

## **EDWARDS PLATEAU FLOODPLAIN TERRACE**

**Nature Serve ID:** CES303.651

**Geology:** This system usually occupies Quaternary alluvial deposits often within drainages largely underlain by Cretaceous limestones or drainages that receive outwash from landscapes dominated by these limestones.

**Landform:** Valley floors of large rivers and perennial streams. This system tends to occupy broad valley bottoms with alluvial deposits on the Edwards Plateau, and rivers and large creeks where outwash from the Edwards Plateau influences the substrate.

**Soils:** Bottomland soils of various types (Loamy, Clayey, and Sandy).

**Description:** These are forests and woodlands with a canopy dominated or co-dominated by *Carya illinoensis* (pecan), *Ulmus crassifolia* (cedar elm), *Ulmus americana* (American elm), *Celtis laevigata* (sugar hackberry), *Celtis laevigata* var. *reticulata* (netleaf hackberry), and/or *Quercus fusiformis* (plateau live oak). *Carya illinoensis* (pecan) may be more likely to occur in deeper and better-developed alluvial soils. Apparent dominance of *Carya illinoensis* (pecan) may also be an artifact of preferential harvesting of other species, leaving this species in greater abundance. *Melia azedarach* (chinaberry) is a common non-native tree encountered on floodplains. Other species present may include *Fraxinus texensis* (Texas ash), *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (green ash), *Juglans major* (Arizona walnut), *Quercus macrocarpa* (bur oak), *Quercus buckleyi* (Texas oak), *Acer negundo* (boxelder), *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii* (western soapberry), *Juniperus ashei* (Ashe juniper), *Prosopis glandulosa* (mesquite), and *Platanus occidentalis* (American sycamore). *Quercus stellata* (post oak) may be dominant on sandy soils within the floodplain at some sites. Woody species in the subcanopy may include *Sideroxylon lanuginosum* (gum bumelia), *Ptelea trifoliata* (wafer-ash), *Cornus drummondii* (roughleaf dogwood), *Morus rubra* (red mulberry), *Diospyros texana* (Texas persimmon), *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper), *Vitis* spp. (grape), *Smilax bona-nox* (greenbrier), *Baccharis neglecta* (roosevelt-weed), *Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii* (Turk's cap), *Juniperus ashei* (Ashe juniper), and *Ilex decidua* (possumhaw). The herbaceous layer may be continuous, though relatively sparse, or patchy with species such as *Elymus virginicus* (Virginia wildrye), *Chasmanthium latifolium* (creekoats), *Nassella leucotricha* (Texas wintergrass), *Verbesina virginica* (frostweed), and *Carex* spp. (caric sedge). Some sites lack, or have very sparse, overstory canopies and represent shrublands or grasslands. Shrublands may be dominated by species in the shrub layer of the surrounding woodlands. Other components or dominants may include species such as *Prosopis glandulosa* (mesquite), *Acacia farnesiana* (huisache), *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii* (western soapberry), *Juglans microcarpa* (little walnut), *Mahonia trifoliolata* (agarito), and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (common buttonbush). Grassland sites are frequently dominated by the non-native species *Cynodon dactylon* (bermudagrass) and/or *Bothriochloa ischaemum* var. *songarica* (King Ranch bluestem). Native species that may also be present in (and sometimes dominate) these sites include *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass), *Andropogon glomeratus* (bushy bluestem), *Elymus virginicus* (Virginia wildrye), *Nassella leucotricha* (Texas wintergrass), *Hordeum pusillum* (little barley), *Tripsacum dactyloides* (eastern gamagrass), *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* (Lindheimer's muhly), *Carex* spp. (carices), and *Eleocharis* spp. (spikerushes). Floodplain occurrences often include portions that resemble Edwards Plateau Riparian vegetation, especially along stream margins, where *Platanus occidentalis* (sycamore), *Taxodium distichum*

(baldcypress), *Juglans microcarpa* (little walnut), *Brickellia* spp. (brickellbush), *Cladium mariscus* ssp. *jamaicense* (saw-grass), and *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass) are frequently encountered.

