

TAMAULIPAN LOMAS

Nature Serve ID: CES301.462

Geology: Quaternary windblown deposits identified as clay dunes (Qcd).

Landform: Round, elliptic, or crescent-shaped topographic highs, often within a matrix of low flats influenced by wind-driven tides.

Soils: Often associated with the Coastal Ridge Ecological Site, such as Point Isabel clay loam and Lalinda fine sandy loam.

Parent Description: This system occupies clay dunes (lomas) along the lower Texas coast (and somewhat inland) and adjacent Mexico. These often develop from deposition of windblown fine sediments, resulting in elevated landforms within a matrix of tidal flats. These are typically fairly dense to extremely dense shrublands, often 2-4 meters in height, and dominated by species such as *Ebenopsis ebano* (Texas ebony), *Citharexylum berlandieri* (negrito), *Leucophyllum frutescens* (cenizo), *Yucca treculeana* (Spanish dagger), *Jatropha dioica* (leatherstem), *Acacia rigidula* (blackbrush), *Opuntia engelmannii* var. *lindheimeri* (Lindheimer prickly pear), *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Sideroxylon celastrinum* (la coma), *Forestiera angustifolia* (desert olive), *Celtis ehrenbergiana* (granjeno), *Guaiacum angustifolium* (guayacan), *Karwinskia humboldtiana* (coyotillo), *Castela erecta* (amargosa), *Zanthoxylum fagara* (colima), *Phaulothamnus spinescens* (snake-eyes), and *Ziziphus obtusifolia* (lotebush). There may be scattered emergent trees of *Ebenopsis ebano* (Texas ebony) and *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) forming a sparse woodland. Within these shrublands, the herbaceous layer is typically not well-developed, however the non-native *Urochloa maxima* (guineagrass), may be conspicuous. A grassland, often dominated by *Sporobolus wrightii* (big sacaton), occupies the margins of these clay dunes, as they grade downslope into the surrounding salty flats. These margins may also contain *Sporobolus pyramidatus* (whorled dropseed), *Monanthochloe littoralis* (shoregrass), and *Spartina spartinae* (Gulf cordgrass). Other somewhat halophytic species, such as *Maytenus phyllanthoides* (gutta-percha) and *Prosopis reptans* (tornillo) may also occupy these dunes. The proximity of many of these dunes to active tidal fluctuations and salt spray also influences species composition at these sites.

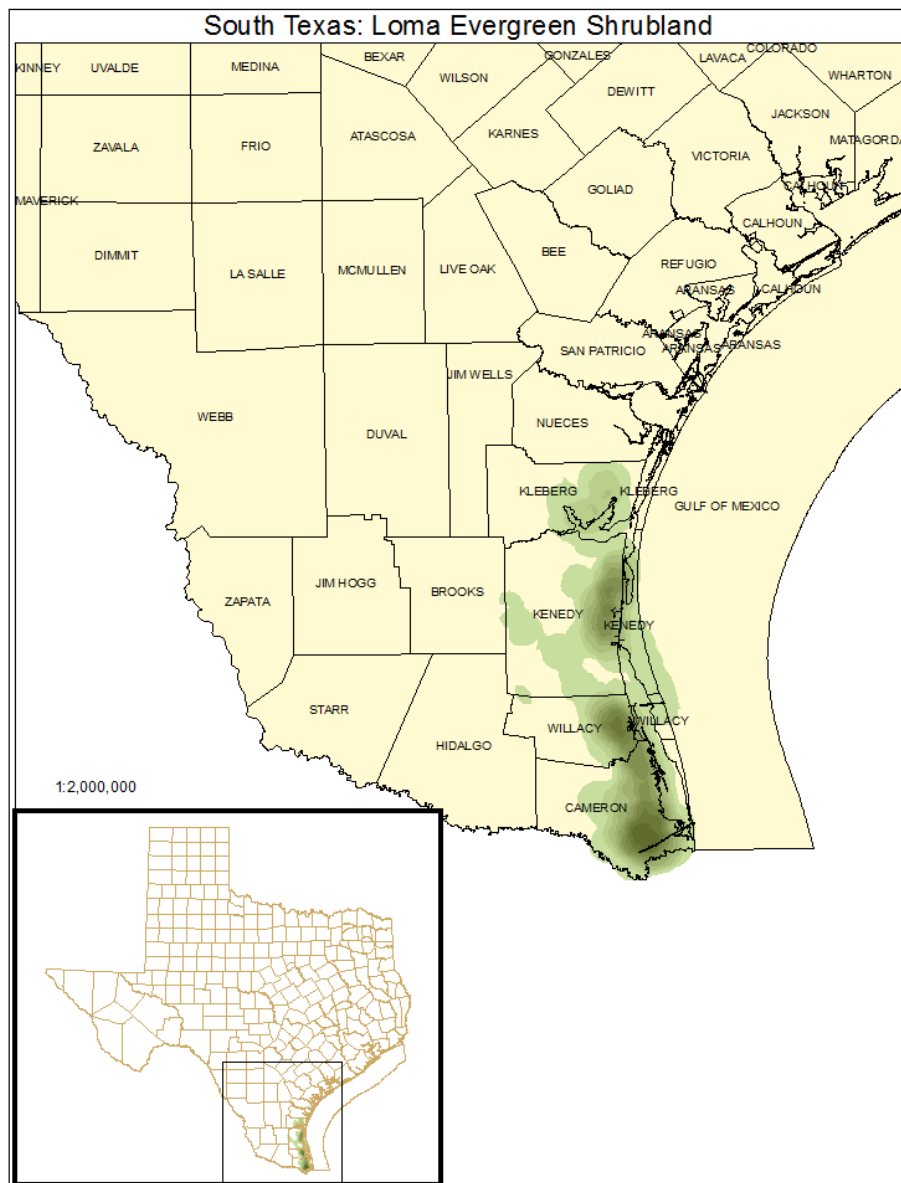
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

