

EDWARDS PLATEAU CLIFF

Nature Serve ID: CES303.653

Geology: Hard-bedded limestones.

Landform: Vertical or near vertical rock faces, sometimes alternating with slope forming limestone members.

Soils: Little to no soil development. Some soil accumulating on ledges and in crevices.

Description: Some of these sites may be mesic, accumulating moisture from nearby slopes in crevices within the limestone substrate, and seeps may be present. They often occur as long narrow bands. Composition and cover on these cliff faces is a function of aspect, canopy cover provided by surrounding systems, local climate, and moisture available from the underlying geologic formation. Seeps and mesic sites may have fairly dense cover of *Adiantum capillus-veneris* (maiden-hair fern) with patches of *Thelypteris ovata* var. *lindheimeri* (Lindheimer's maidenfern) present. More xeric sites often have significant shrub cover, with species such as *Buddleja racemosa* (Texas butterflybush), *Ungnadia speciosa* (Mexican buckeye), *Diospyros texana* (Texas persimmon), *Ageratina havanensis* (shrubby boneset), *Garrya ovata* ssp. *lindheimeri* (Lindheimer's silktassel), *Bernardia myricifolia* (southwest bernardia), *Philadelphus* spp. (mock-orange), *Styrax* spp. (snowbell), and *Toxicodendron radicans* ssp. *eximium* (poison ivy). Herbaceous species that may be present include *Salvia roemeriana* (cedar sage), *Penstemon baccharifolius* (baccharisleaf beardtongue), *Schoenus nigricans* (black sedge), *Chaetopappa bellidifolia* (least daisy), *Perityle* spp. (rockdaisy), and ferns in the genera *Asplenium*, *Astrolepis*, *Cheilanthes*, and *Pellaea*. Sparse grasses including *Bouteloua hirsuta* (hairy grama), *Bouteloua rigidiseta* (Texas grama), and *Aristida oligantha* (oldfield threeawn) may be present. These cliffs often serve as refugia from herbivores.

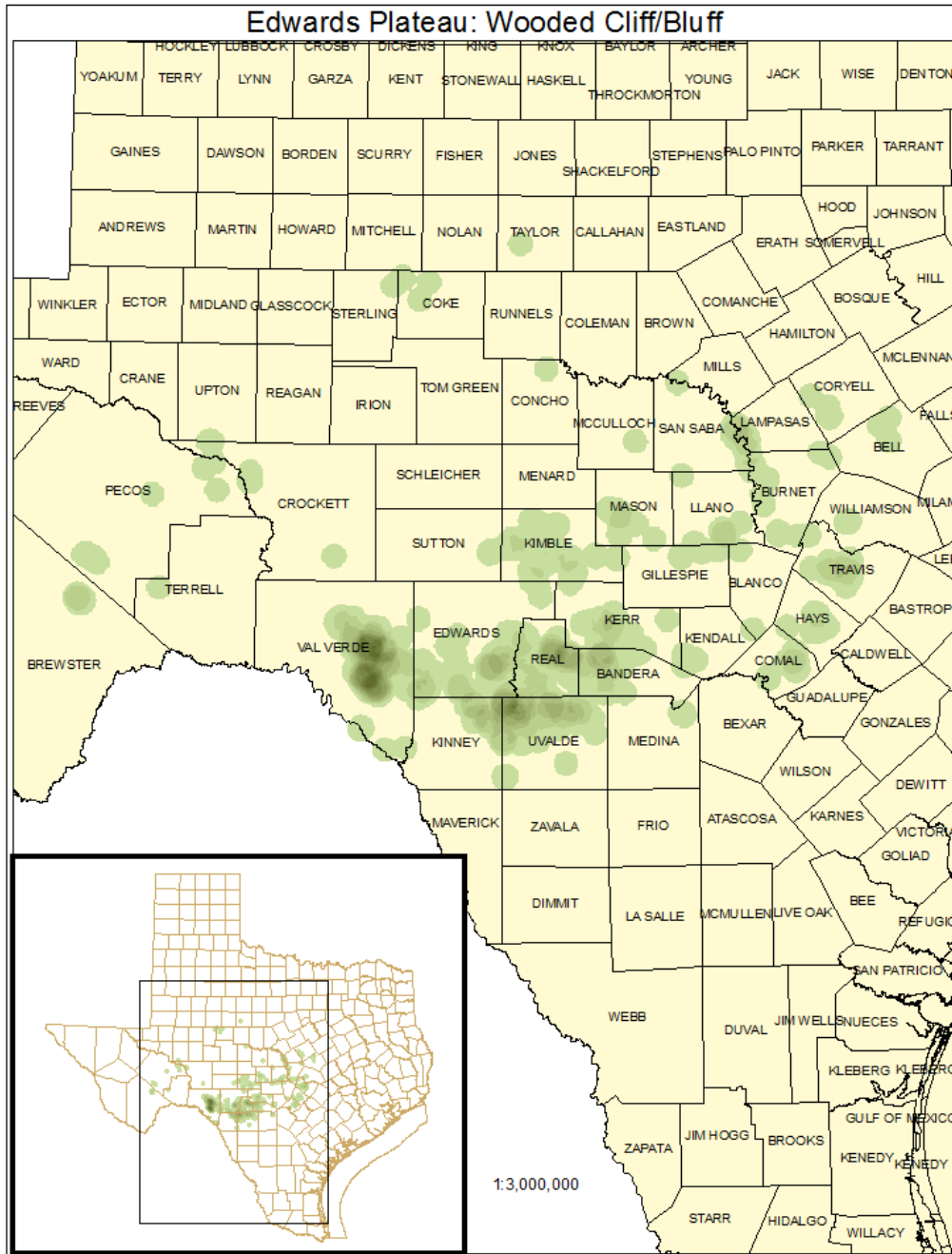
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

