

TEXAS COAST DUNE AND COASTAL GRASSLAND**Nature Serve ID:** CES203.465**Geology:** Eolian deep sands and Pleistocene barrier island and beach deposits of the Beaumont formation. This includes deep sands well inland on the South Texas Sand Sheet.**Landform:** Primary and secondary dunes, as well as relatively level areas, on the mainland where deep sands are deposited. Significant local topography, in the form of swales and pothole wetlands, may be present but are excluded from this system. But, significant surface drainages are generally scarce.**Soils:** Deep or coastal sands.**Description:** This system includes upland, grass-dominated vegetation on deep sands. Dunes are often dominated by *Uniola paniculata* (sea oats), with other species such as *Croton punctatus* (Gulf croton), *Panicum amarum* (bitter panicum), *Ipomoea pes-caprae* (goat-foot morning-glory), *Ipomoea imperati* (beach morning-glory), *Tidestromia lanuginosa* (wooly tidestromia), *Cakile* spp. (searocket), and *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (shoreline seapurslane) also present. Upland grasslands are often dominated by *Schizachyrium littorale* (seacoast bluestem) and *Paspalum monostachyum* (gulfdune paspalum). Numerous other species, such as *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indiangrass), *Paspalum plicatulum* (brownseed paspalum), *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (Gulf muhly), *Cenchrus spinifex* (common sandbur), *Elionurus tripsacoides* (Pan American balsamscale), *Eragrostis secundiflora* (red lovegrass), *Bothriochloa laguroides* ssp. *torreyana* (silver bluestem), *Heteropogon contortus* (tanglehead), *Andropogon glomeratus* (bushy bluestem), *Spartina patens* (marshhay cordgrass), and *Dichanthelium* spp. (rosette grasses) may also be common. Numerous forbs, including such species as *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (camphor weed), *Croton* spp. (crotons), *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (partridge pea), *Rayjacksonia phyllocephala* (camphor daisy), *Physalis* spp. (groundcherries), *Helianthus argophyllus* (silverleaf sunflower), *Gaillardia pulchella* (Indian blanket), *Solidago sempervirens* (seaside goldenrod), *Baptisia* spp. (wild-indigos), *Indigofera miniata* (scarlet-pea), *Eriogonum multiflorum* (heartsepal wildbuckwheat), *Conoclinium betonicifolium* (betonyleaf thoroughwort), and *Rudbeckia hirta* (blackeyed Susan) are also commonly encountered. Some woody species are found in the system, but typically make up very little cover. Cover of woody species is limited, but may include *Baccharis* spp. (baccharis), *Opuntia engelmannii* var. *lindheimeri* (Lindheimer pricklypear), *Morella cerifera* (wax-myrtle), *Quercus fusiformis* (plateau live oak), *Quercus virginiana* (coastal live oak), and stunted *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite). Non-native woody species such as *Tamarix* spp. (salt cedars), *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian peppertree), and *Triadica sebifera* (Chinese tallow) may be present to dominant. Small areas may have sufficient woody cover to be mapped as a shrubland.

