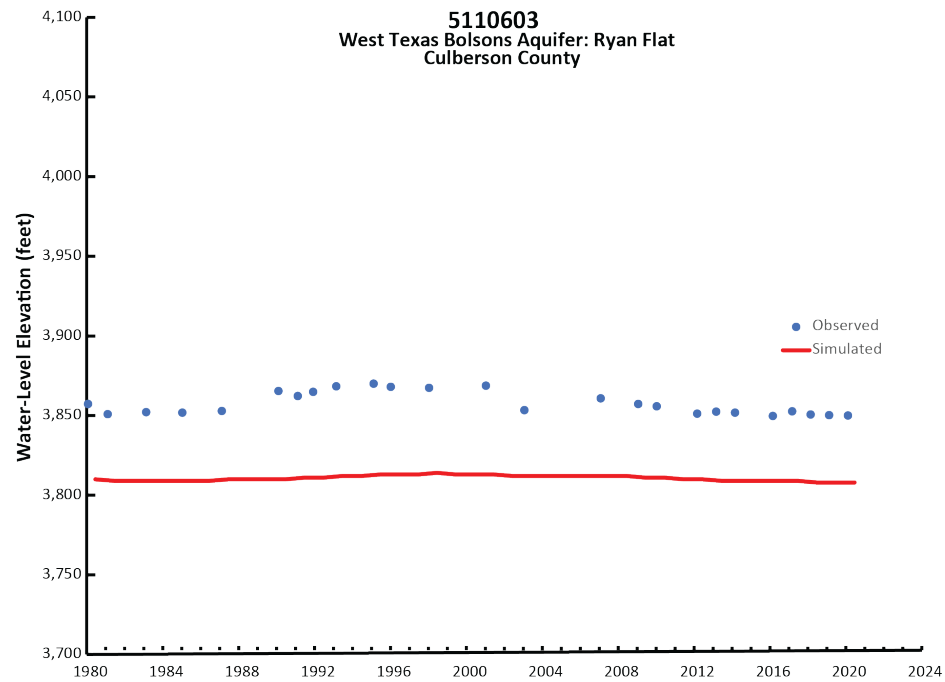


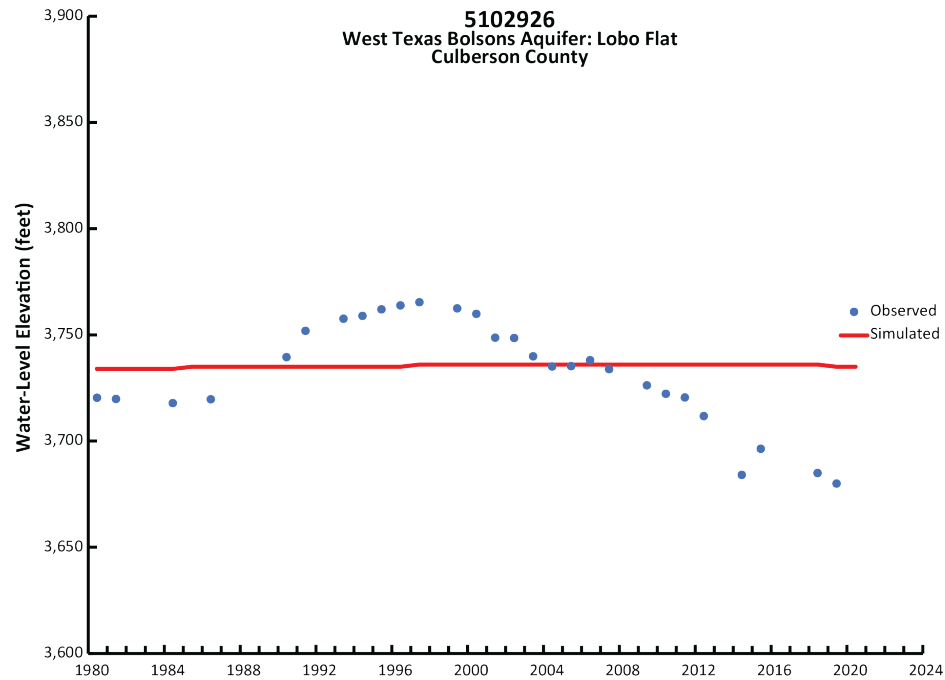
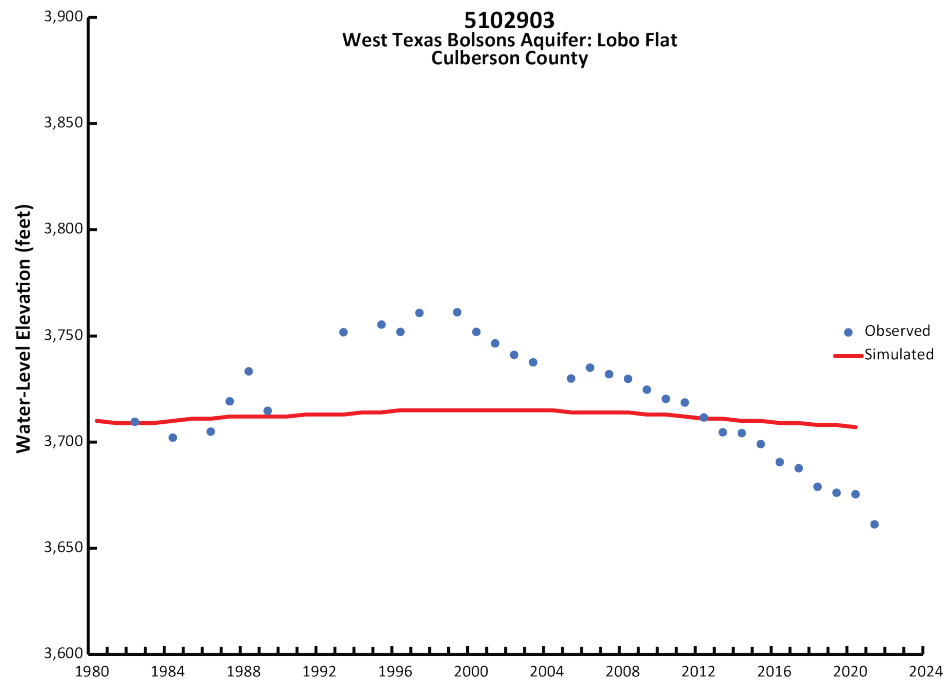


