

**WESTERN GREAT PLAINS SANDHILL STEPPE**

**Nature Serve ID:** CES303.671

**Geology:** Eolian or alluvial sand deposits.

**Landform:** On rolling to level uplands.

**Soils:** This system is restricted to Deep Sand, Sand Hills or Sandy ecological sites.

**Parent Description:** Shrub cover may be variable, ranging from about 15 to 90% canopy cover. *Artemisia filifolia* (sand sage) or *Quercus havardii* (Havard's shin oak) may dominate or co-dominate the shrub layer, but *Prosopis glandulosa* (mesquite), *Rhus trilobata* (skunkbush sumac), or *Prunus angustifolia* (Chickasaw plum) may also be conspicuous or sometimes dominate the layer. Shrub cover may sometimes be sufficient to greatly reduce the cover of herbaceous species in the understory. A sparse overstory canopy may be present with species such as *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Celtis laevigata* var. *reticulata* (netleaf hackberry), *Quercus stellata* (post oak), and *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii* (western soapberry) present. Occasionally overstory canopy is well-developed and include these species, as well as tree stature representatives of *Quercus havardii* (Havard's shin oak) or *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite). At some sites, shrub cover may be low and herbaceous cover is typically dominated by grass species such as *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem) and *Sporobolus cryptandrus* (sand dropseed). Herbaceous cover also includes forbs such as *Aphanostephus ramosissimus* (plains lazy daisy), *Gaillardia pulchella* (Indian blanket), *Dimorphocarpa candicans* (Palmer's spectaclepod), *Oenothera grandis* (largeflower eveningprimrose), and *Eriogonum annuum* (annual wildbuckwheat).

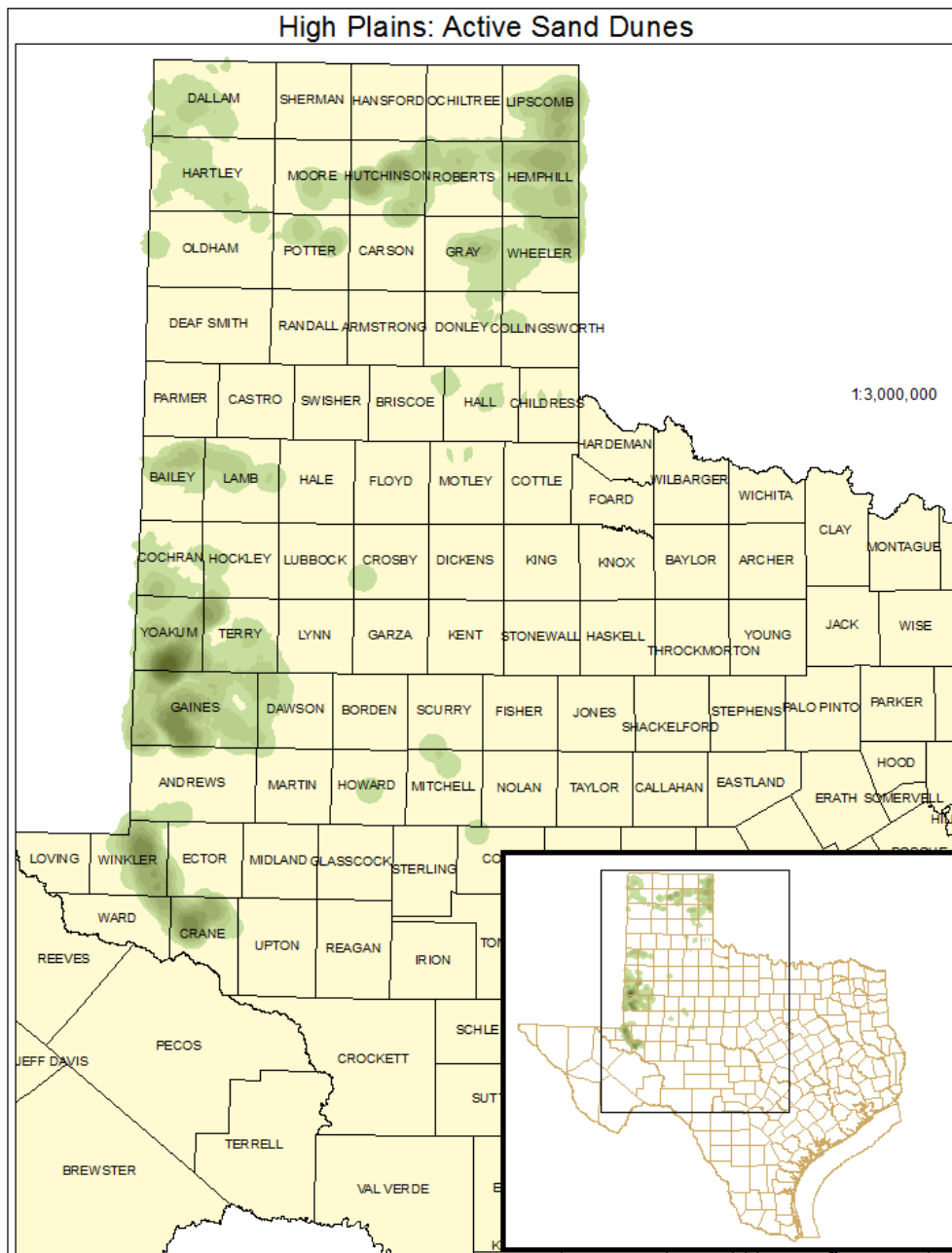
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**HIGH PLAINS: ACTIVE SAND DUNES**