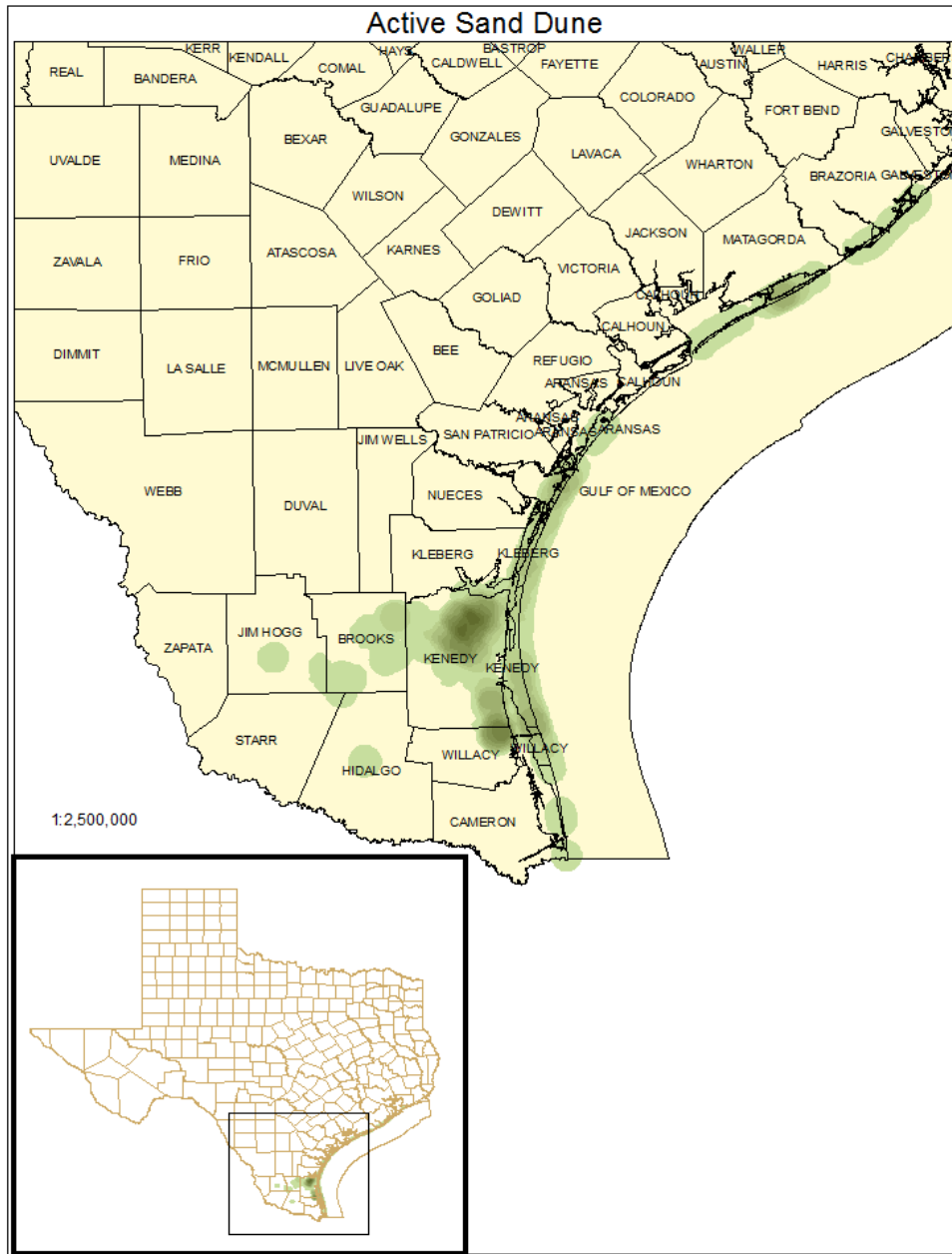
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

ACTIVE SAND DUNE

Mapping System ID: 6200

EMS Description: These are barren to sparsely vegetated deep sands where active sand movement is occurring. These sites may sometimes be 15 m or more in height and offer the greatest degree of topographic relief in the region.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge - South Padre Island: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Mad Island Wildlife Management Area-Matagorda Peninsula: Texas Parks & Wildlife
Department

