

## **GULF COAST CHENIER PLAIN SALT AND BRACKISH TIDAL MARSH**

**Nature Serve ID:** CES203.468

**Geology:** Recent alluvial deposits.

**Landform:** Coastlines, bay margins, bay inlets, along dredged canals, creeks, and river inlets where tidal influence is adequate to maintain high salinities.

**Soils:** Fine textured soils, sometimes with high organic content at the surface. Ecoclasses (from Ecological Site Descriptions) include Brackish and Saltmarsh types.

**Description:** This typically herbaceous dominated system has a composition that varies depending on the salinity of the environment and the depth of frequent tidal flooding. Marshes that are frequently flooded by tides (low marshes) tend to be strongly dominated by *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass). Occasionally these sites may have significant cover of *Avicennia germinans* (black mangrove), though freezes tend to reduce the cover of mangrove. Some patches of *Juncus roemerianus* (blackrush) may be interspersed. Higher marshes of saline to brackish sites tend to be somewhat more diverse, with *Spartina patens* (marshhay cordgrass) a common dominant. *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) may be present, but is typically not strongly dominant. Other species that may be present, or sometimes dominant include *Spartina spartinae* (Gulf cordgrass), *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass), *Batis maritima* (saltwort), *Salicornia* spp. (glasswort), *Schoenoplectus robustus* (sturdy bulrush), *Schoenoplectus americanus* (three-square bulrush), *Paspalum vaginatum* (seashore paspalum), *Sporobolus virginicus* (seashore dropseed), and *Borrchia frutescens* (sea ox-eye daisy). *Iva frutescens* (bigleaf sumpweed) and *Baccharis halimifolia* (baccharis) are commonly encountered woody species.

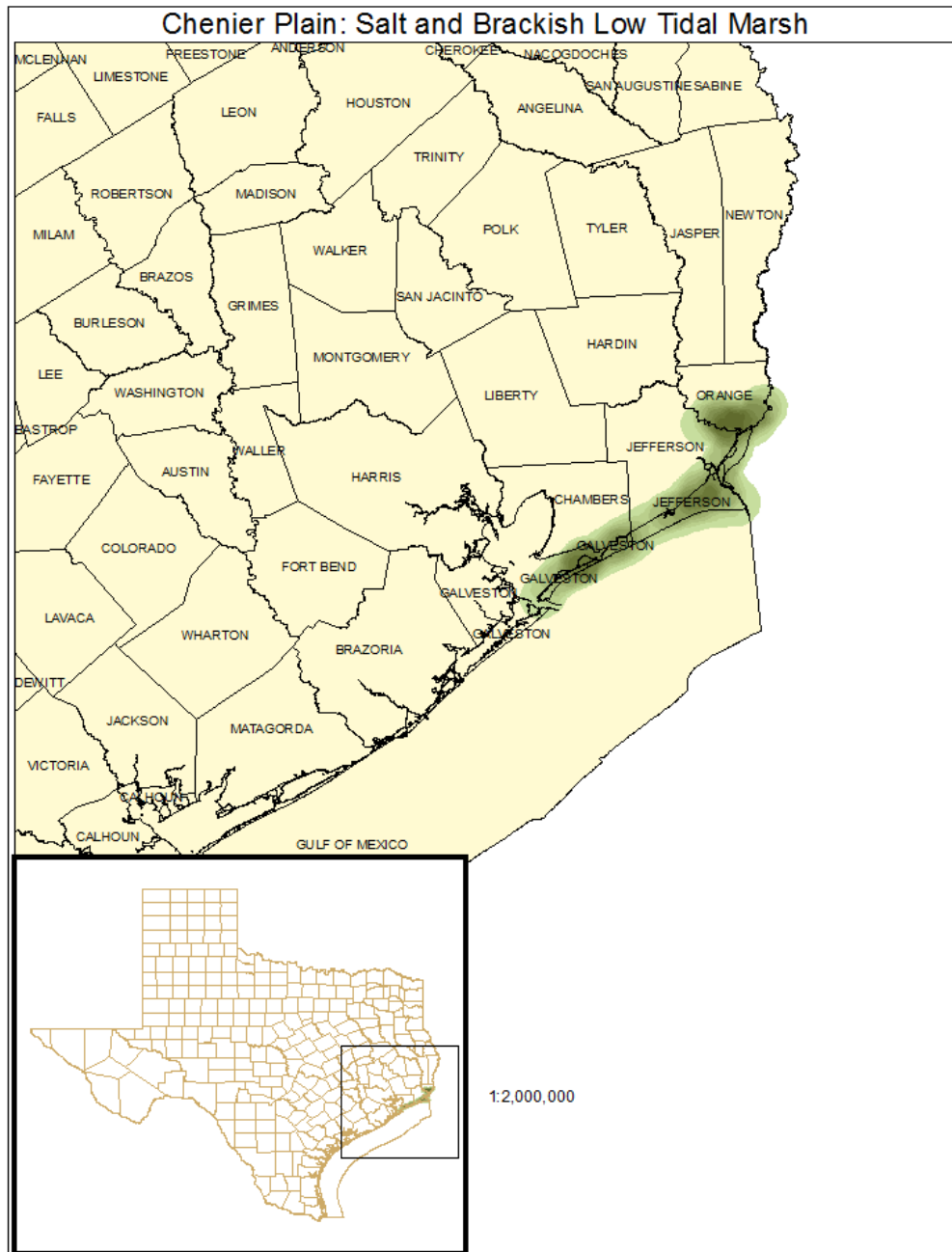
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**CHENIER PLAIN: SALT AND BRACKISH LOW TIDAL MARSH**

