

Warm temperate dry grassland



NEW MEXICO, USA

CREDIT: KRISTINA J. ANDERSON-TEIXEIRA

Vegetation

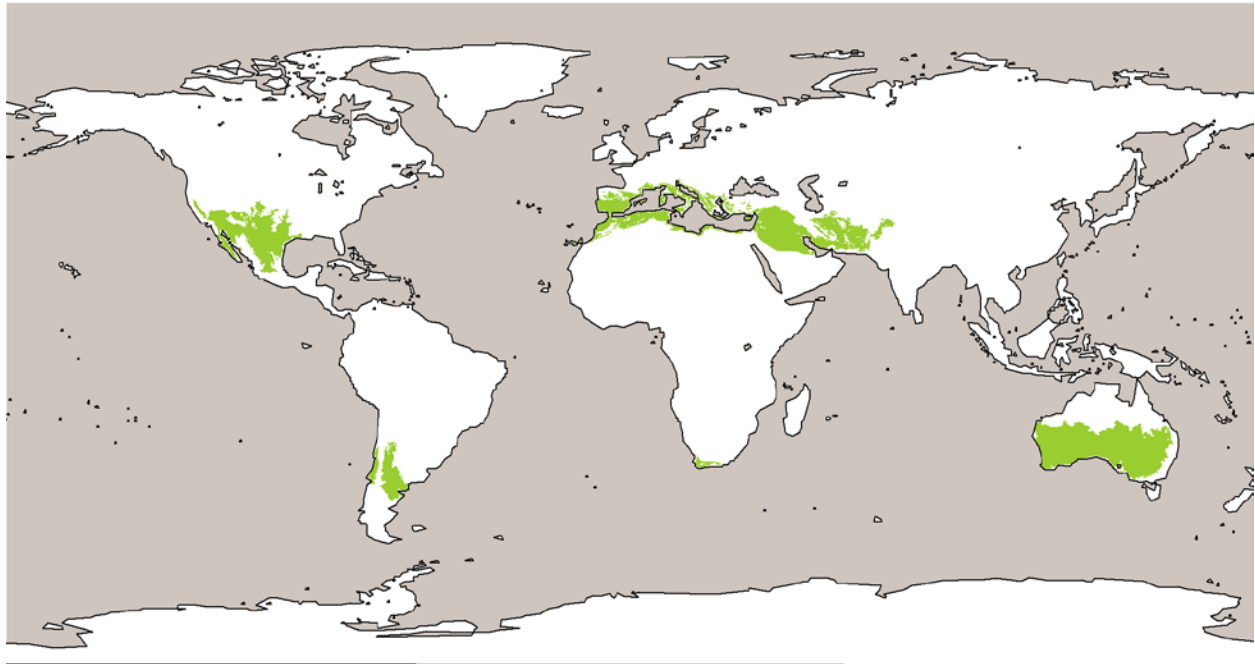
Warm temperate dry grasslands are dominated by grass, and are often partially barren.

Climate

Warm temperate dry grasslands are found in relatively dry, warm temperate climates.

Potential Distribution

This distribution map illustrates the climate zones in which this ecosystem type occurs, with stippled areas indicating climate zones where it is rare. It is not present in all parts of its climatic range.



Climate regulation value

The average greenhouse gas value for ecosystems of this type is 128 metric tons CO₂-equivalents per hectare over a 50 year time frame (t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹). This includes 87 t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹ from storage of organic matter that would result in greenhouse gas release if cleared and 40 t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹ from ongoing greenhouse gas exchange between the ecosystem and the environment.

When biophysical effects are taken into account, the average climate regulation value for ecosystems of this type is -123 metric tons CO₂-equivalents per hectare (t CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ 50 yrs⁻¹). This is a decrease relative to the value based on greenhouse gas regulation alone.

Considering an average car, emitting 1.1 lb CO₂ per mile driven, clearing 100 square feet (9.3 m²) of this ecosystem type would, on average, be equivalent to driving 237 miles/382 km (counting greenhouse gasses only). Counting biophysical effects, maintaining the vegetation would be equivalent to driving 229 miles/369 km.