Padre Balli Park: Nueces County Coastal Parks

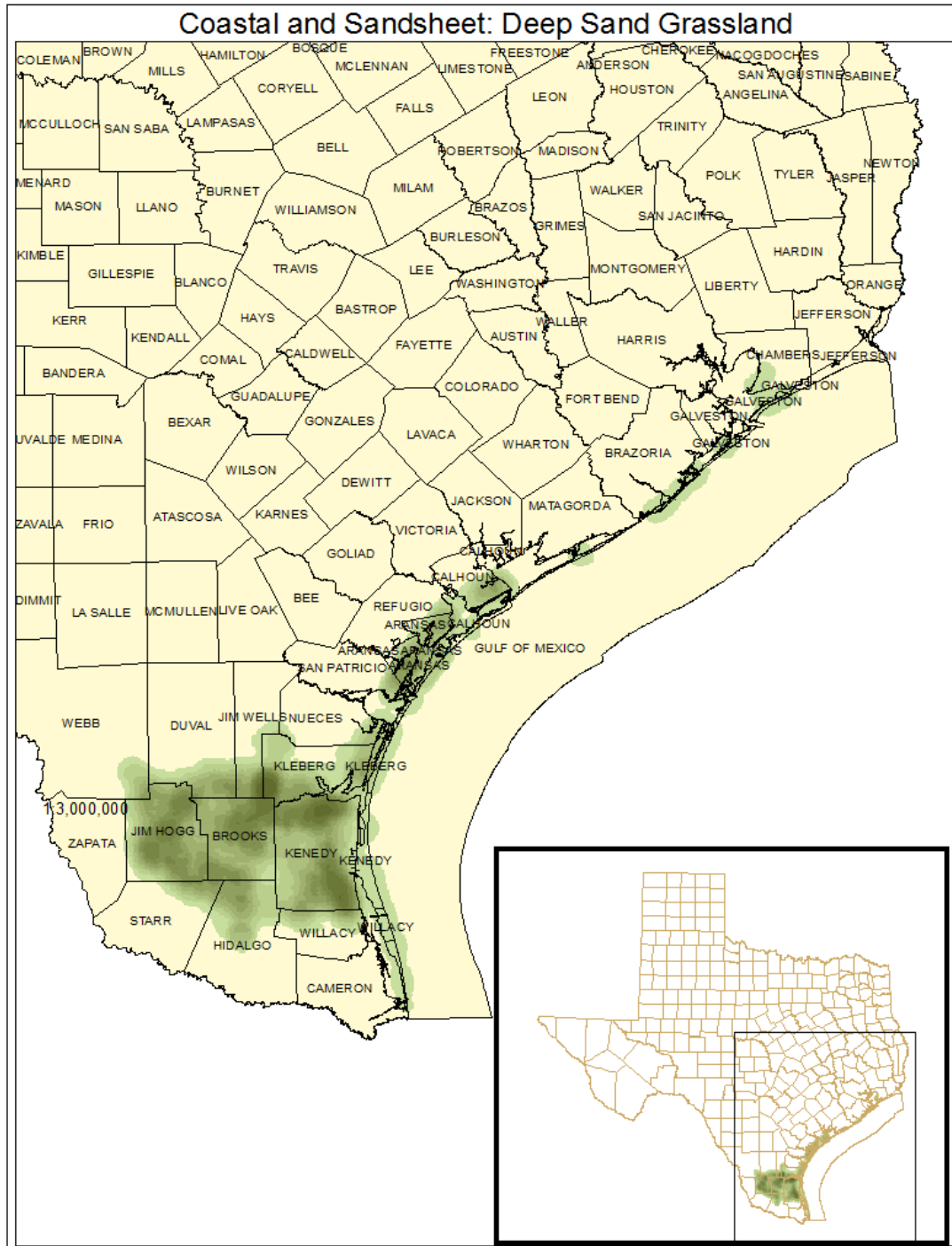
Padre Island National Seashore: US Fish and Wildlife Service

COASTAL AND SANDSHEET: DUNE AND COASTAL GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 6307

EMS Description: As described for herbaceous portions of the system.

Distribution Map:



Example:

Not available at this time.