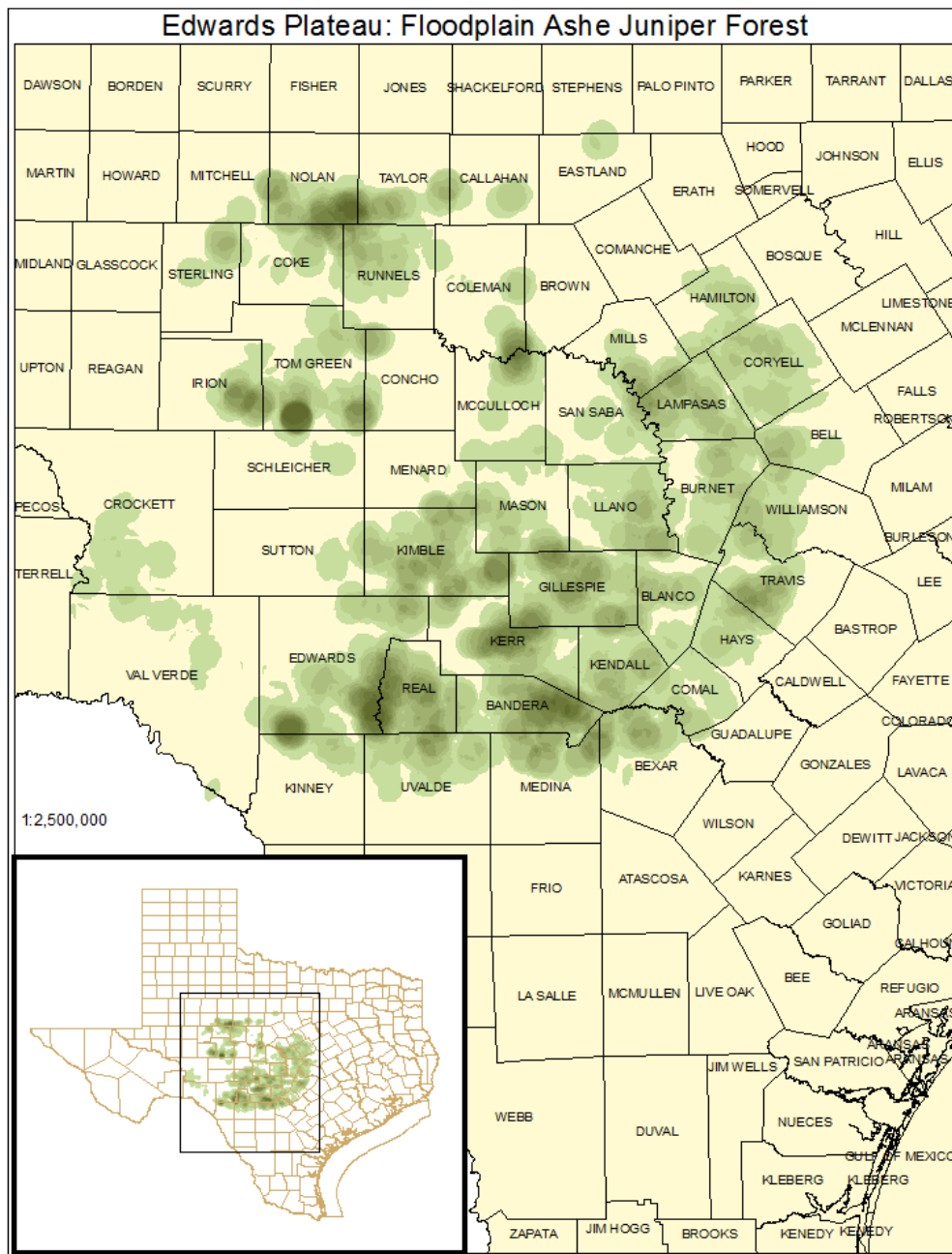
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN ASHE JUNIPER FOREST**

**Mapping System ID:** 1001

**EMS Description:** As described for system, but *Juniperus ashei* (Ashe juniper) dominates the canopy.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:****Public Land Occurrence:**

Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service

Barton Creek Greenbelt: City of Austin

Colorado Bend State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Guadalupe River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Hill Country State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Honey Creek State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Kerr Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Kickapoo Cavern State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