**Mapping System ID: 5707**

**EMS Description:** Low, regularly flooded tidal marsh, often dominated by *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass).

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Sea Rim State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

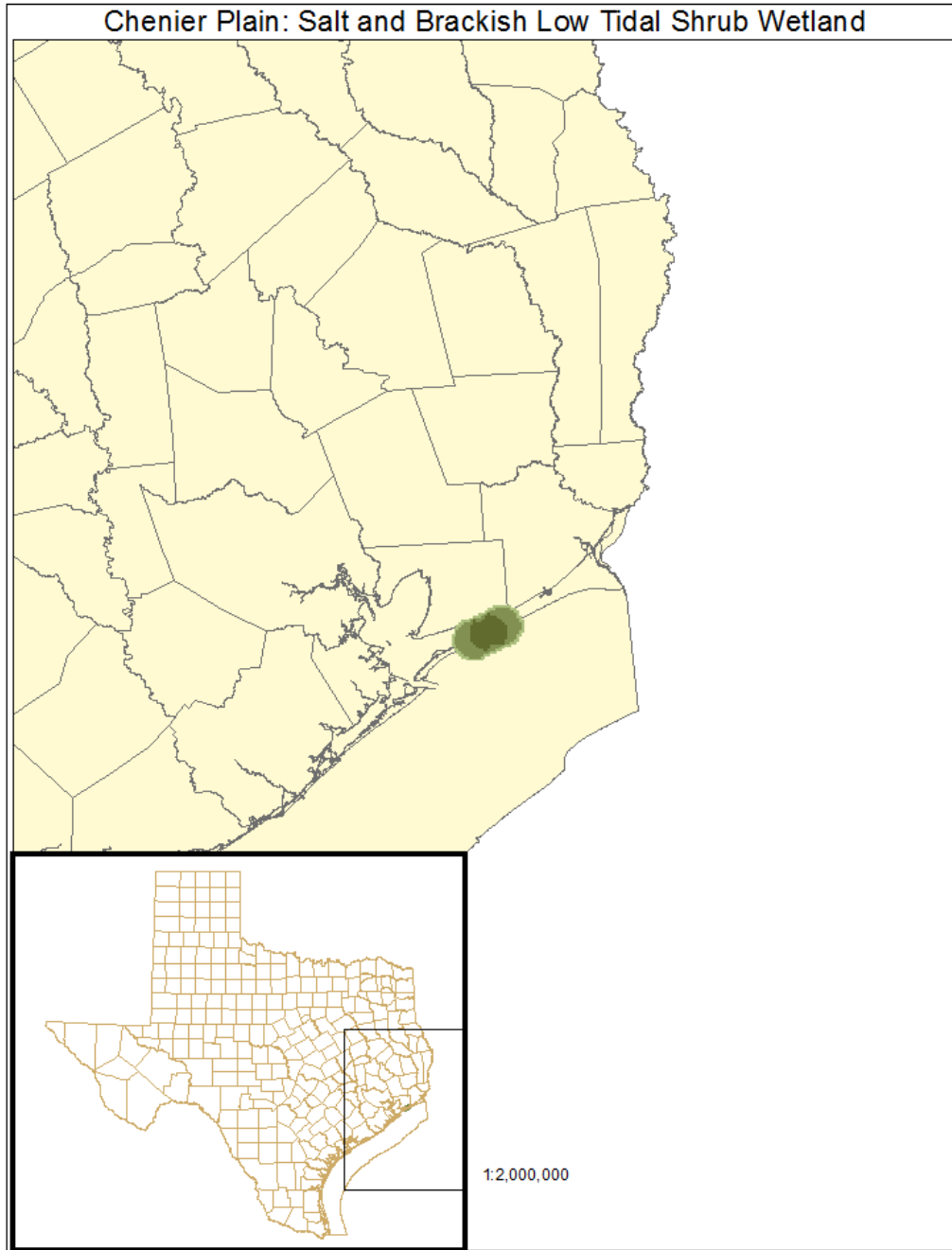
Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

## CHENIER PLAIN: SALT AND BRACKISH LOW SHRUB TIDAL WETLAND

**Mapping System ID:** 5706

**EMS Description:** Low, regularly flooded tidal marsh with significant cover of woody species such as *Avicennia germinans* (black mangrove), *Iva frutescens* (bigleaf sumpweed), or *Baccharis halimifolia* (baccharis).