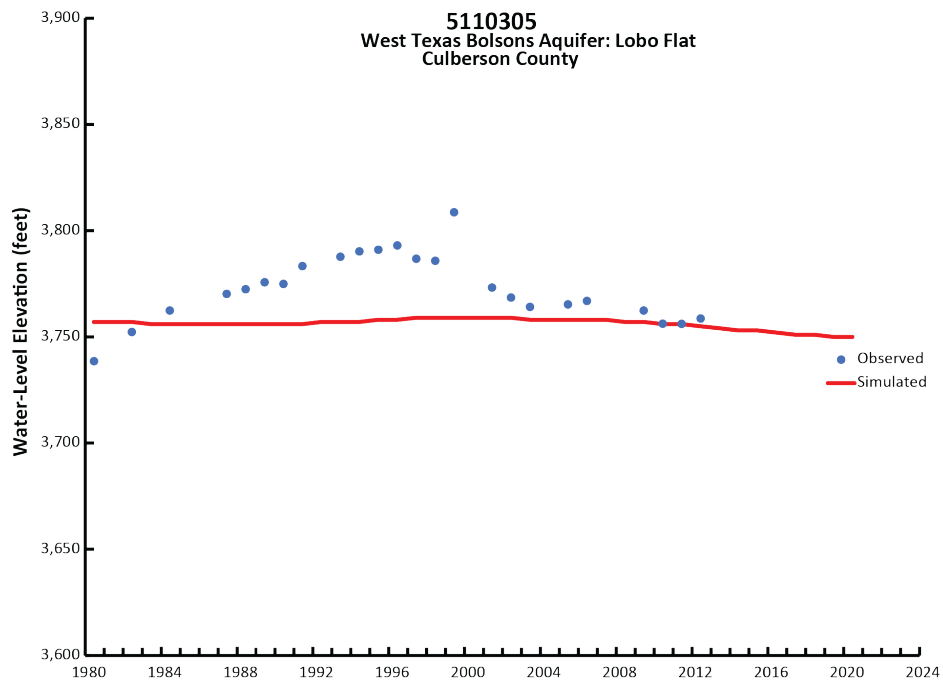
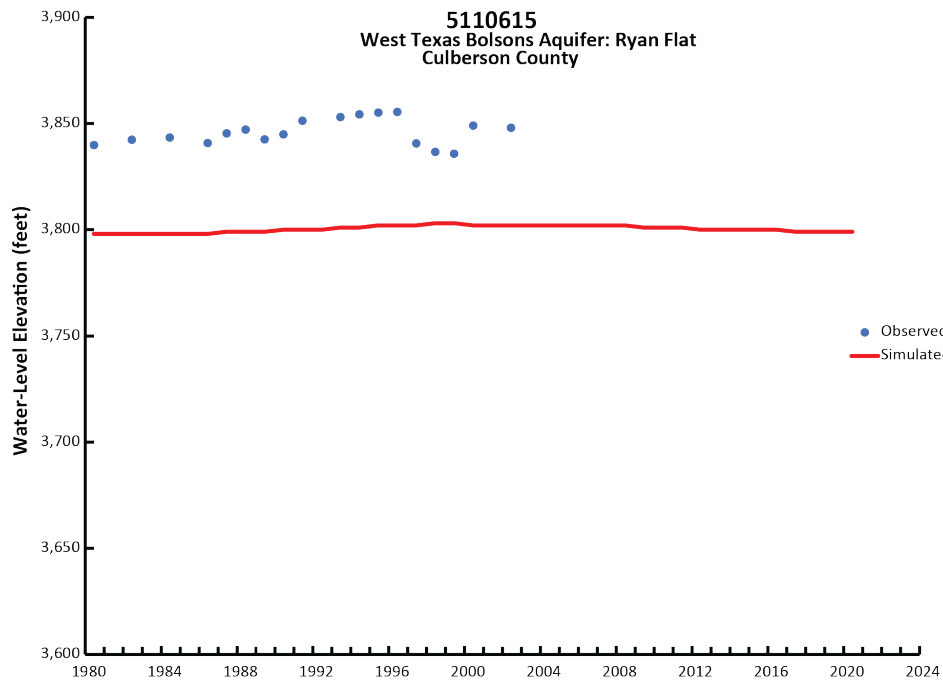