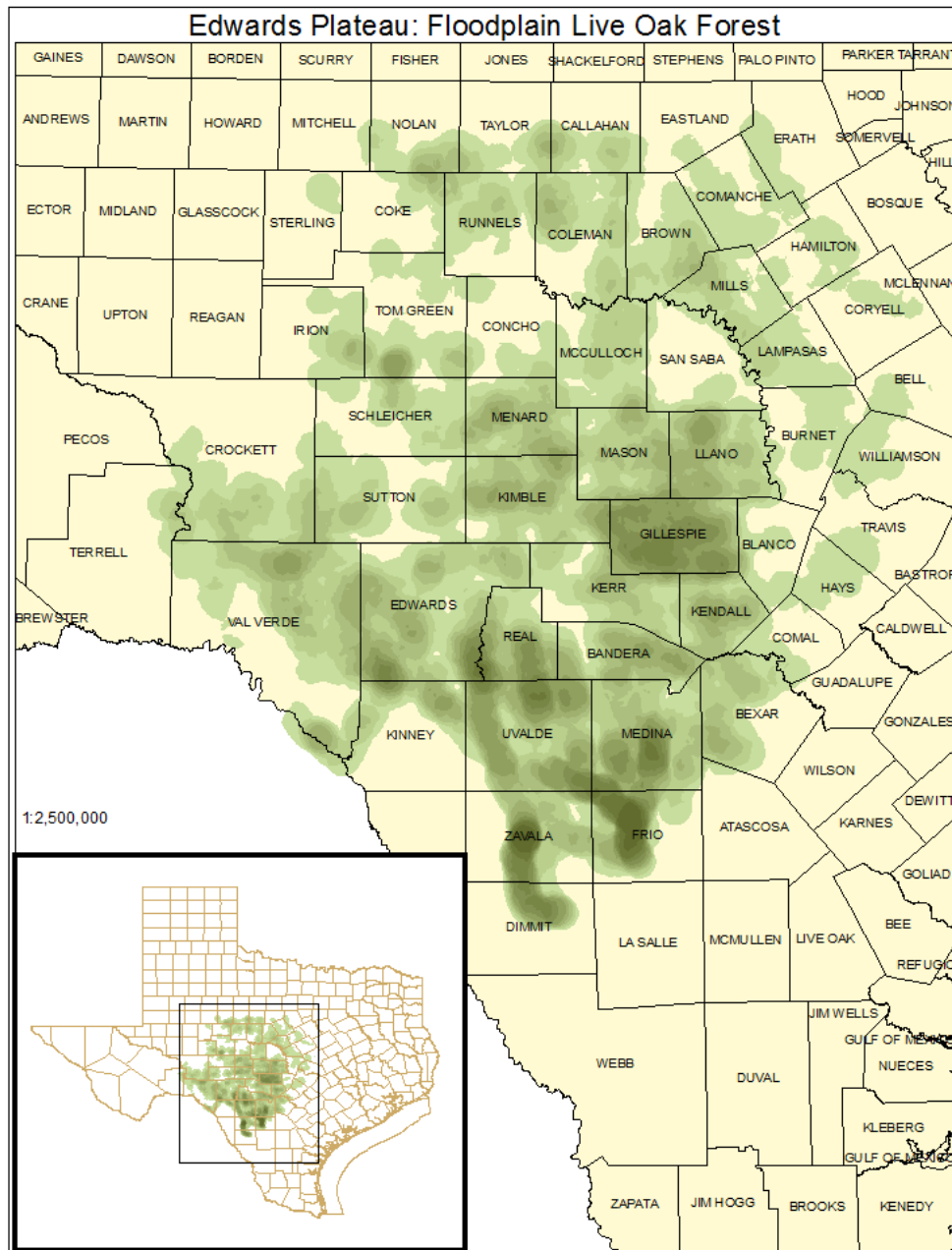
Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

## EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN LIVE OAK FOREST

**Mapping System ID:** 1002

**EMS Description:** As described for the system, but *Quercus fusiformis* (plateau live oak) dominates the canopy. Deciduous species can be, and frequently are, common in the canopy, but *Quercus fusiformis* (plateau live oak) clearly dominates. *Juniperus ashei* (Ashe juniper) may also be present.

**Distribution Map:**





**Example:****Public Land Occurrence:**

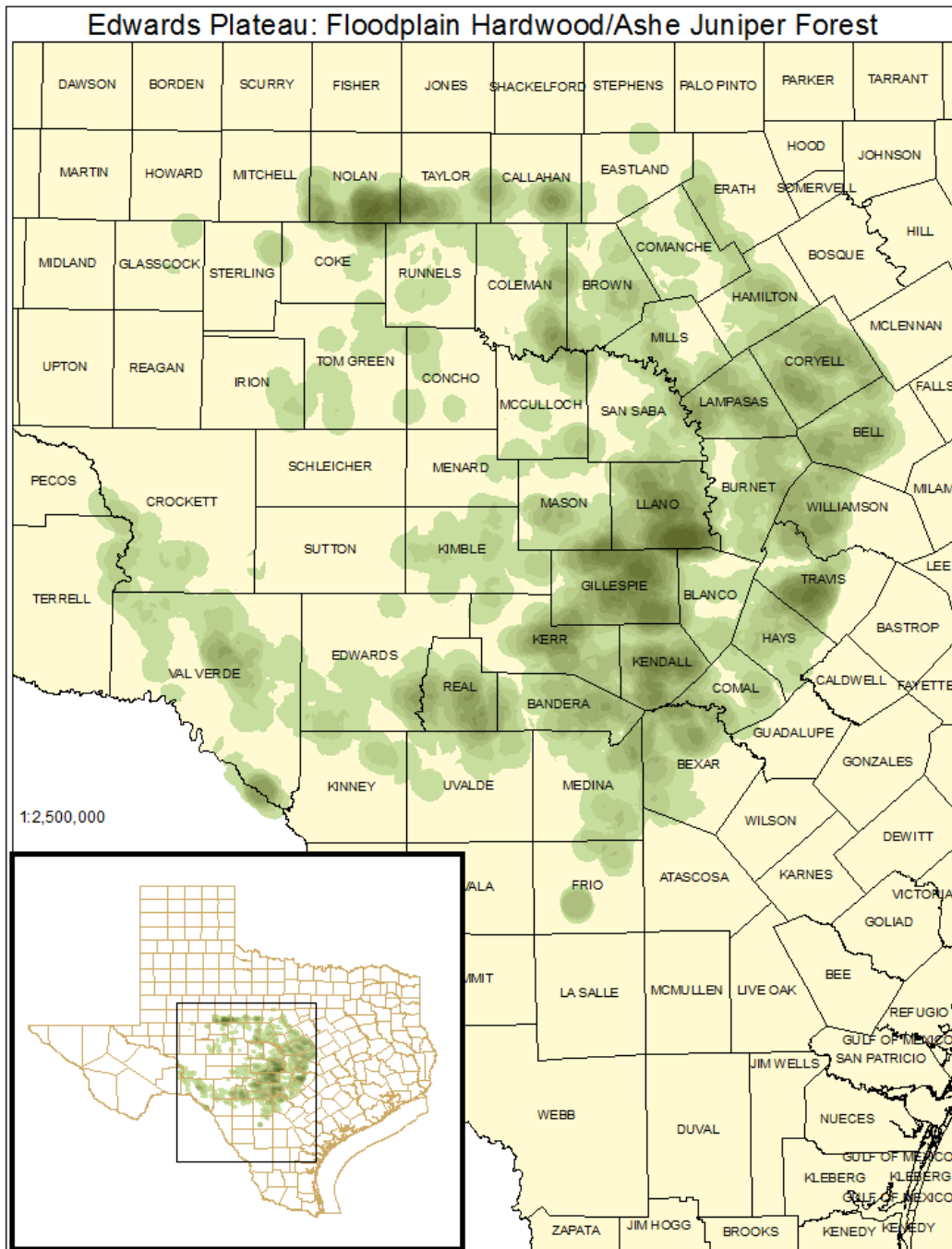
Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service  
Colorado Bend State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Enchanted Rock State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Government Canyon State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Guadalupe River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Hill Country State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Kerr Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Kickapoo Cavern State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Lost Maples State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
South Llano River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

## EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN HARDWOOD / ASHE JUNIPER FOREST

**Mapping System ID:** 1003

**EMS Description:** As described for the system, with a mix of deciduous and evergreen canopy species.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:****Public Land Occurrence:**

Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service

Barton Creek Greenbelt: City of Austin

Barton Creek Habitat Preserve: The Nature Conservancy

Belton Lake Recreation Area: US Army Corps of Engineers

Colorado Bend State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Guadalupe River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Hill Country State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Kerr Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Kickapoo Cavern State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

O.C. Fisher Reservoir: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Stillhouse Hollow Lake Recreation Area: US Army Corps of Engineers

Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

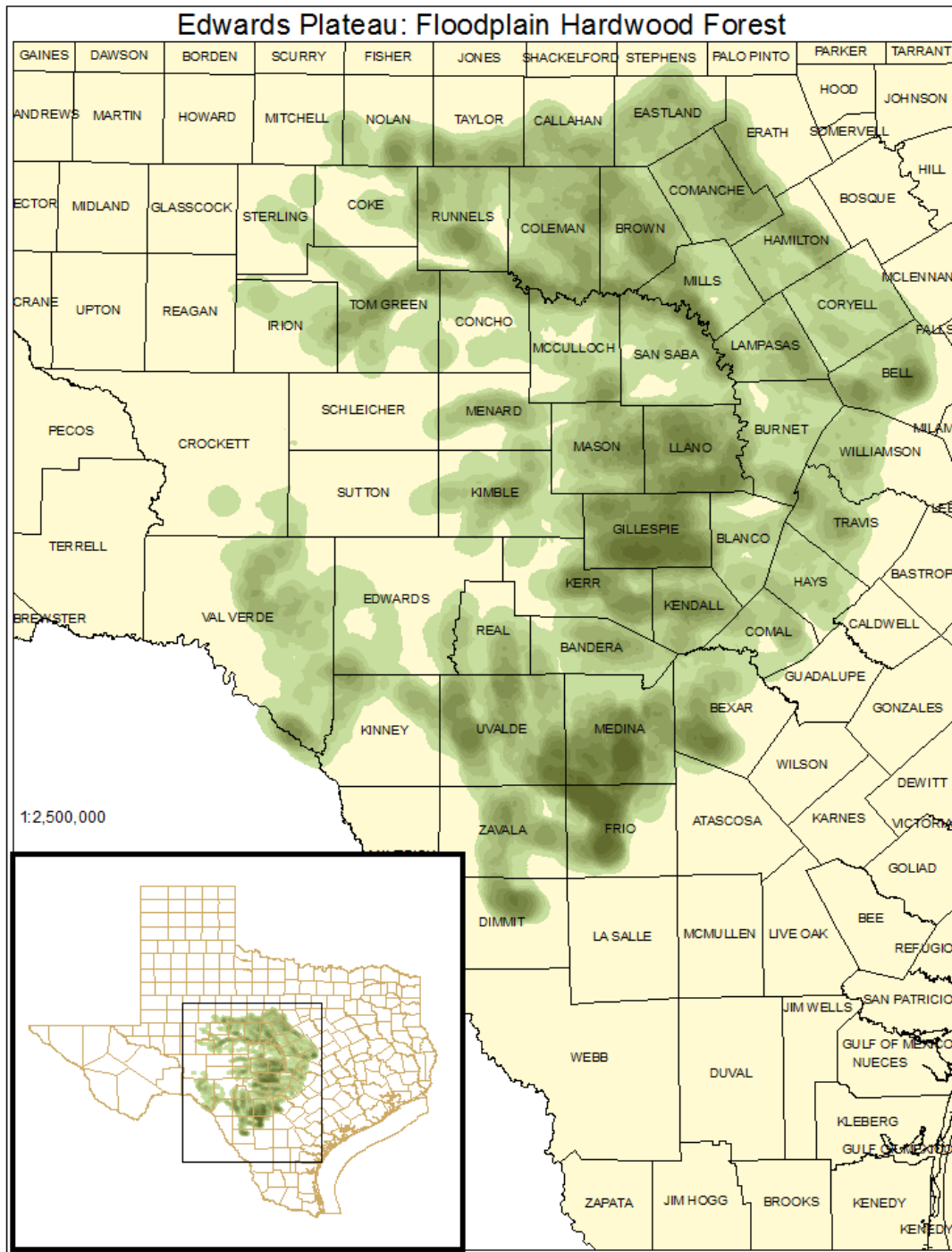


### EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN HARDWOOD FOREST

Mapping System ID: 1004