EDWARDS PLATEAU: WOODED CLIFF / BLUFF

Mapping System ID: 806

EMS Description: Same as system description.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service

Barton Creek Greenbelt: City of Austin

Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Emma Long Metropolitan Park: City of Austin

Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

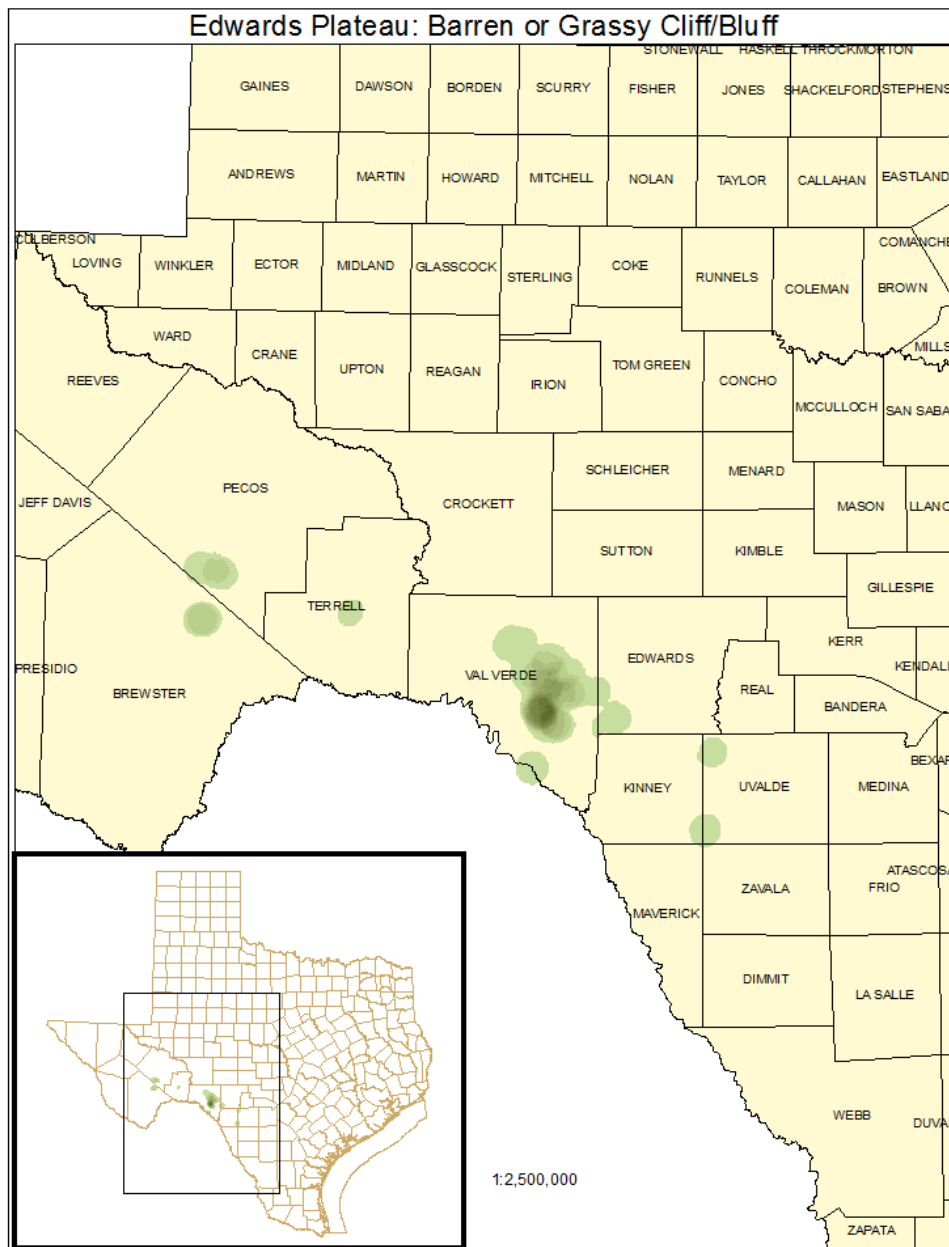
Lost Maples State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

EDWARDS PLATEAU: BARREN OR GRASSY CLIFF / BLUFF

Mapping System ID: 807

EMS Description: This vegetation type generally lacks significant vegetative cover due to the limited potential for soil development on such steep surfaces. These cliffs or bluffs may have development of some lichen and patchy grass clumps in limited areas where soil can remain stable. Sparse shrubs and herbaceous cover (with species suggested in the system description) may be present.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service

Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department