

WEST GULF COASTAL PLAIN PINE – HARDWOOD FLATWOODS

Nature Serve ID: CES203.278

Geology: High Pleistocene terraces, mapped in the northern portion of East Texas as Quaternary Fluvial Terrace (or Tile) Deposits.

Landform: Very gently undulating to flat surfaces, with local topographic relief provided by ridges and swales.

Soils: Soils tend to be fine-textured. They typically have a somewhat impermeable subsurface horizon, which leads to a perched water table. Saturation results from local rainfall run-on, and alternates with seasonal drying, leading to a xerohydric hydroperiod.

Description: This system primarily occurs within the Flatwoods EPA Level IV ecoregion, but is also found associated with the Pleistocene Fluvial Terraces ecoregion in the northern portion of East Texas. This woodland or forest system is often dominated by more mesic species on interior ridges, including *Pinus taeda* (loblolly pine), *Pinus echinata* (shortleaf pine), *Pinus elliotii* (slash pine), *Quercus stellata* (post oak), *Quercus alba* (white oak), *Quercus falcata* (southern red oak), and *Carya texana* (black hickory). Within the range of *Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine), occurrences that represent West Gulf Coastal Plain Wet Longleaf Pine Savanna and Flatwoods may be mapped as this system. On the somewhat wetter sites of the swales, species such as *Quercus nigra* (water oak), *Quercus phellos* (willow oak), *Quercus laurifolia* (laurel oak), *Nyssa sylvatica* (blackgum), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (sweetgum), and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (green ash) may be dominant. Sites that are even wetter would likely be mapped as West Gulf Coastal Plain Nonriverine Wet Hardwood Flatwoods. *Triadica sebifera* (Chinese tallow) may invade this system. Mid-story species that may be encountered include *Acer rubrum* (red maple), *Ilex opaca* (American holly), *Ulmus alata* (winged elm), and small members of the overstory. *Morella cerifera* (wax-myrtle), *Ilex decidua* (possumhaw), and *Ilex vomitoria* (yaupon) are commonly encountered shrubs. Herbaceous cover is generally sparse, with species such as *Chasmanthium* spp. (woodoats), *Andropogon glomeratus* (bushy bluestem), and *Gelsemium sempervirens* (Carolina jessamine). Sites dominated by *Pinus taeda* (loblolly pine) or *Pinus elliotii* (slash pine) may often represent plantations or managed forests.