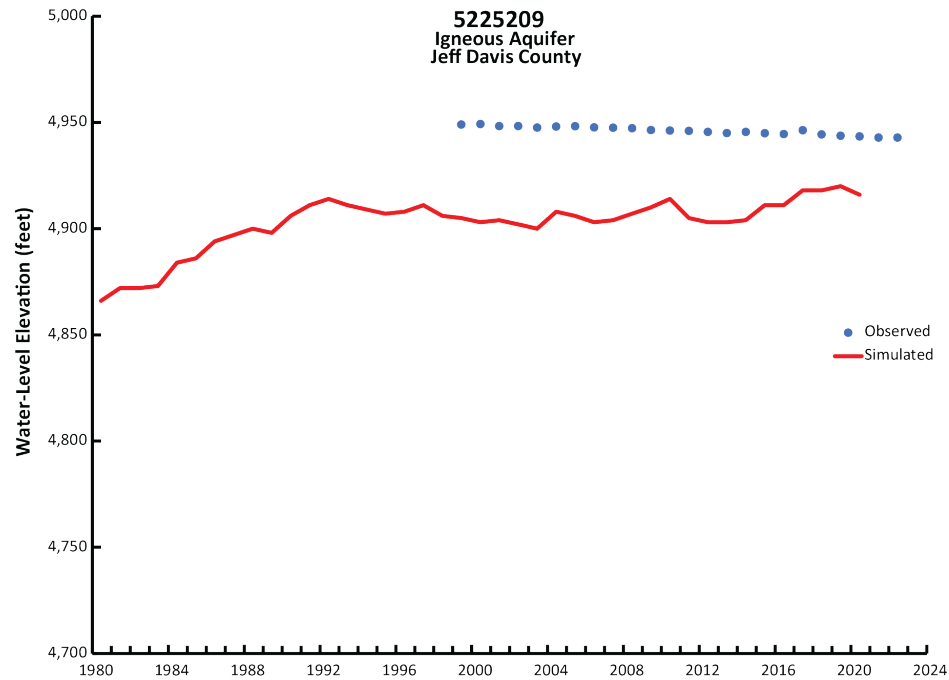
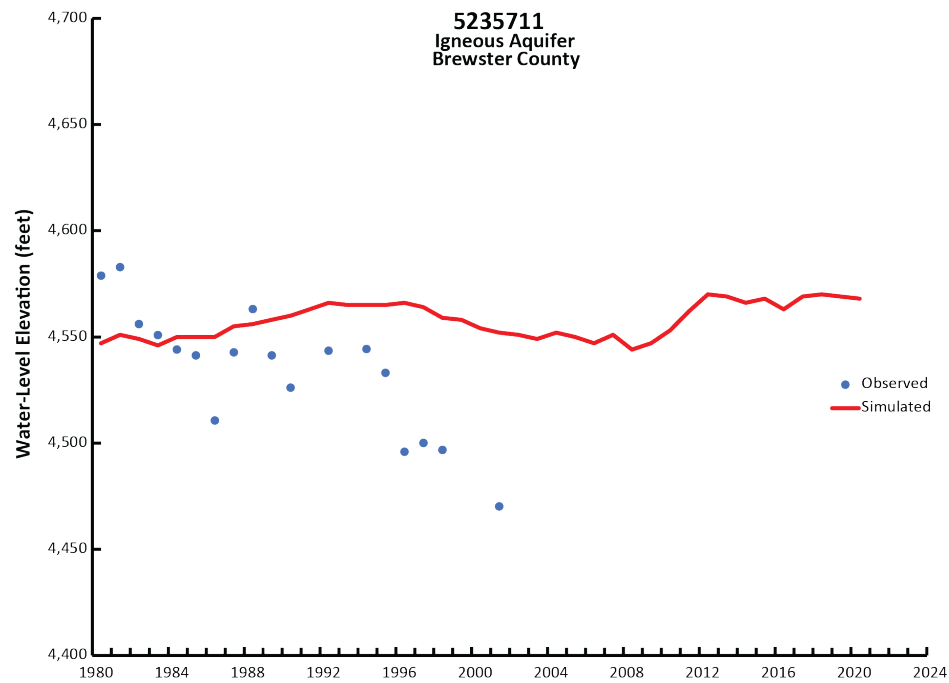


