

TEXAS SALINE COASTAL PRAIRIE

Nature Serve ID: CES203.543

Geology: Principally on the Pleistocene Beaumont Formation.

Landform: Mostly level or very gently undulating landform, typically near the coast. These sites may be inundated by saltwater during storm surges. Pimple mounds may lend some local topographic variation to the otherwise level surface.

Soils: Very deep, somewhat poorly to poorly drained with high salinity and/or sodicity, at least at some depth. These may be loams or clays. These soils may be saturated from local rainfall or, occasionally from storm surges.

Description: This system occupies saline soils, generally near-coast, on level topography of the Beaumont Formation. Sites may be nearly monotypic stands of *Spartina spartinae* (Gulf cordgrass). Other gramimoids that may be present to abundant include *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem), *Andropogon glomeratus* (bushy bluestem), *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass), *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (Gulf muhly), or *Sporobolus indicus* (rat-tail smutgrass). *Spartina patens* (marshhay cordgrass), *Aristida oligantha* (oldfield threeawn), *Paspalum hartwegianum* (Hartweg paspalum), *Sporobolus virginicus* (seashore dropseed), *Paspalum vaginatum* (seashore paspalum), and *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass) may be common, particularly on lower, somewhat wetter sites. Forbs are generally uncommon, but may include species such as *Borrchia frutescens* (sea ox-eye daisy), *Solidago sempervirens* (seaside goldenrod), *Iva angustifolia* (narrowleaf sumpweed), *Euthamia* spp. (goldentops), or other species more common to the non-saline soils nearby, or the salt marsh that may also be nearby. Microtopographic highs in the form of pimple mounds often have species more characteristic of less saline adjacent habitats. Shrubby species may invade the prairie, commonly including species such as *Iva frutescens* (shrubby sumpweed), *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Acacia farnesiana* (huisache), *Lycium carolinianum* (Carolina wolfberry), *Tamarix* spp. (salt cedar), and *Baccharis halimifolia* (baccharis).

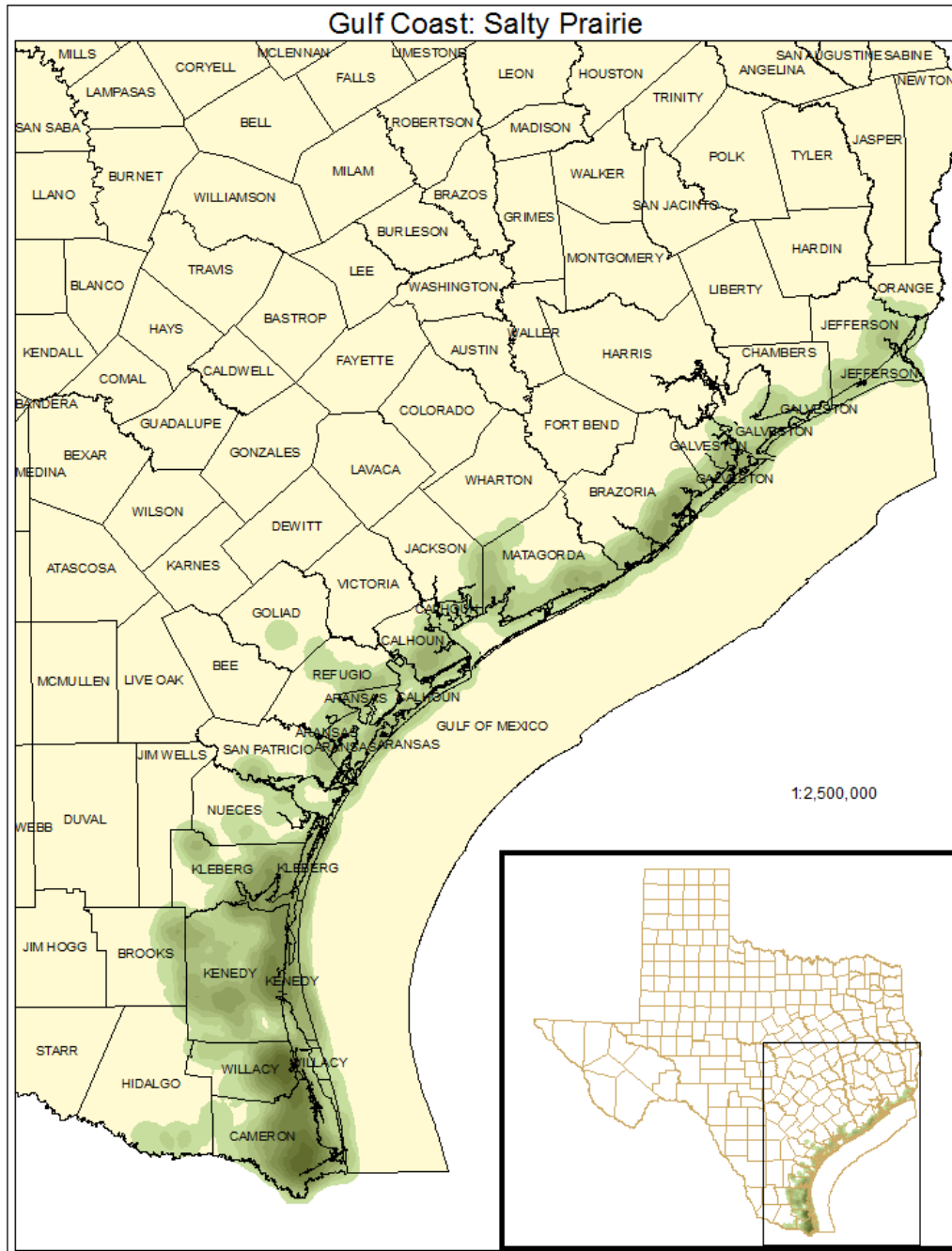
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