**Mapping System ID:** 2800

**EMS Description:** Areas on deep sand and sandhill site types lacking significant vegetative cover.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

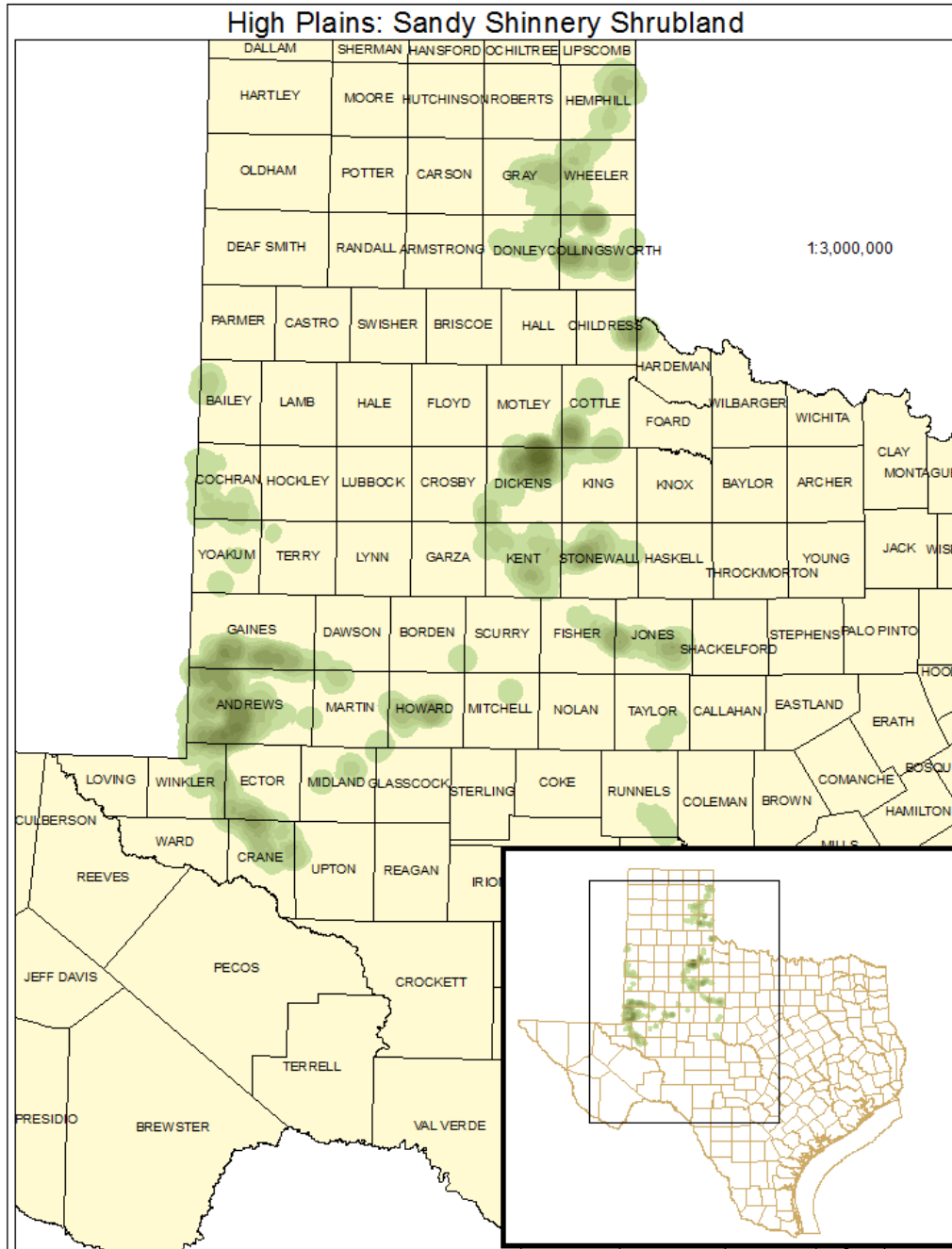
Monahans Sandhills State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