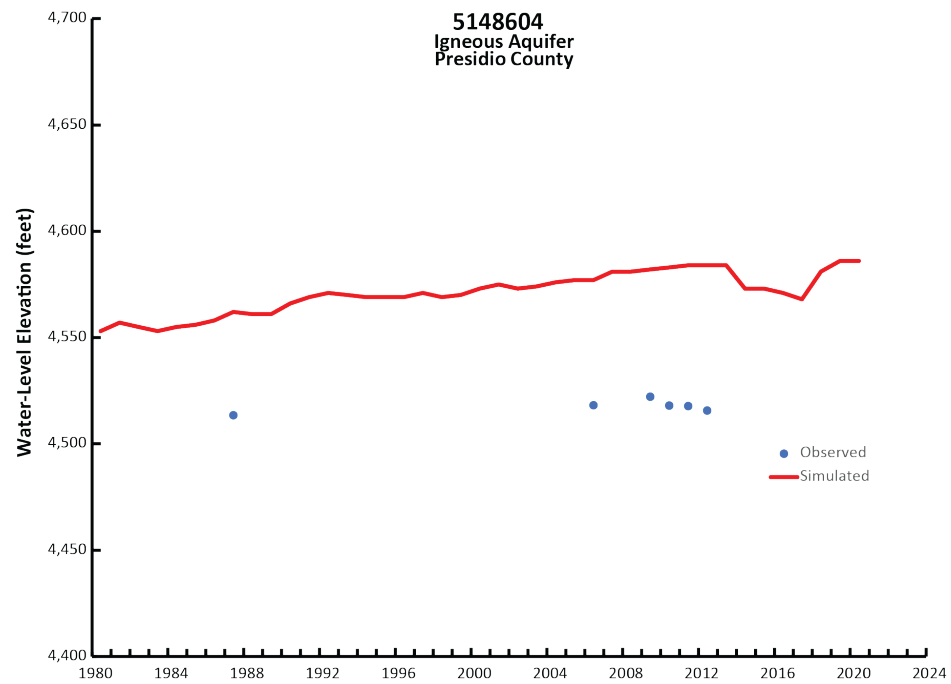








