

WEST GULF COASTAL PLAIN SEEPAGE SWAMP AND BAYGALL

Nature Serve ID: CES203.372

Geology: May occur on a range of geological formations, including intermediate to high Pleistocene terraces, Eocene sands, the Catahoula Formation, and the Wilcox Formation.

Landform: Occupies low landscape positions typically along low gradient creeks, headwaters of drainages, or local depressions, often where underground water flow exits to the surface as a seep.

Soils: Typically sandy to loamy soils, often with an impermeable subsurface layer that restricts water percolation. These sites are typically semi-permanently saturated. These are typically soils of medium to strong acidity, with low available nutrients, and significant organic accumulation.

Description: This system typically occurs as densely wooded sites, characterized by overstory species such as *Magnolia virginiana* (sweetbay), *Nyssa biflora* (swamp tupelo), and *Acer rubrum* (red maple). Other species in the overstory may include *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (green ash), *Quercus nigra* (water oak), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (sweetgum), and *Quercus laurifolia* (laurel oak). A well-developed woody understory is often present and includes species such as *Morella caroliniensis* (evergreen bayberry), *Itea virginica* (Virginia sweetspire), *Persea palustris* (swamp redbay), *Rhododendron prinophyllum* (early azalea), *Rhododendron canescens* (mountain azalea), *Ilex decidua* (possumhaw), *Vaccinium fuscatum* (Arkansas blueberry), *Ilex opaca* (American holly), *Toxicodendron vernix* (poison sumac), *Viburnum nudum* (possumhaw viburnum), *Morella cerifera* (wax-myrtle), *Alnus serrulata* (smooth alder), *Smilax laurifolia* (bamboo-vine), and *Vitis rotundifolia* (muscadine grape). Southern expressions of the type may also have *Ilex coriacea* (bay-gall bush) or *Cyrilla racemiflora* (leatherwood). The herbaceous layer is often dominated by ferns such as *Woodwardia areolata* (chain fern), *Osmunda regalis* (royal fern), *Osmunda cinnamomea* (cinnamon fern), and *Athyrium filix-femina* (common ladyfern). *Carex* spp. (caric sedges), *Rhynchospora* spp. (beaksedges), and *Eleocharis* spp. (spikerushes) are also frequently encountered. *Sphagnum* sp. (sphagnum) occurs in patches throughout, and other bryophytes are common. The rare species *Bartonia texana* (Texas screwstem) may be encountered in this system, along with other interesting forbs such as *Burmannia biflora* (northern bluethead) and *Apteria aphylla* (nodding-nixie).

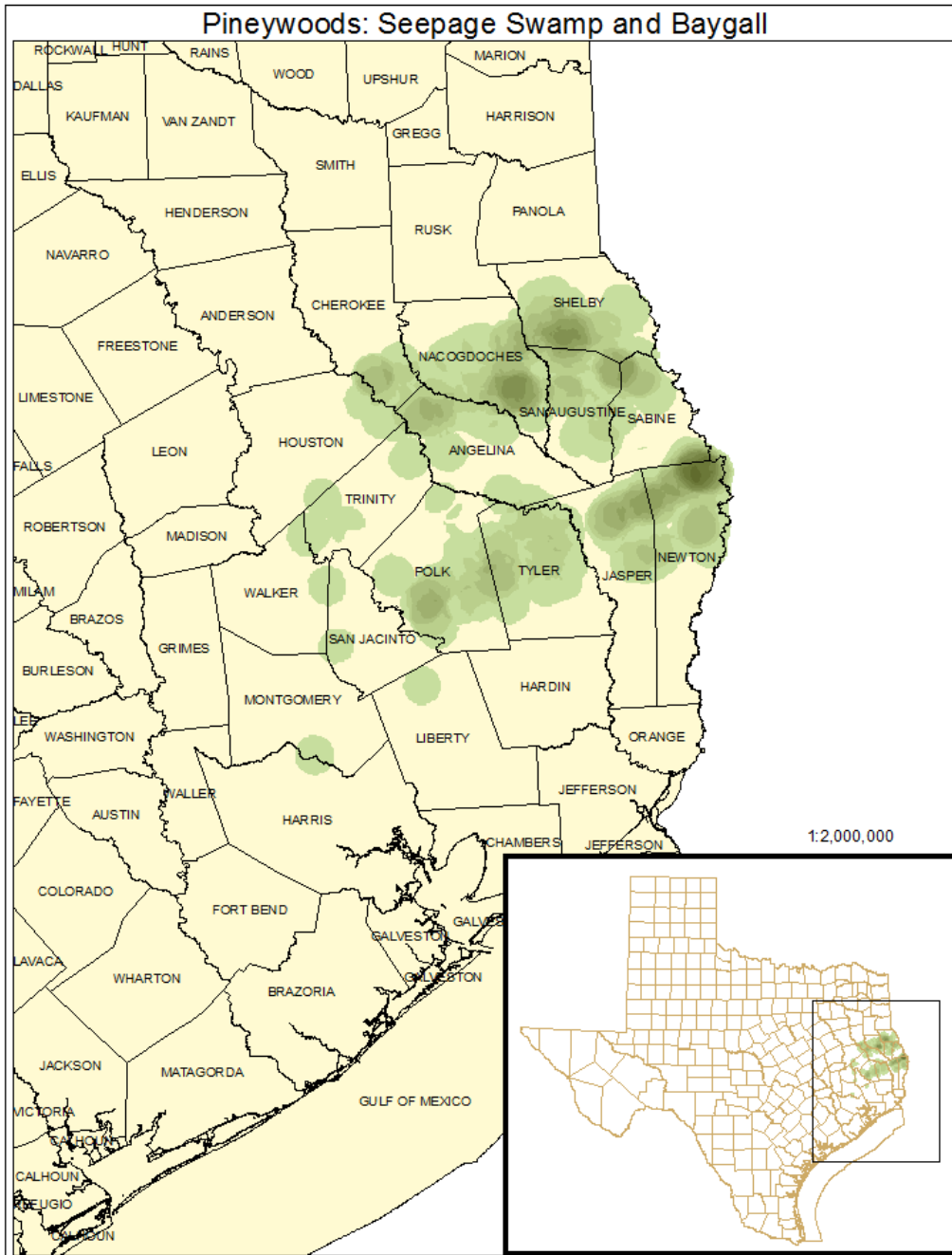
ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:

PINEYWOODS: SEEPAGE SWAMP AND BAYGALL

Mapping System ID: 3604

EMS Description: This type is poorly mapped. Local edaphic and geomorphic conditions make applying regional models to existing spatial data difficult.

Distribution Map:



Example:



Public Land Occurrence:

None.