## HIGH PLAINS: SANDY SHINNERY SHRUBLAND

**Mapping System ID:** 2806

**EMS Description:** Shrublands of sandy substrates but not on deep sand or sandhills, though these sites may be nearby. *Quercus havardii* (Harvard's shin oak) is typically dominant but other shrub species are commonly encountered.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Matador Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

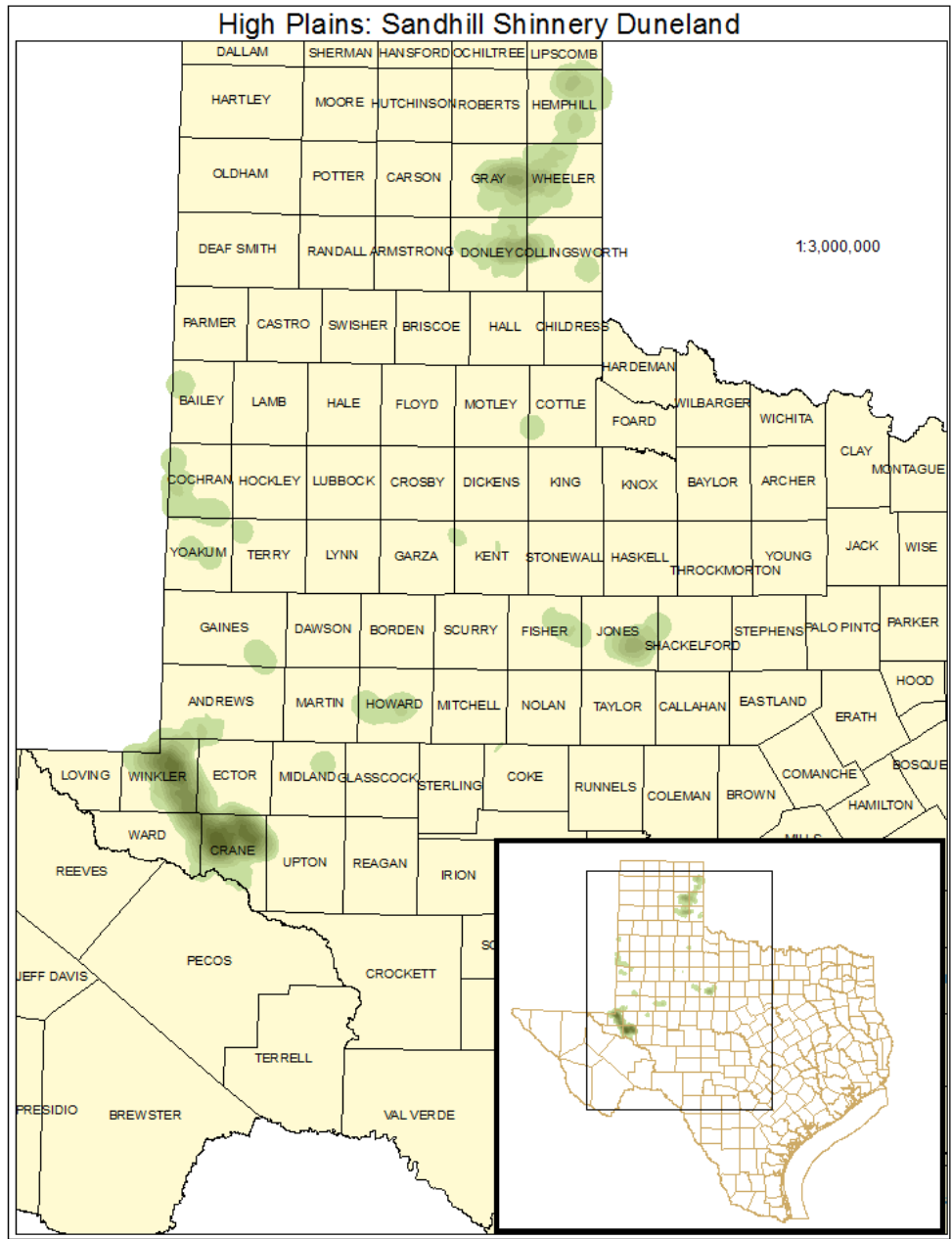
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**HIGH PLAINS: SANDHILL SHINNERY DUNELAND**