EMS Description: As described for the system, but deciduous species dominate the canopy.

Distribution Map:



**Example:****Public Land Occurrence:**

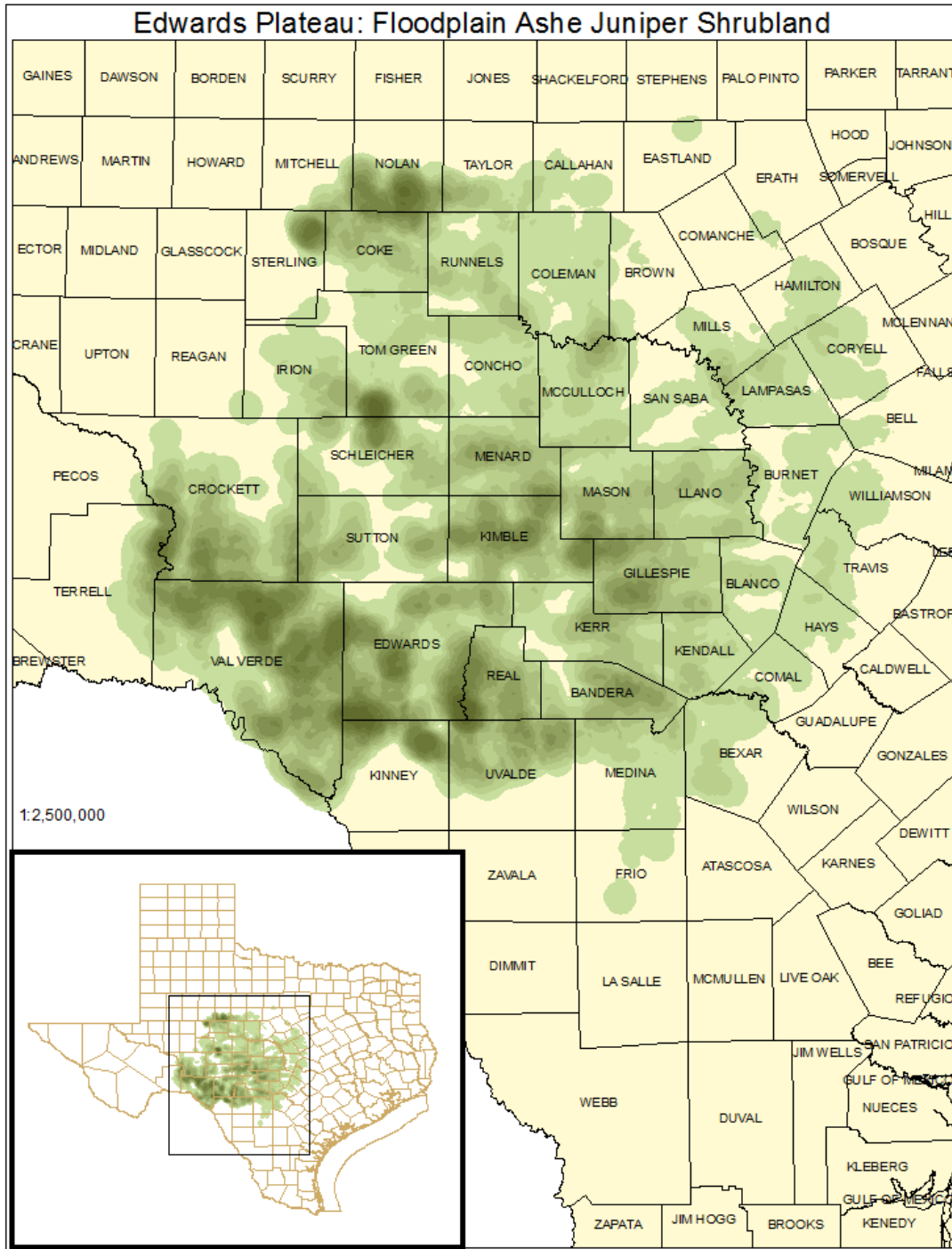
Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service  
Belton Lake Recreation Area: US Army Corps of Engineers  
Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Enchanted Rock State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Government Canyon State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Guadalupe River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Honey Creek State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Kickapoo Cavern State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Leon Creek Greenbelt: City of San Antonio  
McAllister Park: City of San Antonio  
Medina River Natural Area: City of San Antonio  
Mother Neff State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
O.C. Fisher Reservoir: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Pedernales Falls State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
South Llano River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Stillhouse Hollow Lake Recreation Area: US Army Corps of Engineers  
Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

### EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN ASHE JUNIPER SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 1005

EMS Description: *Juniperus ashei* (Ashe juniper) dominated shrublands on floodplains.

Distribution Map:





**Example:****Public Land Occurrence:**

Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service  
Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Hill Country State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Kickapoo Cavern State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Lost Maples State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
O.C. Fisher Reservoir: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Pedernales Falls State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Seminole Canyon State Park/State Historic Site: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
South Llano River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

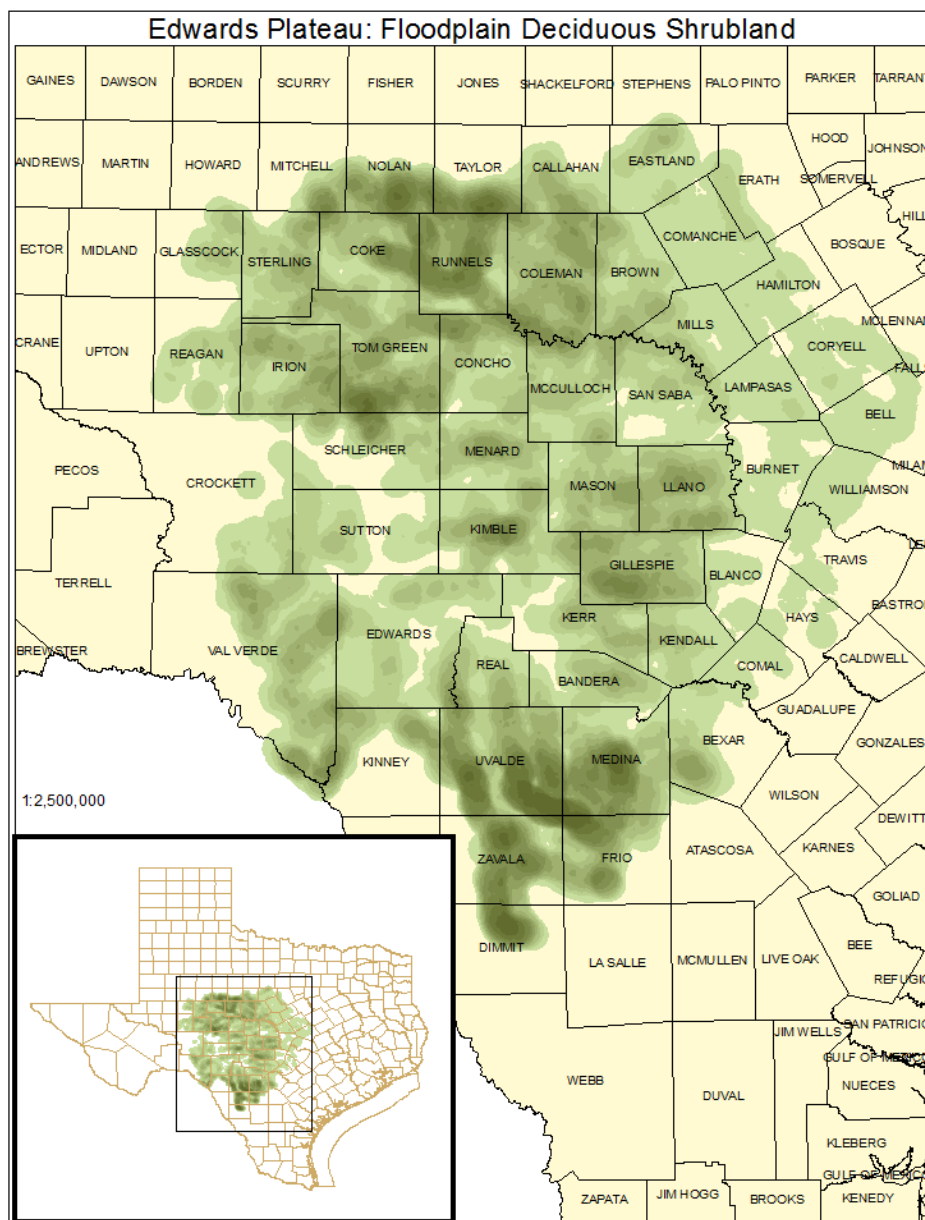


## EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN DECIDUOUS SHRUBLAND

**Mapping System ID:** 1006

**EMS Description:** Shrublands on floodplains dominated by species in the shrub layer of the surrounding woodlands or other species such as *Prosopis glandulosa* (mesquite), *Acacia farnesiana* (huisache), *Juglans microcarpa* (little walnut), *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii* (western soapberry), *Mahonia trifoliolata* (agarito), *Salix nigra* (black willow), and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (common buttonbush). *Ulmus crassifolia* (cedar elm), *Quercus fusiformis* (plateau live oak), and/or *Celtis laevigata* (sugar hackberry) may be present as a sparse and scattered overstory.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:****Public Land Occurrence:**

Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service

Belton Lake Recreation Area: US Army Corps of Engineers

Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Enchanted Rock State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Hill Country State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Kickapoo Cavern State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Lost Maples State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

O.C. Fisher Reservoir: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Pedernales River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

South Llano River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Stillhouse Hollow Lake Recreation Area: US Army Corps of Engineers

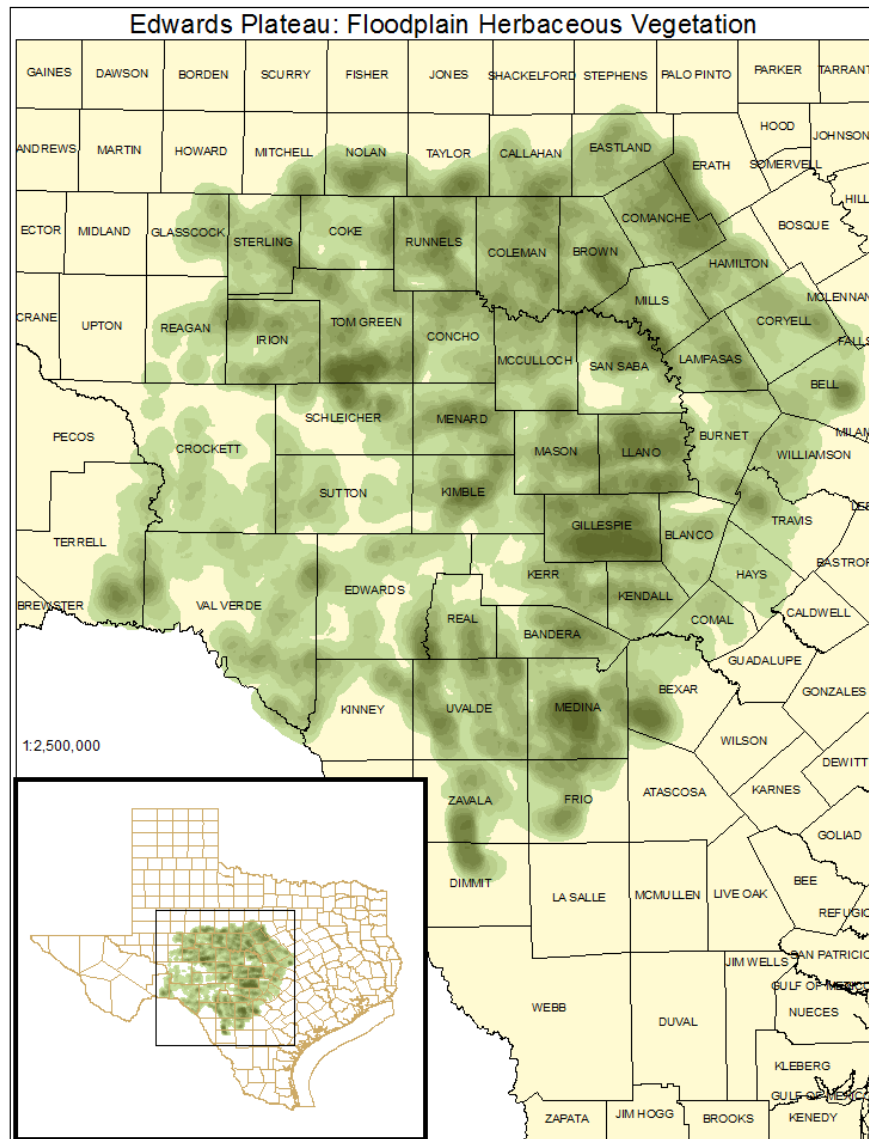
Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

## EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN HERBACEOUS VEGETATION

**Mapping System ID:** 1007

**EMS Description:** Grasslands on floodplains, often dominated by *Cynodon dactylon* (bermudagrass) and/or *Bothriochloa ischaemum* var. *songarica* (King Ranch bluestem). Native species that may be present, common, or dominant include *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass), *Andropogon glomeratus* (bushy bluestem), *Elymus virginicus* (Virginia wildrye), *Nassella leucotricha* (Texas wintergrass), *Hordeum pusillum* (little barley), *Tripsacum dactyloides* (eastern gamagrass), *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* (Lindheimer muhly), and *Chasmanthium latifolium* (creekoats). Scattered *Prosopis glandulosa* (mesquite), *Quercus fusiformis* (plateau live oak), *Celtis laevigata* (sugar hackberry), or other overstory species may be present.

