

## TAMAULIPAN SALINE LAKE

**Nature Serve ID:** *Previously undescribed system.*

**Geology:** Mostly mapped on the edge of the sandsheet over the Goliad Formation. Quaternary clay dunes (Qcd) are sometimes nearby.

**Landform:** Broad, gently sloping, interior draining basins.

**Soils:** Highly saline sands or sandy loams.

**Description:** These saline lakes are interior draining basins, receiving runoff from the surrounding landscape. Solution of salts from parent material, deposition from runoff, and subsequent evaporation has lead to a highly saline situation. Sites may be unvegetated or have sparse vegetation. Some areas at very slightly higher landscape positions in the basin are dominated by halophytic grasses such as *Sporobolus airoides* (alkali sacaton), *Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass), *Sporobolus pyramidatus* (whorled dropseed), and *Monanthochloe littorale* (shoregrass). Other halophytic forbs and sub-shrubs may also be present, including *Borrchia frutescens* (sea ox-eye daisy), *Batis maritima* (saltwort), *Salicornia* spp. (glassworts), *Atriplex matamorensis* (Matamoros saltbush), *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (shoreline seapurslane), and *Suaeda linearis* (annual seepweed).

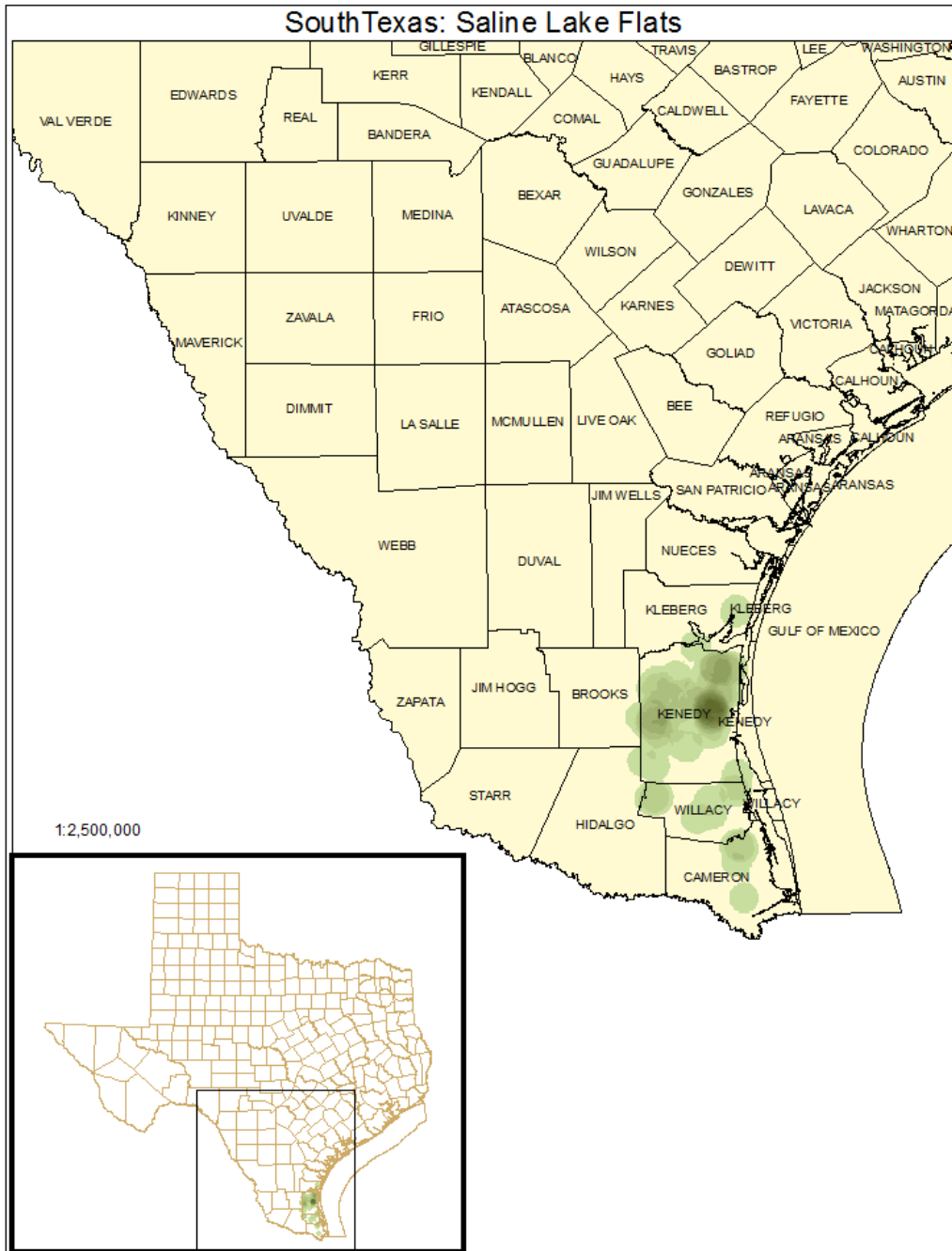
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**SOUTH TEXAS: SALINE LAKE FLATS**