GULF COAST: SALTY PRAIRIE

Mapping System ID: 2207

EMS Description: Occurrences of the system lacking significant shrub cover.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

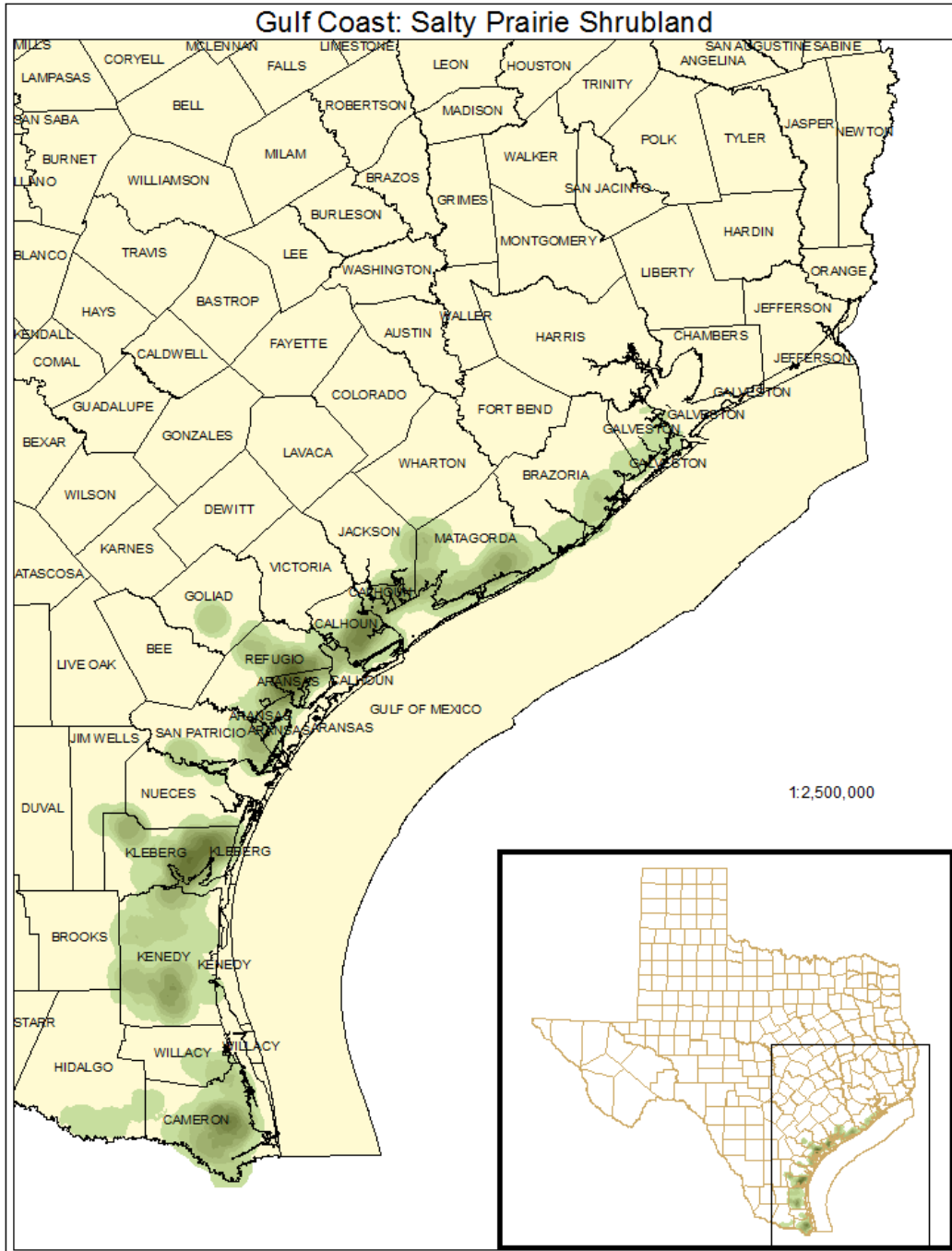
- Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Aransas National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Galveston Island State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service
- McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Mustang Island State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Padre Island National Seashore: US National Park Service
- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site: US National Park Service
- San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

GULF COAST: SALTY PRAIRIE SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 2206

EMS Description: Occurrences of the system where shrubs, such as those listed above, have dominated the site.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service