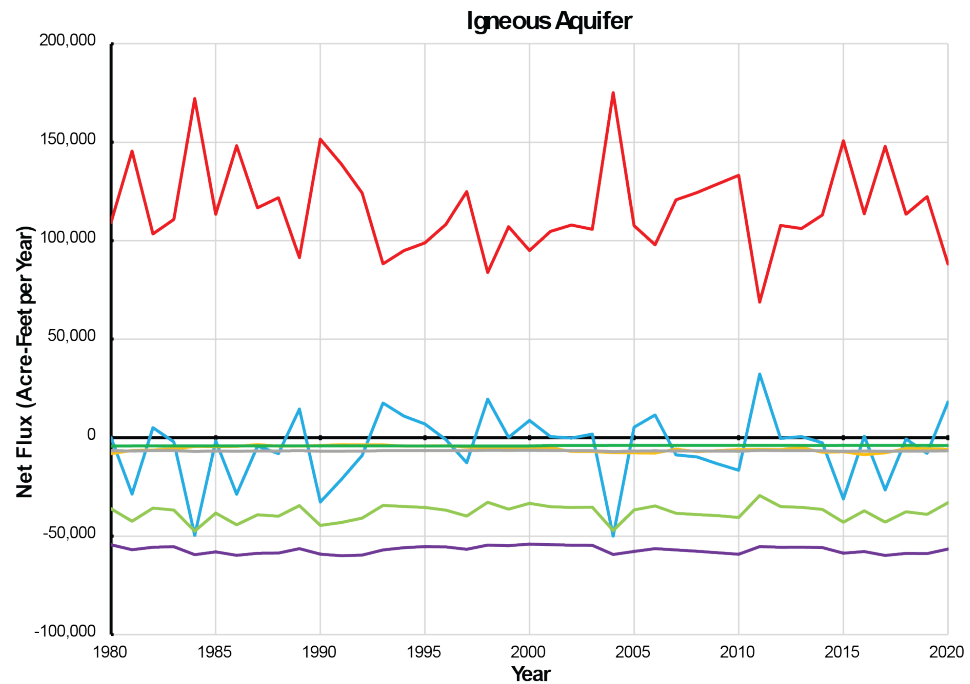
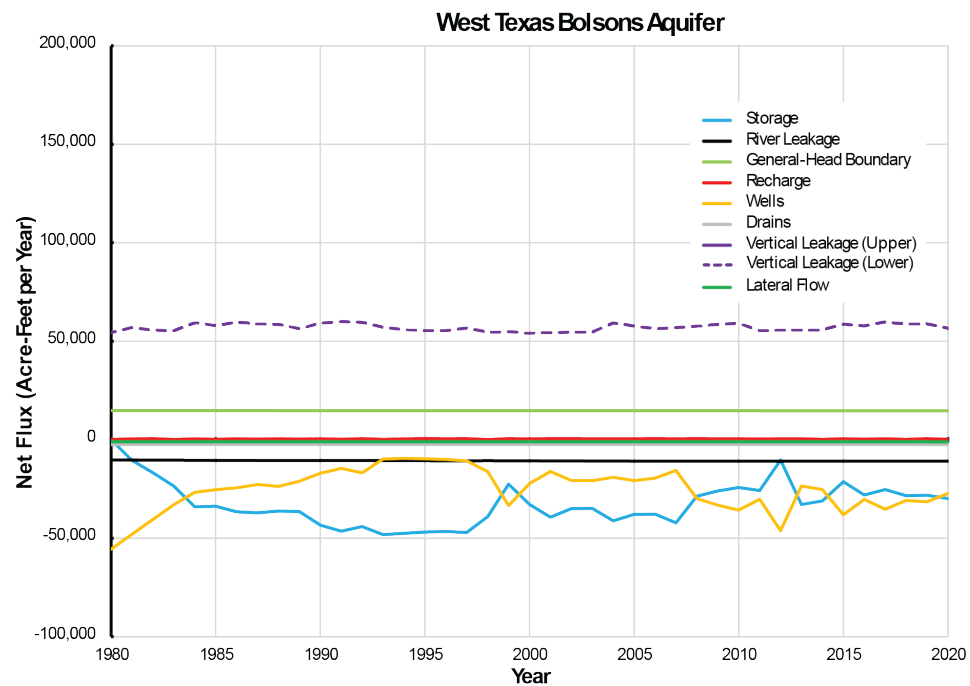