SOUTH TEXAS: LOMA EVERGREEN SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 7305

EMS Description: Clay dunes where the shrub layer is dense and may contain a preponderance of evergreen shrubs such as *Ebenopsis ebano* (Texas ebony), *Yucca treculeana* (Spanish dagger), and *Opuntia engelmannii* var. *lindheimeri* (Lindheimer pricklypear). However, in this subtropical region, many species retain their leaves throughout the winter and only lose their leaves during drought.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

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

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

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge-Vista del Mar: US Fish and Wildlife Service

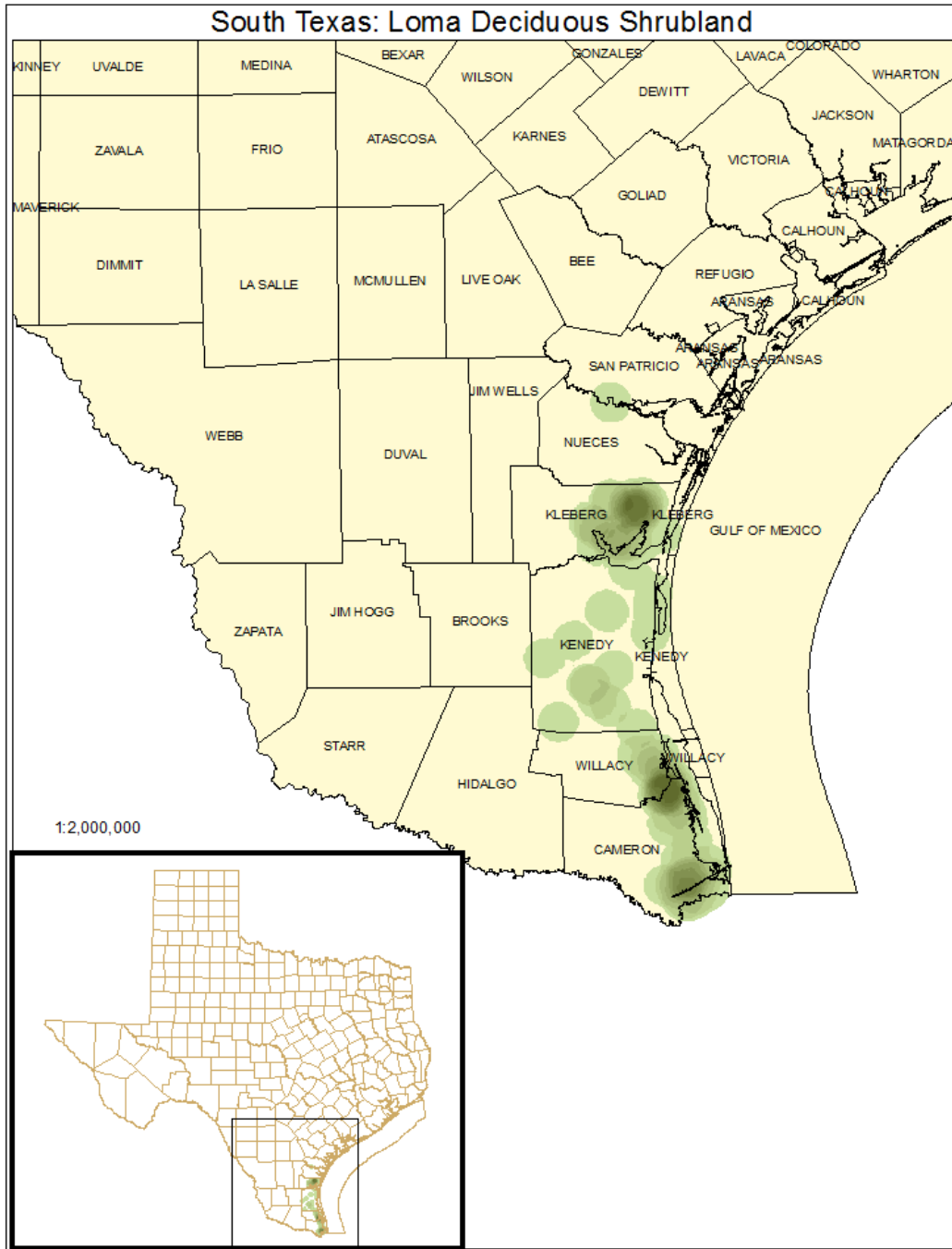
Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site: US National Park Service