**Mapping System ID:** 2816

**EMS Description:** Shrubland on deep sand or sandhill sites where *Quercus havardii* (Havard's shin oak) is the dominant or at least makes up a significant portion of the cover. Other shrub species are also commonly encountered.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Monahans Sandhills State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

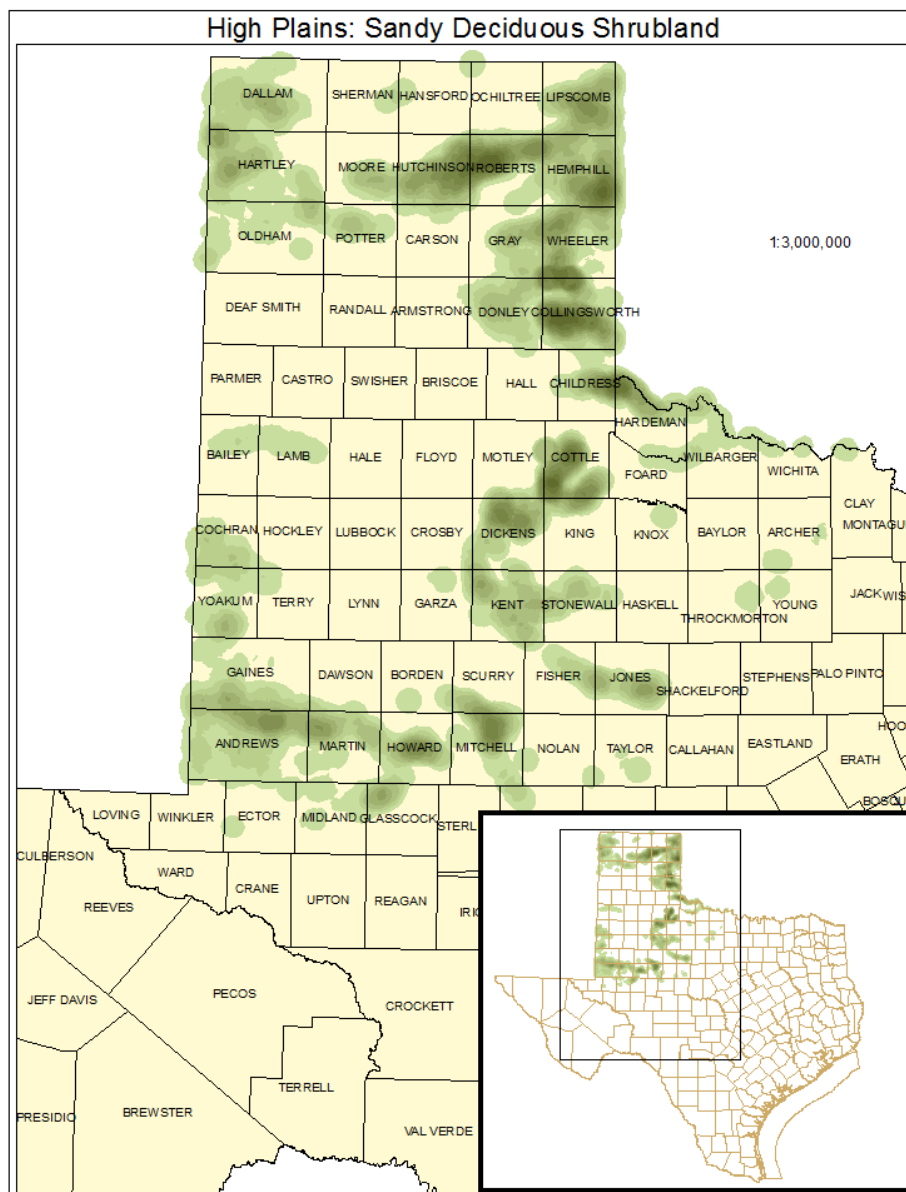
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**HIGH PLAINS: SANDY DECIDUOUS SHRUBLAND**

**Mapping System ID: 2805**

**EMS Description:** Shrublands on sandy substrates but not on deep sand or sandhills, though these sites may be nearby. Common species dominating the sites are *Artemisia filifolia* (sand sage), *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Prunus angustifolia* (Chickasaw plum), and/or *Rhus trilobata* (skunkbush sumac). *Quercus havardii* (Havard’s shin oak) may be present, but is typically not dominant.