### Distribution Map:





**Example:****Public Land Occurrence:**

Amistad National Recreation Area: US National Park Service

Belton Lake Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Devils River State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Emma Long Metropolitan Park: City of Austin

Garner State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Guadalupe River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Hill Country State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Honey Creek State Natural Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Kickapoo Cavern State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

O.C. Fisher Reservoir: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Pedernales Falls State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

San Angelo State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

South Llano River State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Stillhouse Hollow Lake Recreation Area: US Army Corps of Engineers

Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

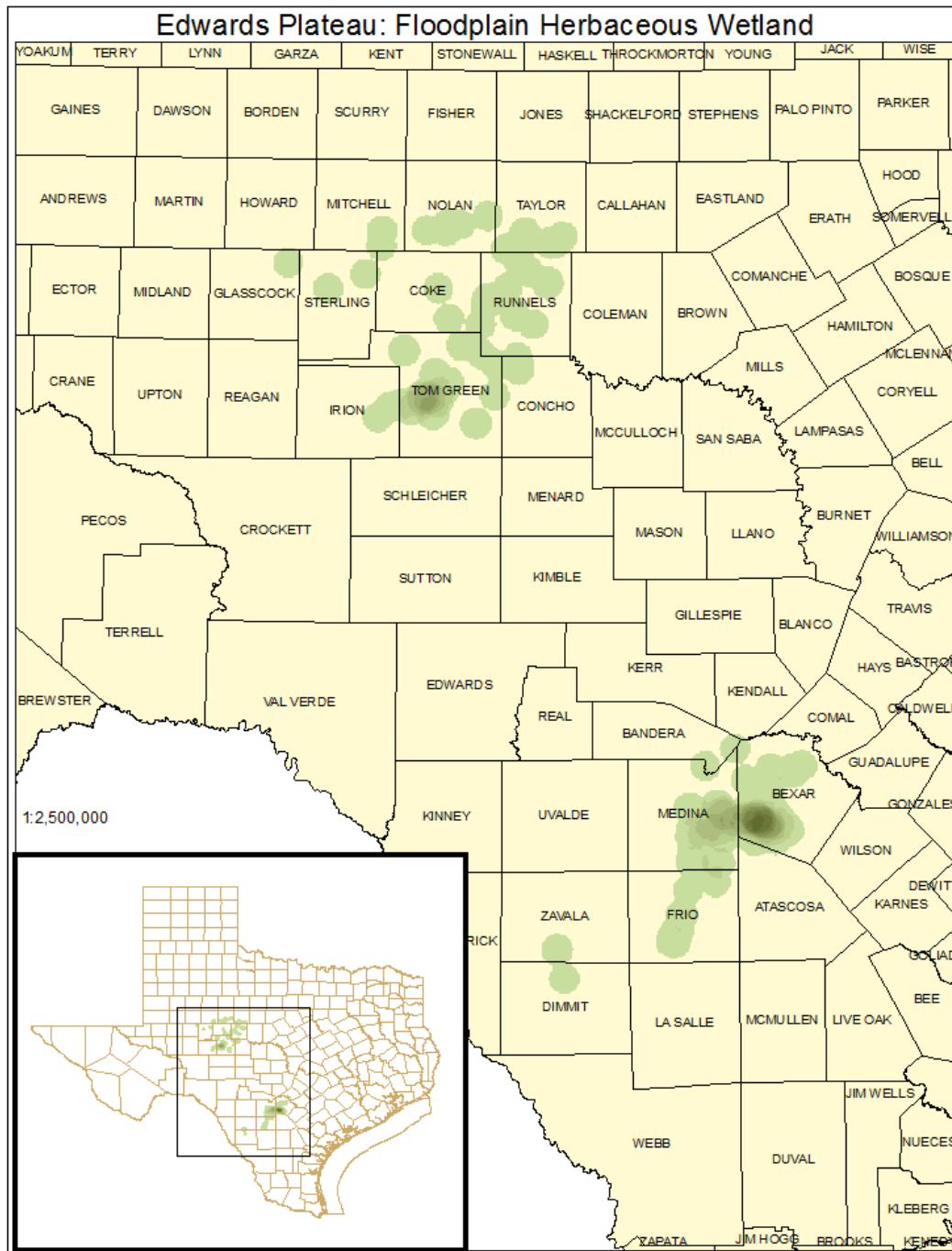


## EDWARDS PLATEAU: FLOODPLAIN HERBACEOUS WETLAND

**Mapping System ID:** 1017

**EMS Description:** Wetlands within floodplains often dominated by *Cladium mariscus* ssp. *jamaicense* (saw-grass), *Eleocharis* spp. (spikerushes), and *Carex* spp. (carices).

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

O.C. Fisher Reservoir: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Twin Butte Reservoir Recreation Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department