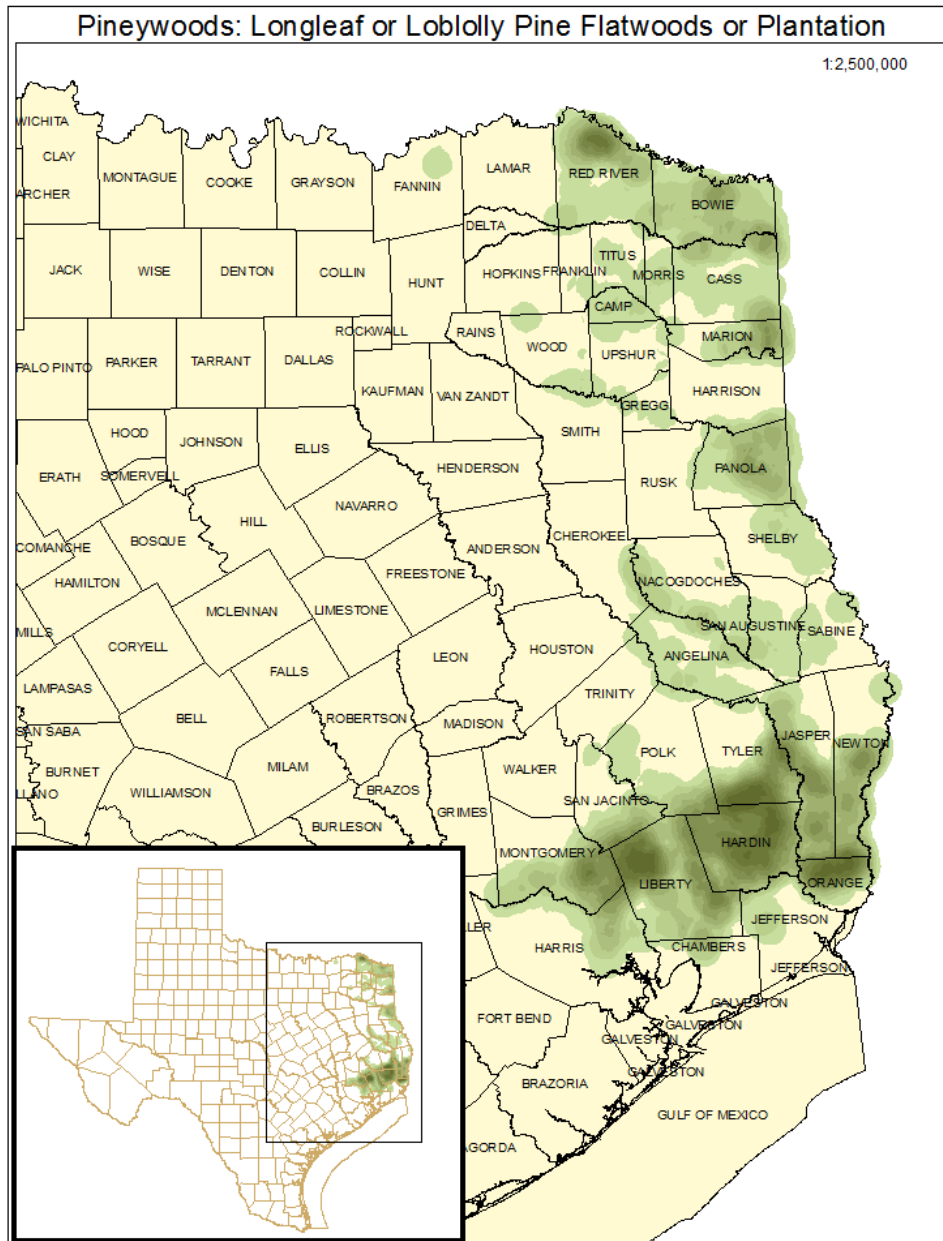
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

PINEYWOODS: LONGLEAF OR LOBLOLLY PINE FLATWOODS OR PLANTATION

Mapping System ID: 4001

EMS Description: This mapped type on flatwoods sites are dominated by *Pinus taeda* (loblolly pine), *Pinus elliottii* (slash pine), and to a lesser extent, *Pinus echinata* (shortleaf pine). Within the range of *Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine), this type may represent occurrence of West Gulf Coastal Plain Wet Longleaf Pine Savanna and Flatwoods.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Angelina National Forest: US Forest Service

Big Thicket National Preserve: US National Park Service

Caddo National Grasslands Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Lake Houston Wilderness Park: City of Houston

Martin Dies, Jr. State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Sabine National Forest: US Forest Service