**Distribution Map:**





**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Copper Breaks State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Matador Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

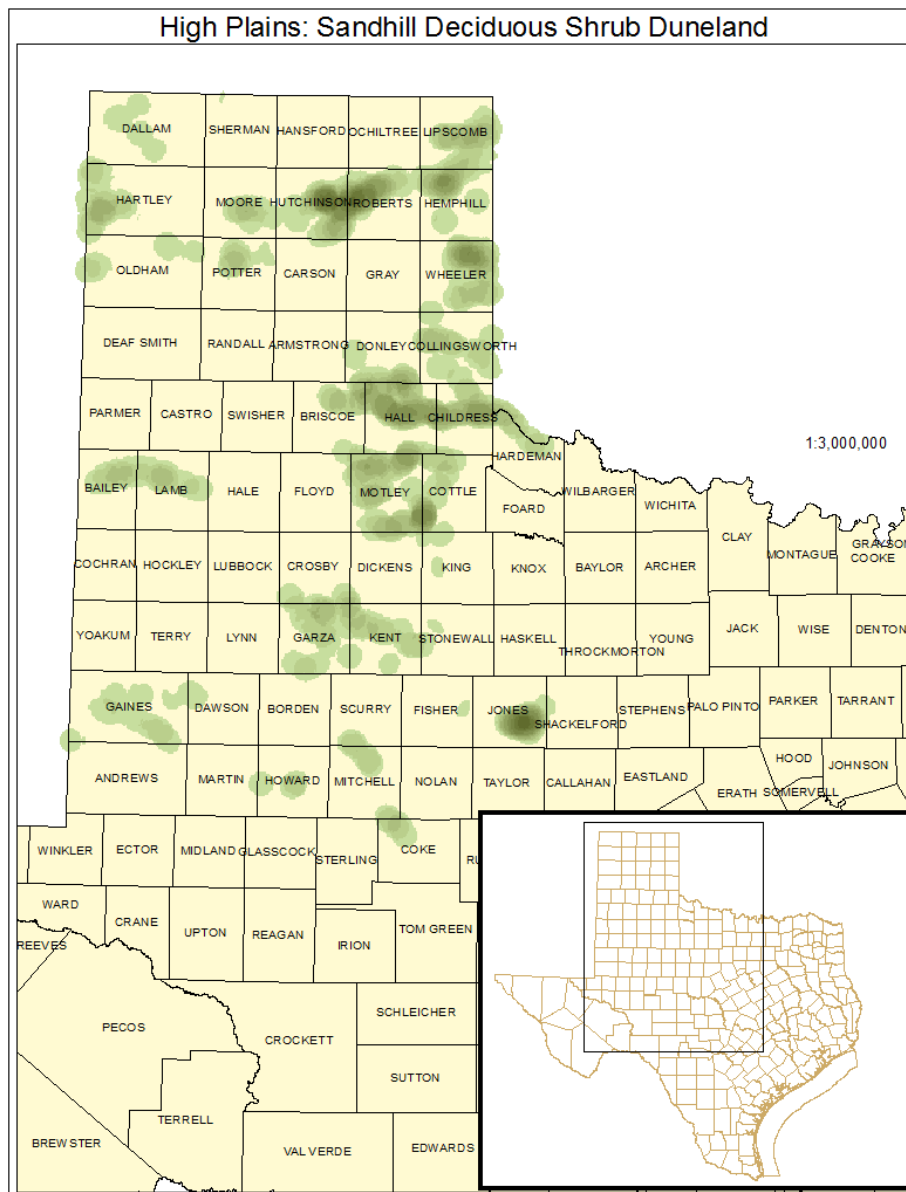
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**HIGH PLAINS: SANDHILL DECIDUOUS SHRUBLAND**

**Mapping System ID:** 2810

**EMS Description:** Shrublands on deep sand or sandhill sites that typically lack *Quercus havardii* (Havard’s shin oak) as the dominant, though this species may be present. Species such as *Artemisia filifolia* (sand sage), *Prunus angustifolia* (Chickasaw plum), *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii* (western soapberry), and *Rhus trilobata* (skunkbush sumac) dominate the shrub layer.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**