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**

*Not available at this time.*

**Public Land Occurrence:**

*None.*



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

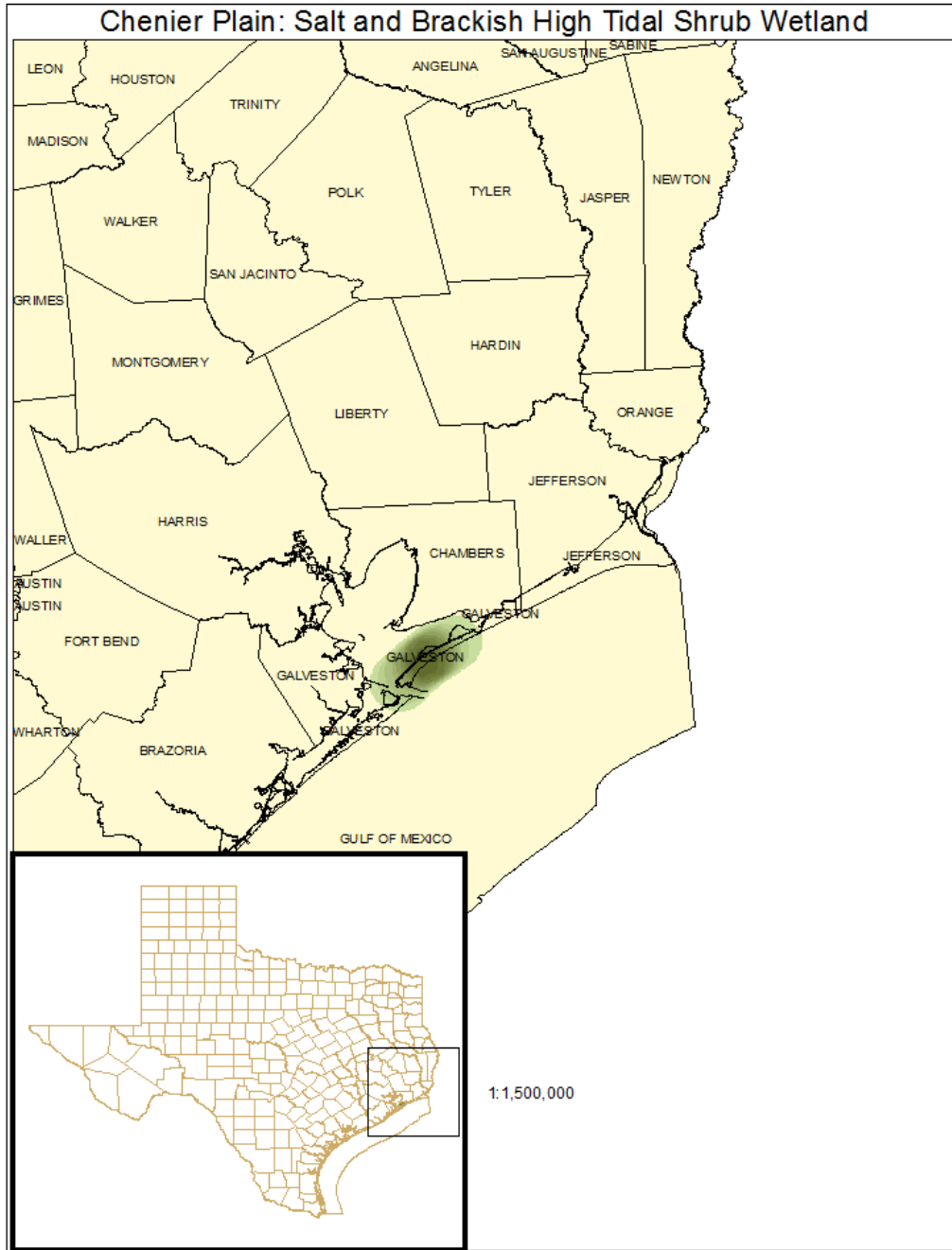
Sea Rim State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

## CHENIER PLAIN: SALT AND BRACKISH HIGH TIDAL SHRUB WETLAND

**Mapping System ID:** 5716

**EMS Description:** Shrub dominated sites with irregular tidal inundation. Species such as *Iva frutescens* (bigleaf sumpweed) or *Baccharis halimifolia* (baccharis) are often common. Some sites dominated by *Arundo donax* (giant reed) may also be mapped as this type.

**Distribution Map:**





**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Fort Travis Seashore Park: Galveston County Parks Department