A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are green desert shrubs and grasses. In the middle ground, a metal windmill stands on a hill. In the background, there are blue mountains under a blue sky with white clouds.

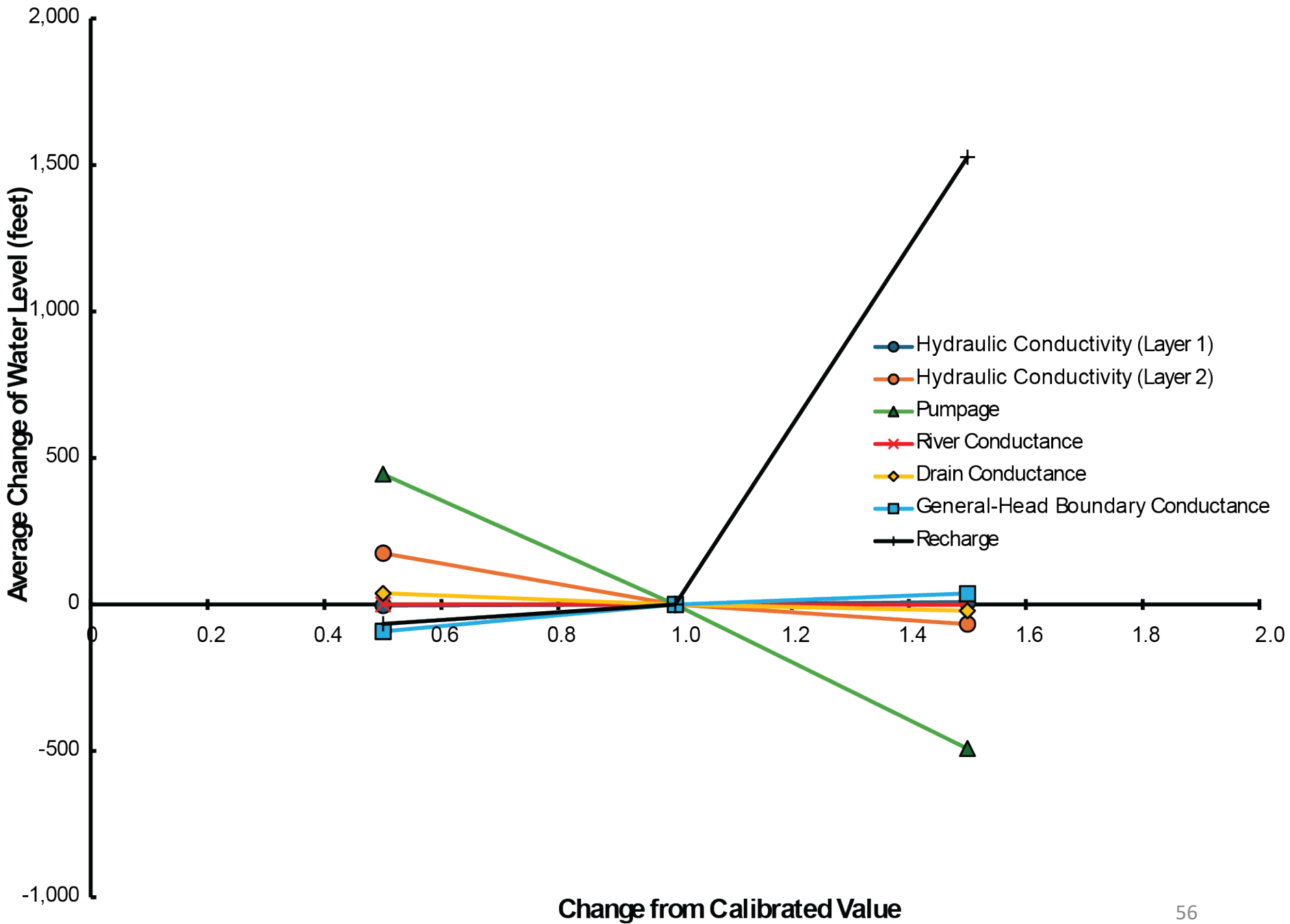
MODEL-SIMULATED WATER BUDGETS

Flux	Layer 1	Layer 2	Overall
Inflow (acre-feet)			
River Leakage	17,411	95	17,506
General-Head Boundary	14,774	182,977	197,751
Recharge	142	109,327	109,469
Vertical Leakage (Upper)	--	2,013	2,013
Vertical Leakage (Lower)	56,374	--	56,374
Lateral Flow	6,434	1,858	8,292
Outflow (acre-feet)			
Wells	55,578	8,082	63,660
Drains	2,400	6,562	8,962
River Leakage	27,687	151	27,838
General-Head Boundary	--	219,044	219,044
Vertical Leakage (Upper)	--	56,374	56,374
Vertical Leakage (Lower)	2,013	--	2,013
Lateral Flow	7,458	6,071	13,529



A full-page background image showing a bright sun setting or rising behind a range of dark, silhouetted mountains. The sky is a deep orange and yellow, with some wispy clouds. The foreground is dark and indistinct.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS



A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are various green desert plants, including tall, thin cholla cacti and low-lying shrubs. A dirt path winds through the vegetation. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "MODEL LIMITATIONS" is overlaid in the center of the image.

MODEL LIMITATIONS

Supporting data

- Spatially and temporally limited water-level targets
 - westernmost bolsons of the West Texas Bolsons Aquifer (Green River Valley, Eagle Flat, and Red Light Draw)
- Limited applicability of available stream gage and stream gain/loss estimates for the streams in the study area
- Limited hydraulic conductivity data for the aquifers and non-aquifer stratigraphic units in the study area
- Limited data quantifying cross-formational flow between the aquifers
- Uncertain estimates of pumping and recharge in all hydrostratigraphic units

Assumption assessment

- Assumptions about groundwater flow
 - Spatial distribution of parameters
 - Occurrence of flow boundaries
 - Spatial and temporal distribution of pumping
- Distribution simplification
 - Parameters
 - Boundaries
- Recharge assumed only in Igneous Aquifer outcrop

Model application

- Purpose
 - Groundwater management
 - Not applicable for use
 - Non-aquifer parts of model
 - High salinity groundwater
 - Geothermal flow systems
- Scale
 - Regional scale only
 - Not useful for local-scale issues
- Predictive tool
 - Better at predicting changes in water level than absolute water levels at specific locations