Sam Houston National Forest Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

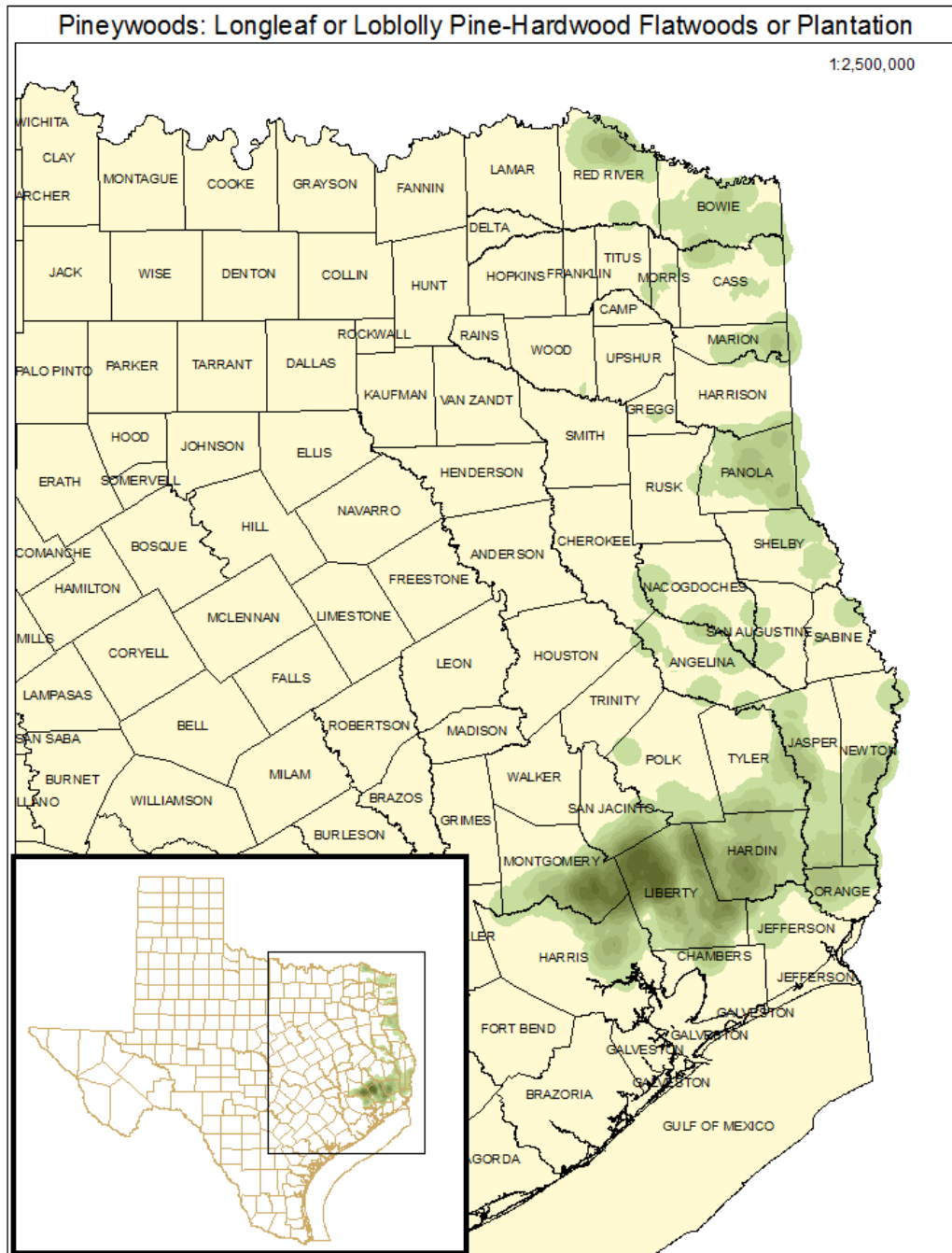
Wright Patman Lake: US Army Corps of Engineers

PINEYWOODS: LONGLEAF OR LOBLOLLY PINE / HARDWOOD FLATWOODS OR PLANTATION

Mapping System ID: 4003

EMS Description: This mapped type has a mix of *Pinus* spp. (pines) and hardwoods in the canopy. This is a fairly minor component of the system.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Angelina National Forest: US Forest Service

Big Thicket National Preserve: US National Park Service

Lake Houston Wilderness Park: City of Houston

Martin Dies, Jr. State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Sabine National Forest: US Forest Service

Sam Houston National Forest Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Wright Patman Lake: US Army Corps of Engineers

