

## WESTERN GREAT PLAINS MESQUITE WOODLAND AND SHRUBLAND

**Nature Serve ID:** CES303.668

**Geology:** This system occupies areas of alluvial deposition.

**Landform:** Along drainages and on floodplains.

**Soils:** Bottomland soils and soils along drainages.

**Description:** Because *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) is the characteristic dominant of this system, and that species can occupy various sites and is thought to have expanded on the landscape as a result of land-use, it is difficult to distinguish this system from areas where *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) has invaded. The system is only mapped on bottomland soils and along drainages, while other shrublands dominated by the species are mapped as Native Invasive: Mesquite Shrubland. *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) typically dominate the sites, sometimes occurring in the overstory canopy. Other overstory species may include species of the Western Great Plains Floodplain (CES303.678) or Western Great Plains Riparian (CES303.956) systems, such as *Celtis laevigata* var. *reticulata* (netleaf hackberry), *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii* (western soapberry), *Populus deltoides* (eastern cottonwood), and *Salix nigra* (black willow). *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) is dominant in the shrub layer, but other shrub species encountered include small representatives of the overstory, *Ziziphus obtusifolia* (lotebush), *Prunus angustifolia* (Chickasaw plum), and *Baccharis* spp. (baccharis). Herbaceous species present in the understory may include *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass), *Bothriochloa laguroides* var. *torreyana* (silver bluestem), *Nassella leucotricha* (Texas wintergrass), and *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem). Non-native species such as *Cynodon dactylon* (bermudagrass), *Bromus catharticus* (rescuegrass), *Sorghum halepense* (Johnsongrass), and *Bromus arvensis* (Japanese brome) are also commonly present and may be dominant.