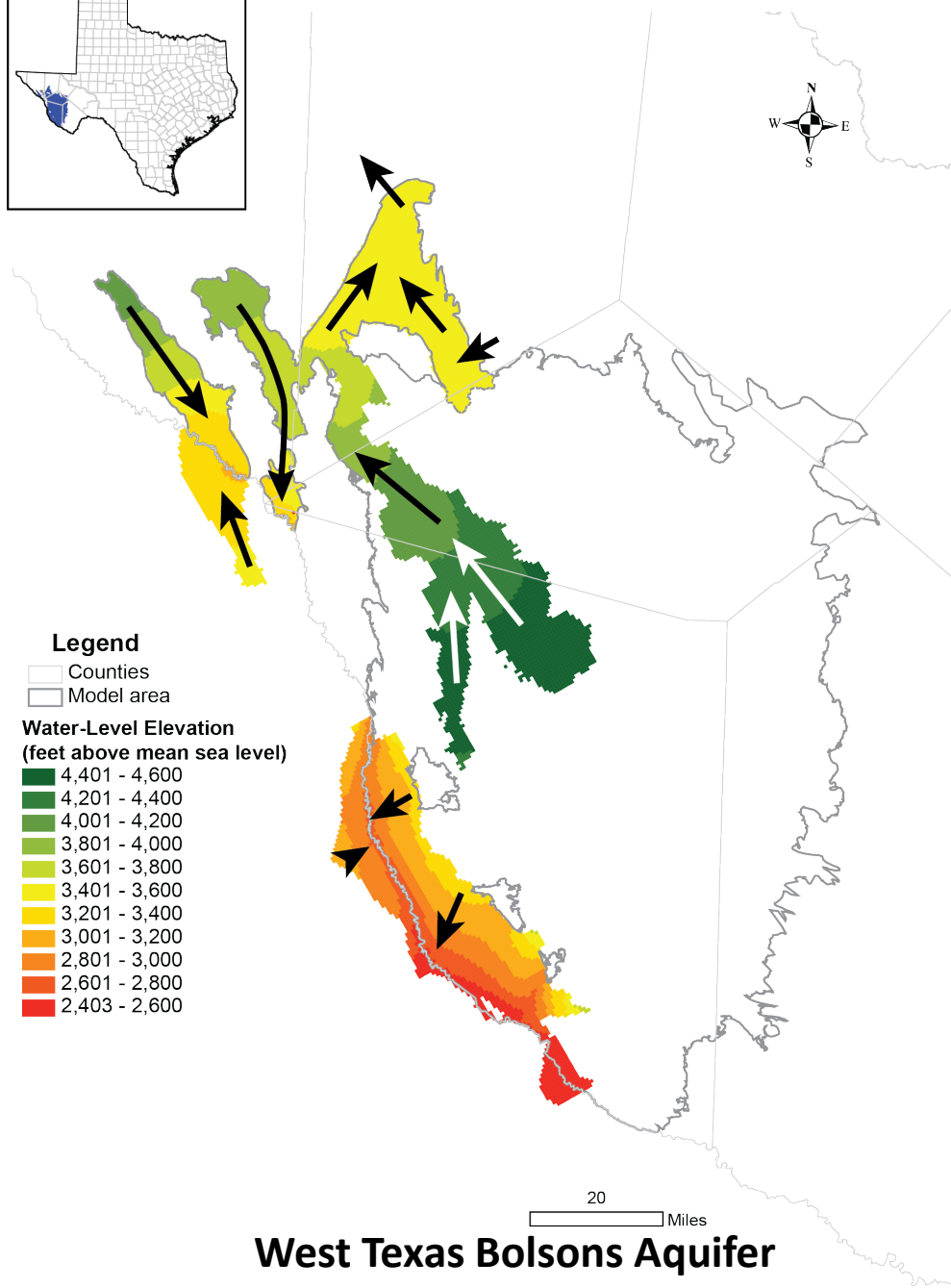
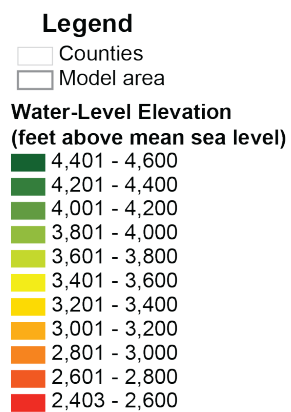
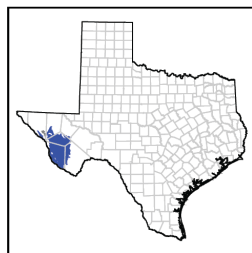
SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Summary

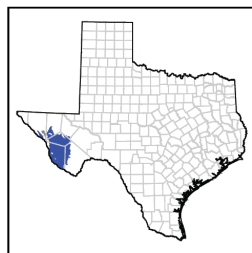
- The groundwater availability model is a groundwater management tool that can be used by stakeholders.
- This regional-scale model
 - Not intended to address issues at local scale resolution, nor is it intended to simulate groundwater flow through the non-aquifer geologic units included in the model.
- Two layers of half-mile grid cells
 - West Texas Bolsons Aquifer (Layer 1) and
 - Igneous Aquifer and non-aquifer stratigraphic units (Layer 2).

Summary

- Model boundaries
 - No-flow along the margins of the model boundaries represent groundwater divides or other barriers to groundwater flow .
 - GHBs simulate groundwater flow between the Igneous and West Texas Bolsons aquifers and adjacent the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer.
 - Recharge to the Igneous Aquifer outcrop through infiltration from intermittent and ephemeral streams associated with rainfall events.
 - Groundwater pumped from the flow system for municipal, domestic, irrigation, and livestock uses.
- The model was calibrated using trial-and-error and parameter estimation software (PEST).
- Sensitivity analysis indicate that the model is most sensitive to recharge and pumpage.



