

**W-HUCH** *Acacia farnesiana* - (*Prosopis glandulosa*) Woodland  
Huisache – (Honey Mesquite) Woodland

**Associations and Alliances**

*Acacia farnesiana* - (*Prosopis glandulosa*) Woodland

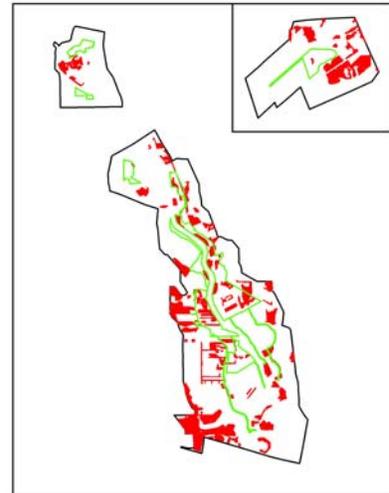
**Common Species**

- Acacia farnesiana*
- Prosopis glandulosa*
- Celtis laevigata*
- Celtis pallida*
- Condalia hookeri*
- Diospyros texana*
- Mahonia trifoliolata*
- Ambrosia trifida*
- Calyptocarpus vialis*
- Clematis drummondii*
- Torilis arvensis*
- Viguiera dentate*
- Aristida purpurea*
- Nassella leucotricha*

**Description**

This type was found throughout SAAN occurring in the Missions unit on the artificial raised levees bordering the San Antonio River and on lower natural terraces. On the Rancho unit this type is restricted to an isolated stand in the uplands and occurs more extensively on fallow fields in the environs. This type appears to be early successional and has much in common with the other mesquite woodland map class. The presence of huisache trees characterizes this class but the remaining species composition varies greatly from site to site dependent on past management, fire suppression, and introduction of exotic species. Trees in this class are usually between 5 to 15 meters high, providing 10 to 60% cover. The subcanopy is not well differentiated but can be dominated by *Prosopis glandulosa*, *Acacia farnesiana*, or a codominant mix of both. The shrub and herbaceous layers are variable. The most common species in these layers are *Celtis pallida*, *Condalia hookeri*, *Diospyros texana*, *Mahonia trifoliolata*, *Aristida purpurea*, and *Nassella leucotricha*. On the imagery this class appeared very similar to the Honey Mesquite - Granjeno / Prickly-pear - South Texas *Ericameria* Woodland type with small, dark red tree crowns evenly spaced.

**Range and Distribution**



**Representative Ground Photo**



**Photo Signature Example**

**CEGL002131 *Acacia farnesiana* – (*Prosopis glandulosa*) Woodland**

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Translated Name: Huisache – (Honey Mesquite) Woodland

Common Name: Honey Mesquite – Huisache Woodland

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**ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION**

The environmental factors that influence the composition and structure of this community are: climate, topography, soils, and past management. This community occurs primarily on the artificial levees (from fill dredged for channelization) bordering the San Antonio River, as well as low caliche ridges further from the river. The community occurs on alluvium-derived clay loam or on loams overlying caliche substrate. Immediately adjacent to the channelized banks of the river, the clay loams overlie caliche gravel that was dredged from the river channel. Water availability is less than in pre-urbanized times due to lowering of the water table through channelization and rising of the levees along the channel. Transpiration appears to be high in the open sunlit phases of this community. Composition of tree species at any given site is probably largely dependent on past management, fire suppression, and introduction of exotic species. Flooding of major proportions does not occur as it once did due to impoundments and channelization along the river.

**VEGETATION DESCRIPTION**

The canopy ranges between 5 to 15 m high, and cover varies from 10 to 60%. Where the canopy approaches 15 m, the taller trees are scattered and the subcanopy cover equals or exceeds the canopy cover. Otherwise, a subcanopy is not well differentiated where the canopy is less than 10 m high. The vegetation can be dominated by *Prosopis glandulosa*, *Acacia farnesiana*, or a codominant mix of both. *Celtis laevigata* is a characteristic associate, and *Melia azedarach* and *Ligustrum japonicum* often invade. The shrub layer can be sparse to dense, depending on the successional and management history of the particular site. Commonly encountered shrubs include *Celtis pallida*, *Condalia hookeri*, *Diospyros texana*, *Mahonia trifoliolata* (= *Berberis trifoliolata*), and young growth of the characteristic trees. Variable in composition and density, the ground layer ranges from 10 to 80% of the surface, depending on the amount of shading of the canopy. In some cases, native grasses (*Aristida purpurea*, *Nassella leucotricha*) dominate the herbs, but where the grasses are lacking, herbs are heavily dominated by *Torilis arvensis*. Other important forbs usually associated with any of the dominant herbs include *Ambrosia trifida*, *Calyptocarpus vialis*, *Clematis drummondii*, and *Viguiera dentata*.

**FLORISTIC COMPOSITION**

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Lifeform</u>
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	Tree (canopy & subcanopy)	Thorn tree
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Tree (canopy & subcanopy)	Thorn tree
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Tree (canopy & subcanopy)	Broad-leaved deciduous tree
<i>Celtis pallida</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Condalia hookeri</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Diospyros texana</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Mahonia trifoliolata</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Evergreen sclerophyllous shrub
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Calypocarpus vialis</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Clematis drummondii</i>	Herb (field)	Vine/liana
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Viguiera dentata</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid
<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid

**OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES**

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>GRank</u>	<u>Animal</u>	<u>Note (specify Rare (geog area), Invasive, Animal, or Other)</u>
<i>Galium aparine</i>			Subinvasive alien
<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>			Invasive alien
<i>Melia azedarach</i>			Invasive alien
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>			Subinvasive alien

**CLASSIFICATION & OTHER COMMENTS**

**Classification Comments:**

**Other Comments:**

**ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION**

This vegetation is limited to the San Antonio Unit on the artificial raised levees bordering the San Antonio River. It also occurs in lower natural terraces (especially in the abandoned *Labores* of both the Espada and San Juan Missions), which were cleared at one time and have undergone secondary succession. It also occurs on the small bluff overlooking the Espada Aqueduct and in caliche hills along South Presa Road.

**ELEMENT SOURCES**

**Inventory Notes:**

**Plots:** SAAN.4, SAAN.8, SAAN.13, SAAN.16, SAAN.17, SAAN.18, SAAN.21

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