**Mapping System ID:** 7700

**EMS Description:** Unvegetated or very sparsely vegetated lake margin.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge-East Lake: US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

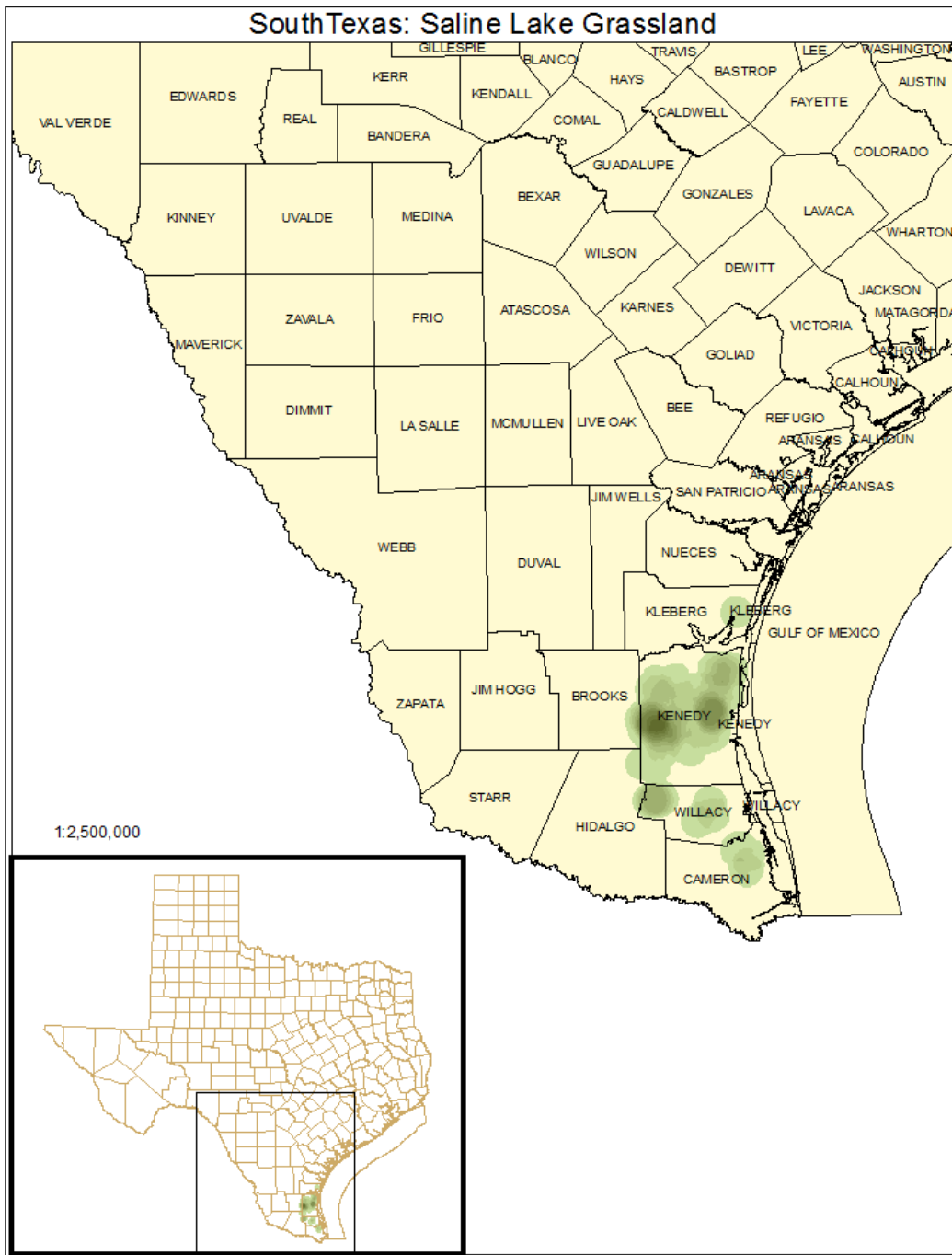
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge-Teniente: US Fish and Wildlife Service

## SOUTH TEXAS: SALINE LAKE GRASSLAND

**Mapping System ID:** 7707

**EMS Description:** Sites along the margin of saline lakes where grasses, forbs, and subshrubs have sufficient cover to be mapped as vegetated.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site: US National Park Service