West Texas Bolsons Aquifer

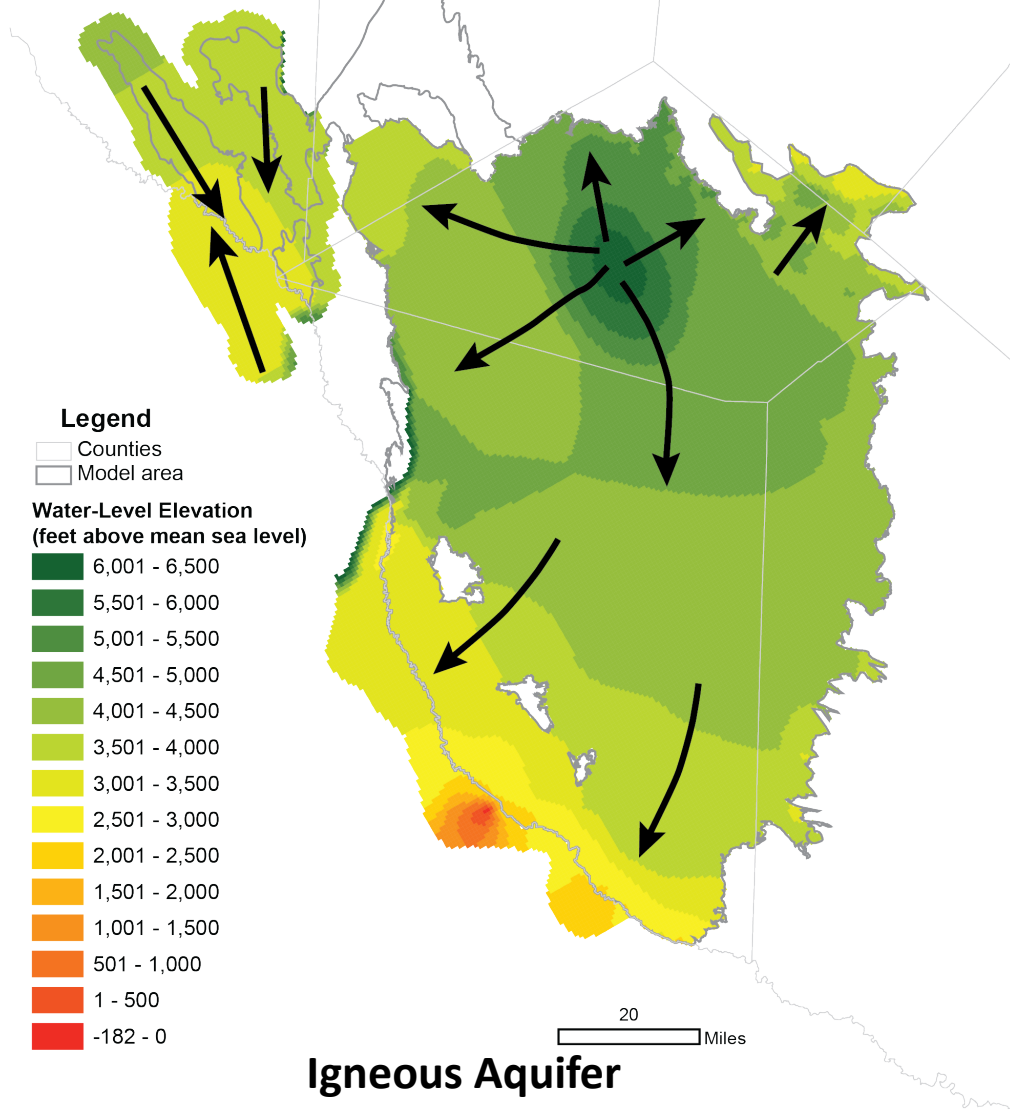


Legend

- Counties
- Model area

Water-Level Elevation (feet above mean sea level)

- 6,001 - 6,500
- 5,501 - 6,000
- 5,001 - 5,500
- 4,501 - 5,000
- 4,001 - 4,500
- 3,501 - 4,000
- 3,001 - 3,500
- 2,501 - 3,000
- 2,001 - 2,500
- 1,501 - 2,000
- 1,001 - 1,500
- 501 - 1,000
- 1 - 500
- 182 - 0



Igneous Aquifer

Additional Information

Web information:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/wtbi/wtbi.asp>

Deadline for comments: September 1, 2025

Contact Information

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Web information:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/wtbi/wtbi.asp>

A photograph of a desert landscape. In the background, a large, conical mountain with a flat top rises against a clear sky. The foreground is filled with dense, green desert shrubs and a single, prominent spiky plant. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in large, bold, black capital letters in the center of the image.

QUESTIONS?

Wild Horse Flat

ATTENDANCE LIST



Ryan Flat

Name	Affiliation
Ian Jones	Texas Water Development Board
Daryn Hardwick	Texas Water Development Board
Avay Risal	Texas Water Development Board
Roberto Anaya	Texas Water Development Board
Shirley Wade	Texas Water Development Board
Natalie Ballew	Texas Water Development Board
William Smith	Consultant
Darrell Peckham	Consultant
Bence Close	Consultant
Saheli Majumdar	Texas Water Development Board
Yasin Abulsayen	Texas Water Development Board
Jean Perez	Texas Water Development Board
Gretchen Miller	Consultant
Cody Bjornson	Texas Water Development Board
Steve Finch	Consultant
Robbyn Hill	Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District
Kevin Urbanczk	Sul Ross State University
Haley Davis	Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District
Randy Barker	Hudspeth County Groundwater Conservation District no. 1
Janet Adams	Jeff Davis County Groundwater Conservation District
Trey Gerfers	Presidio County Groundwater Conservation District