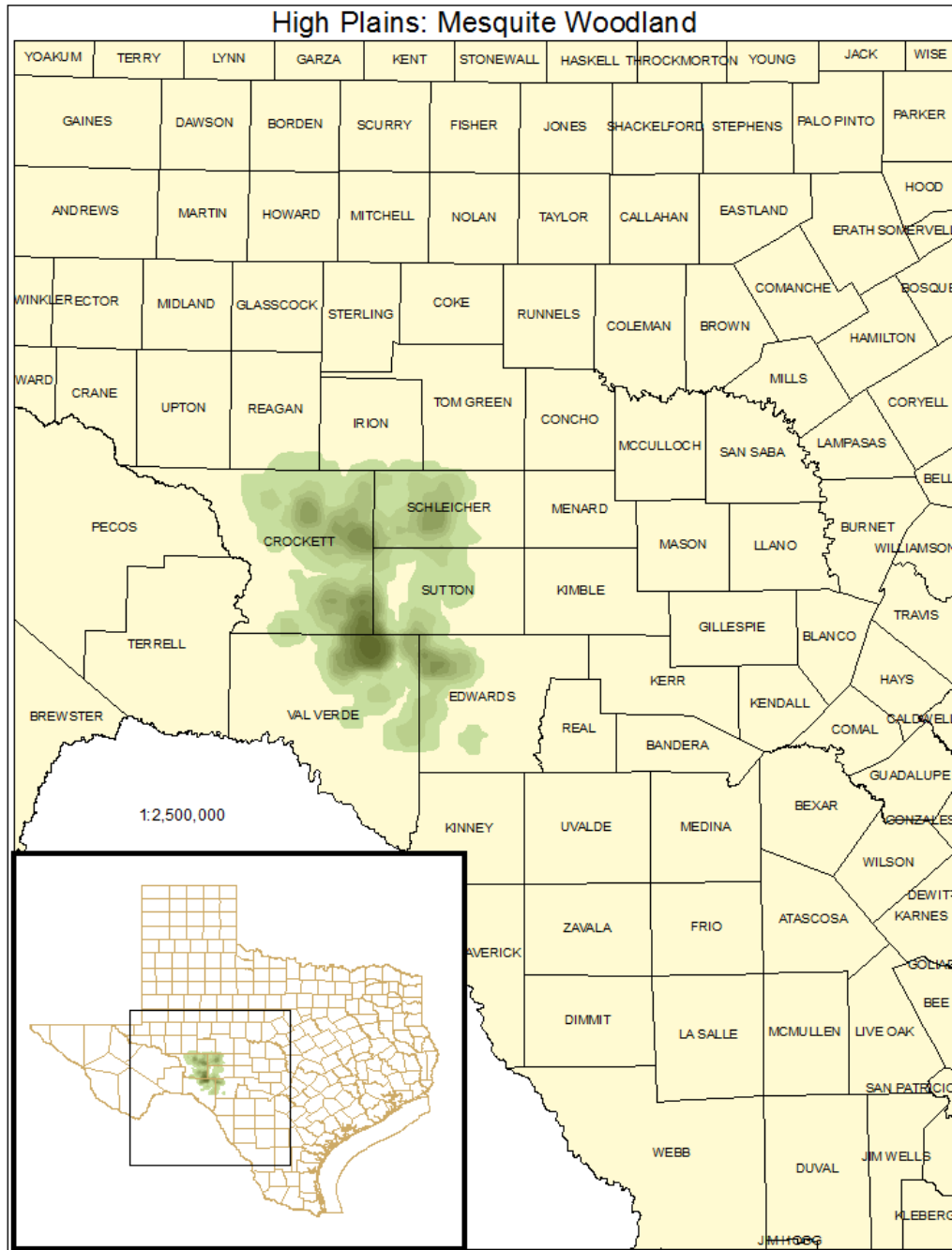
**ECOLOGICAL MAPPING SYSTEMS:**

**HIGH PLAINS: MESQUITE WOODLAND**

**Mapping System ID:** 5404

**EMS Description:** Occurrences characterized by a significant canopy greater than 4m in height.

**Distribution Map:**



**Example:**

*Not available at this time.*

**Public Land Occurrence:**

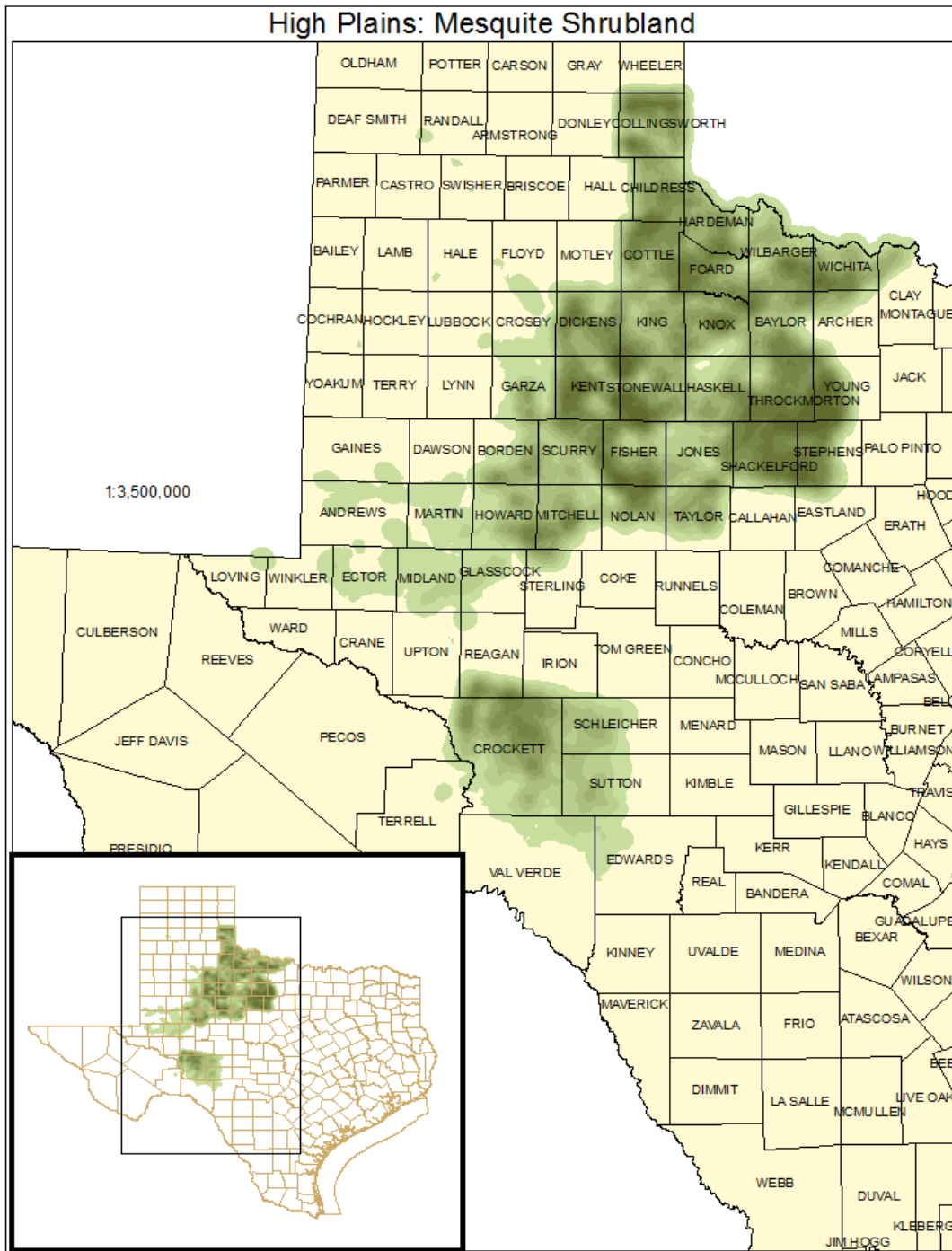
*None.*

## HIGH PLAINS: MESQUITE SHRUBLAND

Mapping System ID: 5406

EMS Description: Shrub dominated occurrences with a scattered overstory component, if any.

Distribution Map:



**Example:**



**Public Land Occurrence:**

Abilene State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Big Spring State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Copper Breaks State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Fort Griffin State Historic Site: Texas Historical Commission

Fort Lancaster State Historic Site: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Lake Colorado City State Park: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Matador Wildlife Management Area: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department