SOUTH TEXAS: LOMA DECIDUOUS SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 7306

EMS Description: Clay dunes where the shrub layer is less dense and has a reduced amount of evergreen components.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

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

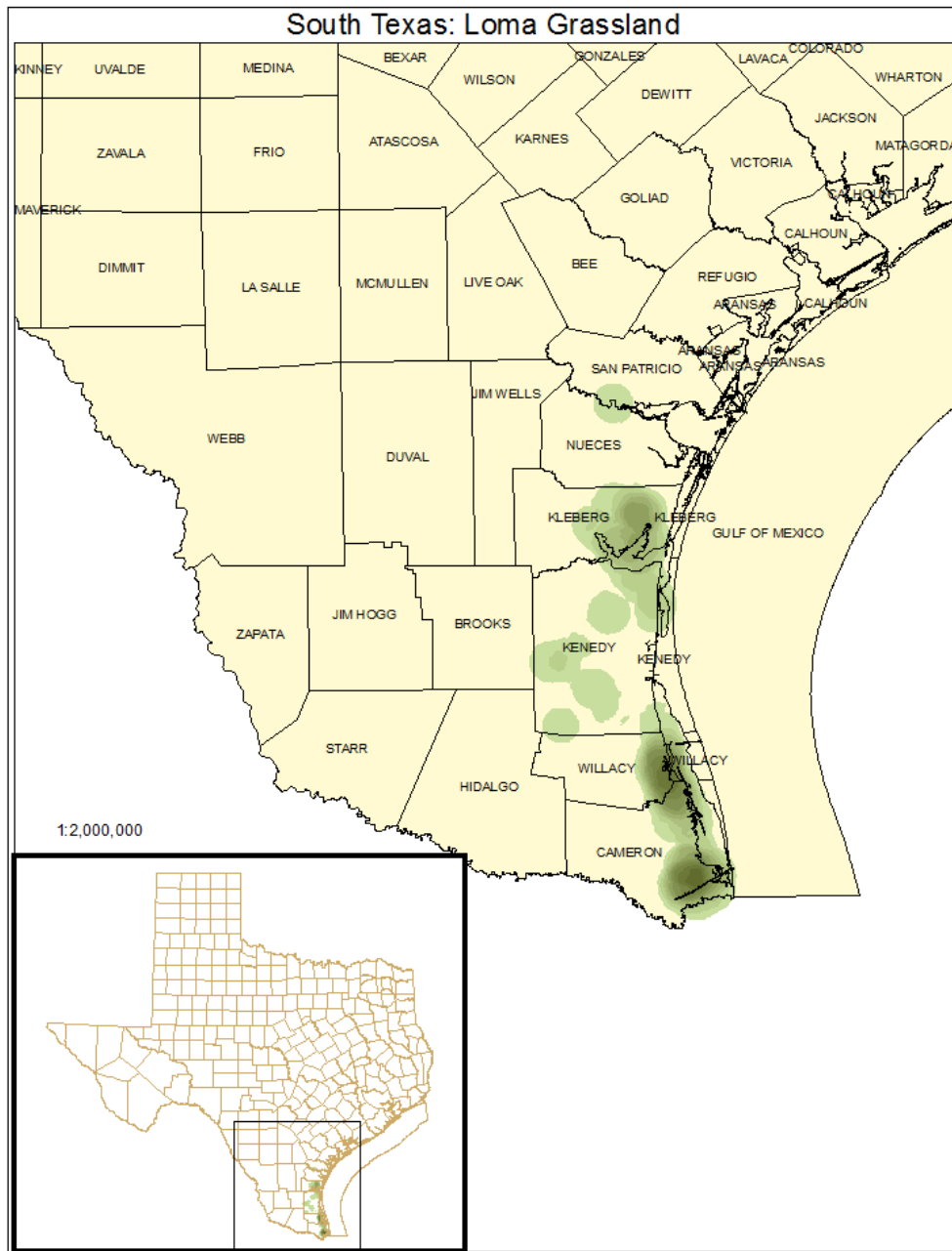
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge-Vista del Mar: US Fish and Wildlife Service

SOUTH TEXAS: LOMA GRASSLAND

Mapping System ID: 7307

EMS Description: These grass dominated sites often occupy the edges of shrublands and are frequently dominated by *Sporobolus wrightii* (big sacaton), *Spartina spartinae* (Gulf cordgrass), *Setaria leucopila* (plains bristlegrass), *Monanthochloe littoralis* (shoregrass), and/or others. *Urochloa maxima* (guineagrass) may be a conspicuous non-native.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

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