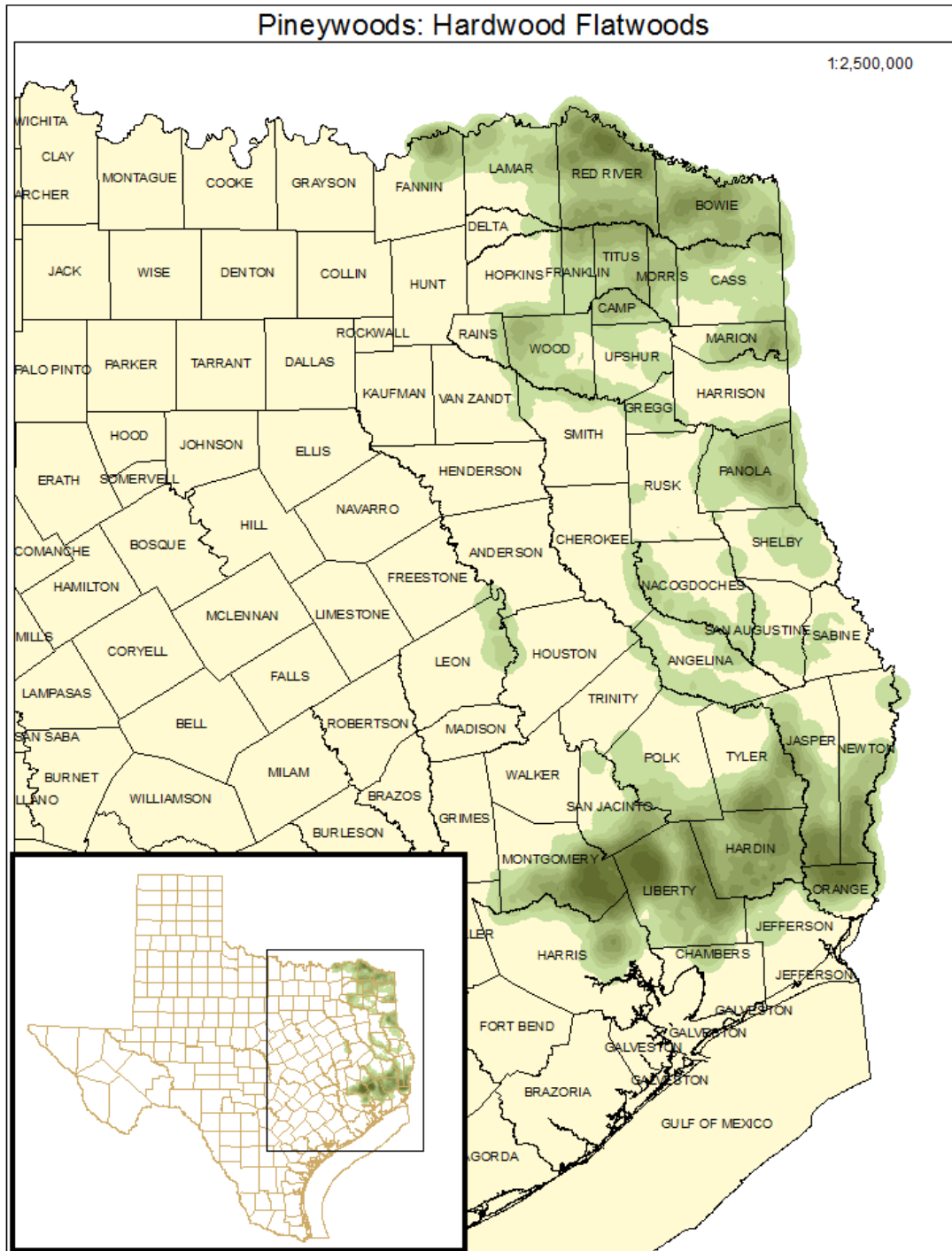


PINEYWOODS: HARDWOOD FLATWOODS

Mapping System ID: 4004

EMS Description: This mapped type lacks significant evergreen canopy.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

Angelina National Forest: US Forest Service

Big Thicket National Preserve: US National Park Service

Caddo National Grasslands Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Lake Houston Wilderness Park: City of Houston

Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary: The Nature Conservancy

Sam Houston National Forest Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Wright Patman Lake: US Army Corps of Engineers