Public Land Occurrence:

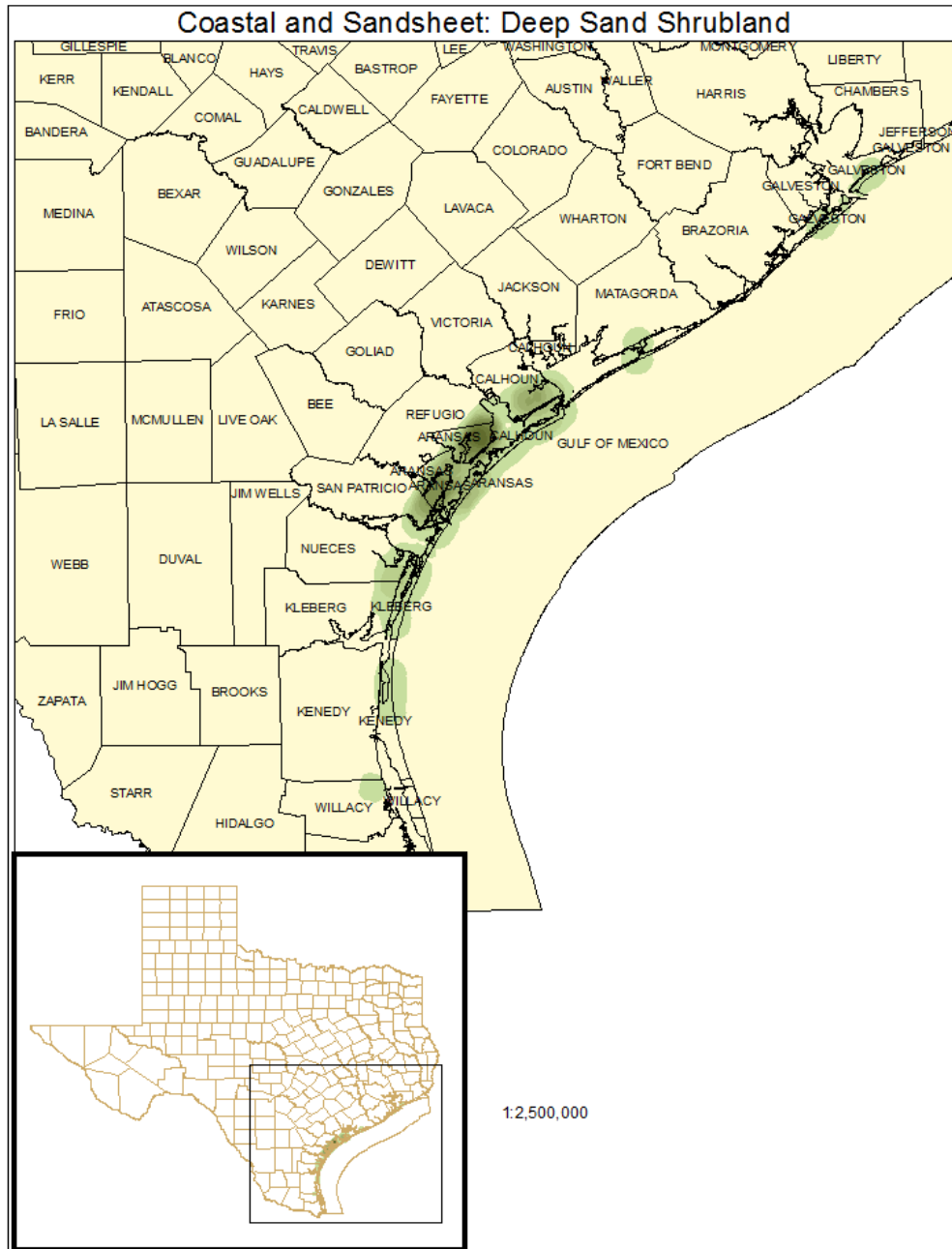
None.

COASTAL AND SANDSHEET: DEEP SAND SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 6306

EMS Description: Small areas within deep coastal sands may be dominated by shrub species such as *Baccharis* spp. (baccharis), *Opuntia engelmannii* var. *lindheimeri* (Lindheimer pricklypear), *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Morella cerifera* (wax-myrtle), *Iva frutescens* (shrubby sumpweed), or the non-native *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian peppertree).

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Padre Island National Seashore: US National Park Service