*Not available at this time.*

**Public Land Occurrence:**

Matador Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

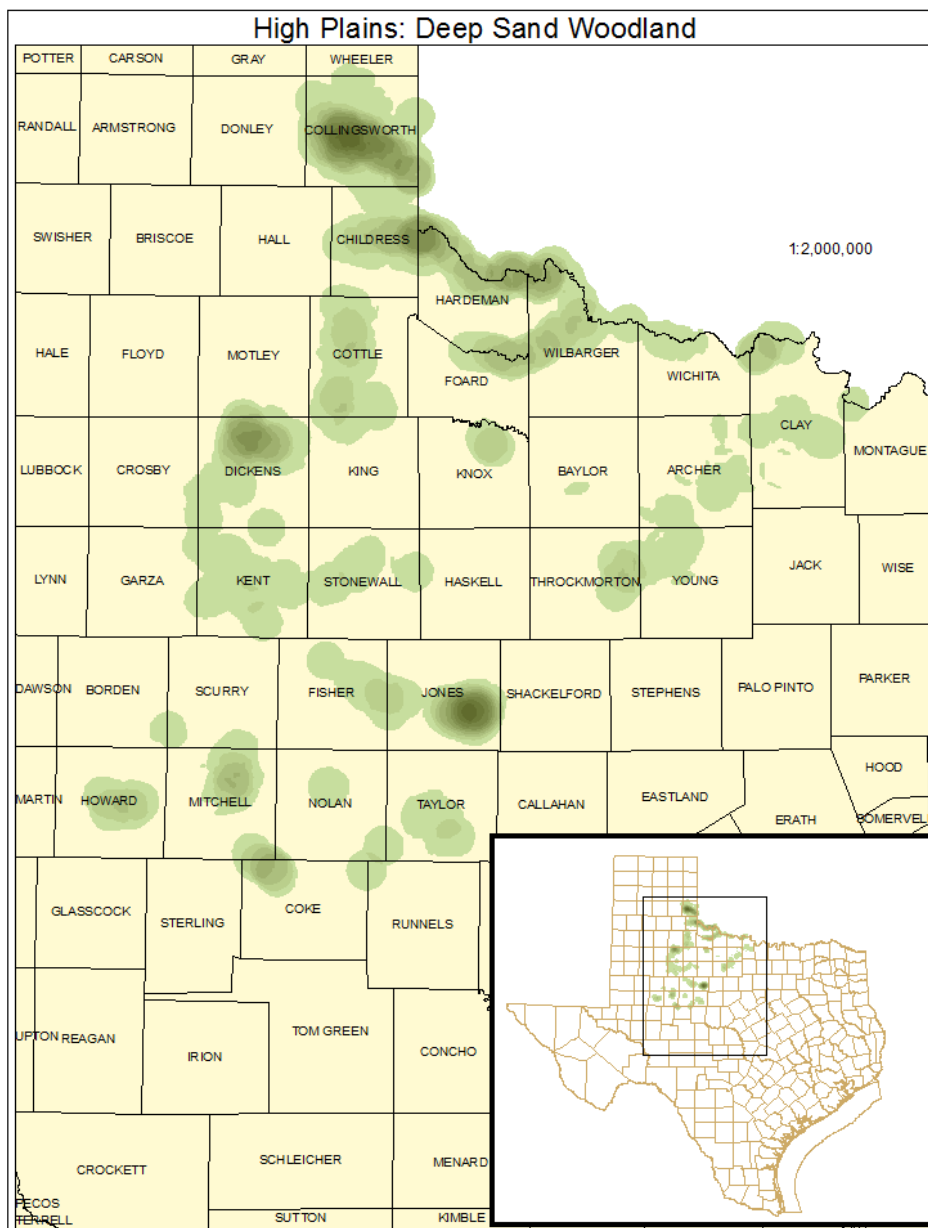
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**HIGH PLAINS: DEEP SAND WOODLAND**

**Mapping System ID:** 2804

**EMS Description:** Deciduous woodlands occurring on deep sands or sandhills or nearby sandy soils. These woodlands may be dominated by species such as *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii* (western soapberry), *Celtis laevigata* var. *reticulata* (netleaf hackberry), *Quercus havardii* (Havard’s shin oak), *Quercus stellata* (post oak), or a hybrid of these two oak species.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**

*Not available at this time.*

**Public Land Occurrence:**

Matador Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department